

# UN SUNDAY 2010



*“ETHICAL ASPECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE”*

**Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office**

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## **Acknowledgements**

This UN Sunday Resource Packet is the product of a collaborative effort by UU-UNO staff, interns, and board members.

Thank you for your vision and dedication!

# *THE UU-UNO ON CLIMATE CHANGE*

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In 2008, the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) made history by focusing the attention of the United Nations on the need to eliminate laws that criminalize and discriminate based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The 4,000 other non-profits working at the United Nations took notice of this historic accomplishment. In 2009, the UU-UNO formed a working group dedicated to the elimination of gender-based violence in Sudan. Again, the UN community took notice of the UU-UNO, which has become one of the most influential non-profit organizations at the United Nations. So it came as no surprise that a UN delegation came to the UU-UNO to seek help in revitalizing the UN's NGO Committee on Sustainable Development. Bruce Knotts, Executive Director of the UU-UNO, told the delegation that he knew the right person to spearhead the non-profit community's initiative to focus UN attention on climate change issues. Bruce nominated UU-UNO Board Member Dr. Jan Dash to serve on the governing board of the UN NGO Committee on Sustainable Development. That nomination was instantly accepted and Dr. Jan Dash was elected to the board of the UN NGO Committee on Sustainable Development. Since that time, Jan Dash has created an astounding climate change portal, which can be accessed via the UU-UNO web site ([www.uu-uno.org](http://www.uu-uno.org)) and clicking on the climate change link. Dr. Dash represented the UU-UNO at the Climate Change conference (COP-15) in Copenhagen. The UU-UNO plays a strong leadership role at the United Nations in directing the world away from destructive practices which threaten our planet's ability to support life.

In April 2010, the UU-UNO dedicated its Spring International Intergenerational Seminar to the topic of Climate Change, and it has dedicated its UN Sunday to the same topic. We hope that you will have a UN Sunday service at your congregation, and suggest you plan it on or near the birthday of the United Nations, October 24th. We hope that all Unitarian Universalists will be inspired to take steps large and small to protect our planet and ensure that it retains its remarkable ability to support life. The UU-UNO plays a significant role at the most important international forum in the world, the United Nations, to encourage all nations to take the steps necessary to mitigate the harmful effects of man-made climate change. However, we cannot do this job alone. We need to active and engaged support of every Unitarian, every Universalist and every Unitarian Universalist to make this historic change happen. This is why we hope you will have a UN Sunday service dedicated to talking about climate change and the work of the United Nations in this endeavor. The best way for UUs to engage with the work of the United Nations on this and other important topics is to become supportive and engaged in the work of the UU-UNO.

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**Bruce Knotts**

Executive Director of the UU-UNO

# INTRODUCTION

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## What is UN Sunday?

The United Nations was founded on 24 October 1945, following the Second World War. The UN is a global association of governments which facilitates cooperation in international law, security, economic development, and social equality. With aims to protect human rights and achieve world peace, it is a center for governments to communicate and develop strategies to reach these ends. Since its founding, October 24 has been called United Nations Day. In 1971, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution recommending that the day be observed as a public holiday by member states.

In celebration of this annual event, the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO) invites congregations and individual UUs to deepen their understanding of the United Nations by devoting one service in October to reaffirming the connections between UU principles and vital issues dealt with at the UN. Usually, congregations organize a UN Sunday for the last Sunday in October, but any Sunday in October (or any month) would be better than no Sunday at all.

We encourage ministers, lay leaders, and youth and adult envoys to take advantage of our prepared materials and/or develop their own ideas for a UN Sunday service. Consider enlisting a UU-UNO Envoy or a special UN speaker to present the sermon.<sup>1</sup> We especially encourage children and youth to participate in UN Sunday. Our UN Religious Education curriculum (UN Me) is available on request at [office@uu-uno.org](mailto:office@uu-uno.org). Further, we urge congregations to organize related religious education sessions.

Finally, we ask congregations to consider dedicating their UN Sunday offering to the important work of the UU-UNO (a not-for-profit organization) and to inform their members of the benefits of membership. The UU-UN Office exists to provide a unique UU perspective at the United Nations. We receive no funding from the UUA and thus depend on individual and congregational support. We hope to receive your support, your involvement, your engagement, and your enthusiastic membership to change the world so that every person can enjoy a safe and dignified life.

Thank you for participating in UN Sunday! We hope that congregations everywhere will make this an annual event.

\*Please note – This document has been formatted in Century Gothic font in accordance with our sustainable initiatives: research has shown that Century Gothic uses up to thirty percent less ink than other fonts such as Arial. The University of Wisconsin at Green Bay has realized several thousand dollars a year in savings by encouraging faculty, staff and students to make this simple switch. See the following NPR article on the subject:

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=125639616>.

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<sup>1</sup> Learn more about Envoys on our website: <http://uu-uno.org/>

# HOW TO PLAN A UN SUNDAY

*The following guide to planning United Nations Sunday at your congregation was adapted from the work Sylvia Stuber Heap, who has been planning these services for almost 30 years.*

Set the date with the church, preferably around October 24<sup>th</sup>

**\* Educate yourself on the UN (p.6), the UU-UNO (p.19-22), and the theme for the service (p.7-11)**

Develop the theme

- Incorporate the theme into the sermon
  - Guest speaker(s)
  - Special presentation (i.e. show a video)
  - Do it yourself (speak as an envoy on behalf of the UU-UNO and/or as a member of the congregation committed to the UU-UNO initiatives)
- Select readings, hymns, opening and closing words
- Organize a reception for after the service (perhaps an international pot luck)
  - Prepare special decorations, celebratory cake/food, and more information on the issue/theme

Meet with the Church Worship Committee

- Discuss publicity
  - Utilize church newsletter, newspaper, etc.
- Designate someone to decorate the altar
  - Photