

Unitarian Society of New Haven
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
August 9, 2018

Accepted September 13, 2018

Board Members Present: Al Bosch, Jeannette Faber, Megan Lloyd Joiner, Linda Mehta, Pamela Miller, Peggy Myers, Pat Trotta, Dan Wade

Board Members Absent: Dan Gelperin, Craig Machado, Bobbi Pace

Also Present: Gwen Heuss-Severance, David Stagg, P. J. Deak, Terry Durham

Gather:

P. Myers called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm. A. Bosch lit the chalice and read A Spark of Hope by Melanie Davis. Attendees read the covenant. This was followed by a life event check-in and answering the question, "What is a summer memory in your life?"

Confirm meeting objectives and review any agenda changes:

Agenda changes:

T. Durham, representing the finance committee, will ask for approval of changes to check signing authorizations.

Discuss an invitation to the MT for the September board retreat.

Create the Future & Learning (Part 1):

Bank authorization changes:

T. Durham presented a proposal to remove K. Garner and S. Frawley from the Citizens Bank account authorizations. The proposed list of authorized signers is G. Berg, S. Godshall, M. Losee, L. Mehta, T. Durham, and G. Seaman.

MOTION – P. Trotta, to approve the proposed changes to the Citizens Bank account authorizations; **SECONDED – A. Bosch**;

PASSED unanimously, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions

T. Durham left the meeting at 7:00pm.

Action Issues brought forward by the UUA:

P.J. Deak provided background on the Action Issues brought forward by the UUA. Related documents are attached at the end of the minutes.

The GA approves Actions of Immediate Witness (AIW) and Congregational Study/Action Issues (CSAI). Anyone attending the UUA GA can propose an Action of Immediate Witness. AIWs are issues that will be front and center for all congregations this coming year. They do not exclude work on other issues. The CSAI is the one issue chosen for focused work by the UUA and all congregations over the next 4 years. Signatures are gathered and votes are taken on the 6 issues with the most signatures. Three then continue through the process for a second vote. This year, 3 AIWs were approved but the other 3 AIWs were not rejected. There is also a vote to approve the multi-year Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI). Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy won the vote this year. In future, the CSAI will have a 3-year term instead of the current 4-year term.

The 2018-22 CSAI is Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy. The approved AIWs are "End Family Separation and Detention of Asylum Seekers and abolish ICE"; "Dismantle Predatory Medical Care Practices in Prisons and End Prisons for Profit"; and "We are all Related: Solidarity NOW with Indigenous Water Protectors." The other issues are: "A Moral Response to the March for Our Lives", "End Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children," and "Join the Poor People's Campaign."

The youth were active at GA. They started an Instagram campaign using pictures of people who were born before ICE was founded. They supported AIWs #4 & 6.

The disparity between black and white in prison has not gone away. Bail reform was also discussed at the GA. Dannel Malloy has been the biggest supporter of this issue in Connecticut.

How do we bring this together for USNH? A moral statement will be produced at the end of the 4-year study of the CSAI. Each congregation is responsible for how it responds to the Action Issues. Task forces will work on issues that fall in their areas. A study guide will come out in mid-October for the Study Action. "Beloved Conversations" can be part of the response to the CSAI. Other resources are available. We are holding a fundraiser for IRIS which is increasing its legal support for refugees. CONECT ties into related activities. The Social Justice Council will reach out to other CONECT congregations to work on issues. A Connecticut Against Gun Violence luncheon will be in September and members of Preventing Gun Violence task force will attend. Young people need mentors to help them in their involvement with the issues. The Peace task force and the Anti-racism group are actively working on issues related to the AIWs.

It would be energizing to have our relationship with the UUA and GA clearer to the congregation. We have a fusion coalition we just aren't aware of it. USNH congregation members are involved in many organizations in the area. Closer identification with the UUA might be a board goal.

P. J. Deak left the meeting at 7:21pm.

Assess the past:

The Minister's report:

The Minister's report is attached at the end of the minutes. Topics not noted in the report include: Two candidates will be interviewed for the membership coordinator position. The PCRR was inadvertently not included on the organization chart that was distributed at the congregational meeting. The Social Justice Council and Worship Committee will meet to discuss the Our Faith in Action part of the Sunday service.

Create the Future & Learning (Part 2):

Report and brief discussion re possible kitchen renovation project:

D. Stagg informed the BoT about a kitchen renovation project. The kitchen project committee was formed in January 2017, is chaired by L. Smith, and has met monthly. The committee quickly reached consensus on an idea to remove the wall between the kitchen and the adjacent storage room. An architect produced plans for the project and presented them to Litchfield Builders. An estimate for \$90,000 was received. After adding appliances and other likely expenses, the total projected cost reached \$125,000. We might be able raise up to \$70,000. The MT has 2 issues: we aren't fundraising experts, and we don't know how this project would fit with USNH goals. Options include borrowing the money. The MT wants advice from the board on next steps.

The Green Sanctuary team was not involved in the plan. Efficient appliances would be included.

Only one estimate was requested. Could we get another estimate? If we think the project is feasible we will get at least 3 bids.

An improved kitchen could help with rentals. Is this something that should be brought to the congregation on the 11/11 meeting? Should we have a fundraising committee?

This would not be a commercial kitchen. That is beyond our scope. We could not be fully ADA compliant. The current kitchen is hard to clean. We don't have a hand sink. There is no dishwasher, only a sanitizer. The refrigerator has problems. At the least, we need a dishwasher and a refrigerator. What is the minimum work that could be done? It will require a local water heating device.

The hours of kitchen use would increase if we had a better kitchen. Can we do the needful now and do a bigger project later? What could be done for \$70,000 if the fundraising was done? The plan does not allow work to be done in stages. Taking the wall away is the biggest factor. If we spend money on the kitchen, what other needs will we not have money for?

M. Lloyd Joiner, G. Heuss-Severance, and D. Stagg left the meeting at 7:49pm.

Our Board website:

P. Miller provided an overview of <https://sites.google.com/a/usnh.org/board/home> aka board.usnh.org. This was followed by a review of <http://www.usnh.org/about-us/usnh-archives>, the Online Library link on USNH.org.

board.usnh.org is a Google Sites location available to board members, the Management Team, and Finance Committee members. Access is available via a usnh.org or gmail email account, or by linking another email address to a google account. Users may subscribe to site changes by clicking on the more actions button (cog at top right of page).

The Navigation panel on the left of the screen is the easiest way to move between locations on the site.

The most frequently used area will be **Board Packages Current Year**.

At the end of a congregational year, board packages are moved **Board Packages Archive**.

Archives contains other older documents. It has not been used in recent years.

Committee Charges holds documents related to board meetings with operating committees.

Committee Specific Documents holds many policy and procedure files for active committees.

Board Job Descriptions hold job descriptions that are useful for the Nominating Committee.

Policies and Interpretations includes the Policy Book and MT interpretation of policies that have been reviewed.

Governance provides many documents that were used in the move to Policy Governance.

Orientation contains documents used for a previous BoT orientation. They may still be of value for the current BoT.

Discussion Forum and Consent Votes are available but have not been used very often.

Board Calendar will be removed from the site since it cannot be updated and is not needed since board meetings are posted on the congregational calendar.

USNH.org has an **Online library** located on the **About Us** menu. Public documents are available here. They include the bylaws, policy book, Board meeting minutes, and

Congregational Meeting Minutes. Minutes are available in hard copy form on a bulletin board in the social hall.

The following items should be addressed:

- Board Directory needs to be updated. Several phone numbers are missing.
- The org chart will be added to the 2018-19 General Board Material folder on the Board Packages Current Year page.
- Job descriptions for president and vice president should be placed on the Board Job Descriptions page.
- The Policy book with interpretations needs to be approved.
- Should we publish notes from Tuesday meetings? They are available on the Board site but have not been made public. Discuss this at the next Tuesday meeting,

Consent agenda:

Minutes from Board meeting on 7/12

MOTION – A. Bosch, to approve the consent agenda; **SECONDED – J. Faber**;
PASSED: 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 1 abstention

Announcements:

At the next Tuesday meeting we will finish the discussion of Latham's *Moving on From Church Folly Lane* and Barber's *The Third Reconstruction*.

Thank you's: Tag sale team

Adjournment:

MOTION – A. Bosch, to adjourn; **SECONDED – P. Myers**;
PASSED unanimously, 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions
The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 pm.

Attachments:

Undoing Intersectional White Supremacy
End Family Separation and Detention of Asylum Seekers and Abolish ICE
Dismantle Predatory Medical Care Practices in Prisons and end Prisons for Profit
We are All Related: Solidarity Now with Indigenous Water Protectors
A Moral Response to the March for Our Lives
End Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children
Join the Poor People's Campaign
Minister's Report



UUA GA 2018

2018-2022 Congregational Study / Action Issue

UNDOING INTERSECTIONAL WHITE SUPREMACY

Issue

Racism is fundamental to U.S. social systems. White supremacy culture operates economically, institutionally, politically, and culturally, shaping everyone's chances to live healthy, fulfilling lives. It is also the nation's most toxic export, shaping policies and practices that do profound harm to the Earth and all living things.

Grounding in Unitarian Universalism

White supremacy culture shaped everything we consider norms, which recent experience has pushed us to analyze. Sociologist Robert Bellah challenged us to make "the interdependent web of all existence the first of your principles and not the last." Decentering whiteness calls us to decenter individual dignity for our collective liberation.

Topics for Congregational Study

- White supremacy operates intersectionally. Beyond black and white and interwoven with other forms of oppression, it is multiracial and intersects with issues of class and income, gender, age, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, religion, ability, and more.
- How are people socialized into various overlapping supremacy systems, creating a white dominated hetero patriarchy that serves the interests of US corporatism?
- How do different racial and economic strategies get applied to different racial groups, often disguised in coded language that pretends to be colorblind while having racialized impacts?
- How can we, as UUs, build transformative relationships of trust and accountability across race lines?
- Through reflection and action, courageous conversations should foster our abilities to de-center whiteness and other "isms". At the core we must equip UUs to work inside and outside our congregations, building trust by following the leadership and direction of the most vulnerable in society.

Possible Congregational/Regional Actions

1. Provide ongoing training and education in antiracism and anti oppression on a multi- and intergenerational basis to all who wish to deepen their understanding of the impacts of intersectional white supremacy.
2. Build local relationships with people of color and other oppressed people, inside and outside our congregations, so that agendas and strategies for social justice efforts respond to the real vulnerabilities they face.
3. Mobilize UUs to participate in community organizing that is guided by accountable partnerships.
4. Actions can include street protest, advocacy work, resource sharing, local, regional, and national campaigns, letter-writing, community asset building, and more. The key is organizing with strategic accountability while building sustainable communities of resistance. This work should happen in the areas of environmental racism, mass incarceration and police brutality, reproductive freedom, immigration, access to quality health and education systems, and more.

Related Prior Social Witness Statements

There are few social witness statements from the last ten years that do not have implications regarding intersectional white supremacy. Here are some standouts: Reaffirmation of Commitment to Racial Justice [1] (2016), Support the Black Lives Matter movement [2] (2015), and Reproductive Justice [3] (2015). Robert Bellah's 1998 Ware Lecture is another resource.



UUA GA 2018

2018 Action Of Immediate Witness #1

END FAMILY SEPARATION AND DETENTION OF ASYLUM SEEKERS AND ABOLISH ICE

BECAUSE of UU Principles 1, 2, 6, and 7 and the 2013 Statement of Conscience entitled *Immigration as a Moral Issue*; and

WHEREAS, white supremacy and colonization permeate societal systems;

WHEREAS, zero-tolerance policy forces family separation;

WHEREAS, asylum seekers are detained, criminalized, and dehumanized;

WHEREAS, established asylum protections have been dismantled;

WHEREAS, current immigration policy fails to honor our treaties/conventions/protocols, and established immigration law;

WHEREAS, the U.S. has withdrawn from the UN Human Rights Council;

WHEREAS, white supremacy criminalizes black and brown bodies and the exercise of their rights;

WHEREAS, children are torn from their families at borders, conflict zones, and occupied territories around the globe;

WHEREAS, children are abused and drugged in detention and shelters; WHEREAS, incarceration and separation causes trauma; and

WHEREAS, this is an urgent and emerging crisis that calls UUs to act now. The Trump Administration has instituted a zero-tolerance practice of unilaterally detaining and separating family members of asylum seekers and other immigrants. They subsequently issued an Executive Order (EO) that purportedly ends the practice while denying responsibility for creating the crisis in the first place. The EO does not address or require the reunification of children already separated from their families. Additionally, there is no guarantee of the immediate or future safety and appropriate treatment of asylum seekers. The administration has requested that the court revise the 1997 ruling that prevents detaining children for more than 20 days. They are expressly asking to detain children with their families for the duration of their legal proceedings. ICE has a history of terrorizing and abusing immigrants and operating outside the law. As the agency carrying out the administration's barbaric policies, it must be dismantled so humane and appropriate processes and agencies can be created.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE UUA and member congregations should use their moral authority to demand the immediate:

- Reunification of children taken from their families seeking asylum in the US;
End of the policy of incarcerating asylum seekers, including those in family detention;
- Investigation and cessation of the inappropriate administration of psychiatric drugs to children in detention and shelters;
- Investigation and prosecution of claims that children in detention and shelters are being sexually and physically abused;
- Abolition of Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) and implementation of a system that understands the causes for migration, provides a non-carceral solution while asylum seekers await a decision on their case, and has a fundamental commitment to keeping families together; and
- Removal of immigration oversight from the Department of Homeland Security.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE 57TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF UUA CALLS ON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS TO:

- Participate in the June 30th nationwide Mass Mobilization;
- Participate in the July 2nd events at border areas;
- Host interfaith vigils to lift our prophetic voices;
- Carry out strategic direct action in collaboration with, and/or at the direction of, immigrant-led groups;
- Advocate for comprehensive, humane immigration reform;
- Advocate for the US to ratify the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Boycott and divest from corporations that provide services and products to global agencies involved in family separation and detention;
- Support UU and partner organizations and the immigrant coalition groups to whom they are accountable with donations and volunteering including: UU Refugee and Immigrant Services and Education (UURISE), Mijente, Freedom for Immigrants, Mano Amiga San Marcos, ACLU, Association of Immigration Lawyers, UU State Action Networks, congregations working for immigration justice; and
- Build accountable relationships with immigrant-led groups, supporting what they request, without usurping leadership.



UUA GA 2018

2018 Action Of Immediate Witness #2

DISMANTLE PREDATORY MEDICAL CARE PRACTICES IN PRISONS AND END PRISONS FOR PROFIT

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists recognize the humanity, worth, and dignity of all people within and outside of our membership;

BECAUSE UUs are called to uphold that everyone is worthy of love and justice;

WHEREAS, prisons for profit encourages longer terms of imprisonment and maximizes profit by minimizing services and rehabilitation;

WHEREAS, the Prison Industrial Complex (PIC), under the influence of private prison companies that supply goods and services to prisons for profit, is a system of oppression that perpetuates and further criminalizes poverty;

WHEREAS, the PIC is an entrenched system of white supremacy where guilt and innocence are influenced by skin color and economic privilege, regardless of behavior;

WHEREAS, the federal prison system, thirty-five state prisons, and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) charge for necessary medical care using private, for-profit medical companies;

WHEREAS, the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) membership includes 870 incarcerated people, many of whom have medical expenses but no resources to pay for care. Medical treatment must be paid before necessities such as soap, shampoo, stamps, and over-the-counter medicines can be acquired;

WHEREAS, incarcerated CLF members include 200 people living in Texas and Georgia prisons who receive no wages, but are still charged for medical care, leaving some unable to access adequate treatment. This perpetuates illness, debility, insurmountable debt, and chronic poverty. People in prisons are dying every day due to prohibitive medical cost;

WHEREAS the US Supreme Court ruled in *Estelle v. Gamble* [1976] that ignoring a prisoner's serious medical needs amounts to cruel and unusual punishment; and

WHEREAS The Federal Bureau of Prisons is violating Rule 24 of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (Nelson Mandela Rules) that states, "The provision of health care for prisoners is a State responsibility. Prisoners . . . should have access to necessary health-care services free of charge..."

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2018 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association denounces the predatory practice of charging medical fees to people in prison and commits to the following actions:

1. Contact Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner urging him to sign HB 5104, which is currently on his desk. This bill would end medical fees for people incarcerated in Illinois.
2. Contact Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Georgia Gov. Nathan Deal and state legislators to demand an end to fee-for-service medical care in their states.
3. Publicly oppose the practices of Corizon Health, which profits from privatized health care in Kansas, Missouri, and in twenty other states, as well as Wexford Health, MHM Services Inc. and other companies that supply health care for local, state, and federal prisons and ICE detention facilities.
4. Insist the United Nations World Health Organization press the US to uphold Rule 24 of the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.
5. Ensure that in your state the medical treatment of prisoners conforms with *Estelle vs. Gamble*.

**THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE 2018 GENERAL ASSEMBLY ENCOURAGES
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISTS TO:**

1. Get more deeply involved in direct service prison ministry through such actions as beginning or joining local prison ministry efforts within your congregation or community organization; networking with others engaged in prison ministry; leading worship or small group ministry within prisons; becoming a pen pal; and welcoming post-incarcerated persons into your congregation.
2. Continue to educate ourselves on the adverse impacts of prison privatization and the many injustices in the PIC such as a) grossly disproportionate impact on marginalized groups, b) solitary confinement practices, c) prison-based gerrymandering, d) voter disenfranchisement and e) employment discrimination.

For more information contact socialjustice@uua.org [1].



UUA GA 2018

2018 Action Of Immediate Witness #3

WE ARE ALL RELATED: SOLIDARITY NOW WITH INDIGENOUS WATER PROTECTORS

We, the 57th General Assembly of the UUA, which is meeting in Kansas City on the banks of the Missouri River, call for ongoing solidarity with Indigenous Water Protectors because:

- Indigenous peoples of this continent lived by traditions that maintained ecological balance for thousands of years before colonization.
- Colonization is an oppressive system that values resource extraction over life itself and is directly linked to genocide of Indigenous peoples. This colonization involves sequestering Indigenous peoples on reservations, flooding Indigenous lands, incarcerating disproportionate numbers of Indigenous peoples, and other forms of oppression.
- Lakota/Dakota/Nakota (Sioux) peoples rose up in prayerful action to oppose construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline on Great Sioux Nation Treaty Land and to protect the Missouri River, which is the water source for Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and millions downstream.
- People from more than 300 Indigenous nations responded to the call at Standing Rock, as did allies of many colors, which created an intercultural community of transformation and prayerful resistance lasting for four seasons.
- Unprecedented numbers of Unitarian Universalists, Indigenous and otherwise, were propelled by our values to respond to this call for solidarity and were generally welcomed as relatives.
- Unitarian Universalists play a unique role among faith communities, forming strong bonds as relatives with Indigenous Water Protectors, in North Dakota's atmosphere of antagonism.
- Seven Indigenous Water Protectors face federal charges in Bismarck-Mandan. A National Jury Project randomized survey concluded that 77% of the jury-eligible population in Morton County and 85% in Burleigh County have already decided that Water Protectors are guilty, yet requests to change trial venues have been denied.
- Efforts to colonize Indigenous peoples are now resulting in federal prison sentences for Water Protectors, interrupting familial and communal bonds, as well as traditional spiritual practices and ways of life.

As Unitarian Universalists:

1. We express our gratitude to Standing Rock, Sacred Stone Camp, Oceti Sakowin Camp, Sicangu Rosebud Camp, and associated camps for welcoming us as relatives and affirming that all people belong to the human family.
2. We affirm solidarity with Water Protectors, including defendants, inmates, and their loved ones.
3. We pledge our direct and tangible support for local Indigenous movements that seek to protect the environment and restore traditional Indigenous ways of life.
4. As people, congregations, and a wider association, we commit to extend relationships of solidarity with Water Protectors, leveraging our spiritual, financial, human, and infrastructural resources in support of Water Protectors, especially those who face ongoing charges and prison sentences, and their loved ones.
5. We ask the UUA to supply materials and guidance such as curriculum development, educational materials, and support for networking among UUs to work in solidarity with Water Protectors.

For more information contact socialjustice@uua.org [1].



UUA GA 2018

2018 Action Of Immediate Witness #4 - 6

#4 A Moral Response to the March for Our Lives

Student-led public witness after the shooting at Marjorie Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, calls to all Unitarian Universalists for a response based on individual conscience and collective ethical discernment. Together we should build upon the long time efforts of activists, especially those from communities of color who have suffered disproportionately.

Religious liberals of every theological and political persuasion should offer both personal and organizational support to the young people who seized our attention, and demand our best effort to reduce gun violence. Together we should help realize new cultural paradigms of political honesty and ethical clarity. We should respond without fear, hesitation or hypocrisy.

We ask UU congregations, organizations, clusters, Districts, Regions and our national bodies, along with their members, religious professionals, officers, and employees, to consider:

- Following the lead of these young people including our own UU youth, by focusing on advocacy for reasonable gun control measures, and by helping to birth a long-term change in American pro-gun culture. We ought not to be distracted by side issues.
- Offering resources for this effort, including: meeting space, planning assistance, opportunities to speak and demonstrate, organizational endorsement, administrative and other professional help, as well as the development of local gun-control projects. We should study and discuss, but then we should act and fund such efforts.
- Siding with them in this endeavor, learning from their courage, sharing in their grief, and advancing their hopes with our own work, in particular in those communities where youth activists may work in isolation. We should resolve to no longer uncritically accept suffering and death as the price of a constitutional right to bear arms.

#5 END ISRAELI MILITARY DETENTION OF PALESTINIAN CHILDREN

WHEREAS, our Unitarian Universalist principles ask us to respect the worth and dignity of every person, to promote justice and compassion, and to recognize that we are embedded in an interdependent web of existence;

WHEREAS, approximately 700 Palestinian children between ages 12 and 17 are prosecuted in Israeli military courts in the occupied Palestinian territory annually with three-fourths experiencing physical violence from military personnel;

WHEREAS, systematic mistreatment of Palestinian children during arrest, court appearances and incarceration includes late-night home invasion and arrest by heavily armed soldiers; blindfolding; restraining with plastic ties; physical and verbal abuse during transfer; lack of access to water, food and toilet facilities; solitary confinement; lack of access to lawyers or family; interrogation using physical violence and threats; coerced confessions; transfer across borders; and incarceration without charges;

WHEREAS, abuses have long-lasting traumatic consequences for children, families and communities;

WHEREAS, concern about the abuse of children has led to the introduction in 2017 of a bill in Congress,

"Promoting Human Rights by Ending Israeli Military Detention of Palestinian Children Act" (H.R. 4391);

WHEREAS, the [Presbyterians](#), the [Disciples of Christ](#) and the [United Church of Christ](#) have passed resolutions condemning mistreatment of children under Israeli military detention;

WHEREAS, UUA General Assemblies have passed statements on militarism, the rights of children, and human rights of Palestinians, including a [1979 General Resolution](#) opposing militarism; a [1996 General Resolution](#) addressing the rights of children; a [2013 Action of Immediate Witness \(AIW\)](#) condemning the racist mistreatment of young people in the U.S. by the police; a [2015 AIW](#) supporting the [Black Lives Matter movement](#) and the [replacement of racist police and prison systems](#); and the [1982 General Resolution](#) and [2002 AIW](#) calling for ending the occupation of Palestine;

WHEREAS, the abuses are extensively documented by international and Israeli human rights organizations including [Amnesty International](#), [Human Rights Watch](#), [Military Court Watch](#), [B'tselem](#), [Defense for Children International](#) and [UNICEF](#);

WHEREAS, the deaths and suffering of Palestinian children in Gaza due to Israel's [blockade](#) and [violent repression of recent protests](#) highlight the need for international support for Palestinian children;

WHEREAS, Israel signed the [UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#), which prohibits physical violence against children and is the [only nation that automatically prosecutes children in military courts](#) (8,000 since the year 2000); and only Palestinian children are tried in military courts, settler children are tried in civil courts;

WHEREAS, a [1982 UUA Board of Trustees Business Resolution](#) rightly opposed anti-Semitism and stated that criticism of the policies of Israel should not be equated with anti-Semitism; and

WHEREAS, our Unitarian Universalist principles and our opposition to oppression, militarism and racism call on us to oppose the abuse of Palestinian children;

WHEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2018 Unitarian Universalist Association

General Assembly calls on our UUA leadership, affiliated organizations, ministers, and member congregations to advocate for and act to end the detention and mistreatment of Palestinian children under Israeli military occupation.

#6 Join the Poor People's Campaign

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists are committed to " " (first UU principle) and to " (second UU principle); and
BECAUSE the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call to Moral Revival is "rooted in a moral analysis based on our deepest religious and constitutional values that demand justice for all" (first PPC principle) and envisions "unity across lines of division" (second PPC principle) in the spirit of the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., as revived by Rev. William Barber and others; and
BECAUSE the Poor People's Campaign believes "that people should not live in or die from poverty in the richest nation ever to exist" (fifth PPC principle), and seeks to "build up the power of people and state-based movements to serve as a vehicle for a powerful moral movement in the country and to transform the political, economic and moral structures of our society" (eighth PPC principle), creating a movement from below (ninth PPC principle); and
BECAUSE the Poor People's Campaign Audit " ; and

WHEREAS over recent years there have been a multiplicity of developments and disruptive actions, symptoms of deeper dysfunction in our society, such as the financial crash of 2008 and subsequent Occupy movement, the two-tier legal and policing system leading to mass incarceration and the Black Lives Matter movement, soaring profits while pay stagnates activating the minimum and living wage movements, the continued loss of good jobs for the bottom 2/3, the explosion in student debt, opioid and obesity crises, expanding homelessness and worsening health, gentrification in some areas while other areas struggle; and
WHEREAS Escalating Economic Inequality and the Corruption of Our Democracy have now erupted as a national political crisis, threatening not only domestic but also global stability, with greed on one hand and resentment on the other driving spreading authoritarianism and militarism; and
WHEREAS To reverse our descent into plutocracy, extreme disparities, and conflict, we need to assemble a vast caravan on the road to equity and justice, rooted in the struggles of the "least among us", aiming to unite the stressed-out and neglected across lines of race, ethnicity, culture, and hardship, instead of being divided by false narratives, with the more affluent among us acting as allies and using their privilege and assets in solidarity with the beleaguered.
The inherent worth and dignity of every person
Justice, equity and compassion in human relations"
inevitable militarism, and the ecological devastation" and that over "40 million Americans emphasizes the complex relationships between and across systemic racism, persistent poverty, the war economy and its subsist below the poverty line" in a "structural crisis" manifested in deficient "healthcare and housing", reflecting "a tragic loss of purpose" for the common good

THEREFORE: BE IT RESOLVED

That the 2018 General Assembly of the UUA calls upon UUs everywhere, and their congregations and interfaith contacts, to join the Poor People's Campaign to broaden and deepen the moral strength and commitment that comes from solidarity with the "least among us" as we build a more just and equal society.

Minister's Report
August 9, 2018
Rev. Megan Lloyd Joiner

State of the Congregation *(recent successes, challenges, observations about the congregation's functioning in relationship to the mission, ministries, members, staff, or other Board concerns)*

I have been grateful for a break in my preaching responsibilities. Much gratitude to the Worship Committee and our guest speakers and lay leaders.

I have been focused on taking stock of my responsibilities and reflecting on how to make my work sustainable. I am thinking also about our shared ministry and what I need to ask the congregation to take responsibility for that we might be working more effectively together.

Major Accomplishments *(Large, new, or not regular-duty projects)*

None to report at this time

Primary Ministry Focus *(Areas of intellectual, mental, or spiritual study)*

- Preparing for next year's services using the Soul Matters themes
- Determining ministerial and congregational responsibilities with a shared ministry focus

Upcoming Time Away *(vacation, study leave, UUMA or UUA gatherings)*

- I am currently on Study Leave
- I will be away on vacation August 20-24

Activity Report for Areas of Ministry for Preliminary Fellowship Evaluation
(not exhaustive)

Counseling and Pastoral Care

Because of my own medical needs this summer, I have visited fewer people than I hoped. I have had a number of individual meetings, but have not visited area nursing homes. My hope is to set up group meetings in the fall with the Lay Ministry team.

Practical Arts *(administration, organizational development in and out of congregation, management of staff, attention to detail, support and leadership development, recognition and appreciation of others, delegation of responsibility and authority, follow through and completion of tasks, time management, attention to finances, fundraising, funding ministry, public relations and publicity skills, ability to work with boards and committees, clarity of roles, attention to long range plans, etc.)*

Staff Reviews will be completed by the end of August.

We are planning a staff retreat for August 15, a Management Retreat for August 28 and a Board Retreat for September 15.

Organizational Ministry *(integration of new members and clients, creates a welcoming environment, encourages a sense of community, encourages growth, supports broad variety of programs, involvement of others in planning and conducting programs, nurtures lay leadership, professional presentation of self, pastors to various age groups, etc.)*

I have also worked with the Membership Team to schedule all our classes and new member events for 2018-2019.

We will be holding Beloved Conversations (<http://www.meadville.edu/fahs-collaborative/fahs-curriculum-catalogue/beloved-conversations/>) at USNH in 2019. An opening retreat will be held January 18-19 in collaboration with two area congregations and eight sessions will follow. We can have 8-12 participants which will be first come first serve. I am recruiting two leaders from the congregation.

Personal and Professional Growth

- Working with my coach and spiritual director to focus my priorities in our ministry

Teaching

- Nothing to report at this time

Worship

- Summer Sundays are offered by guest ministers and lay leaders
- I will preach the last two Sundays in August

Attendance

July 15 - 83
July 22 - 106
July 29 - 75
Aug 5 - 109 (BBQ Sunday)

Denominational Activities

- Nothing to report at this time

Prophetic Outreach

- Nothing to report at this time

Respectfully Submitted by Rev. Megan Lloyd Joiner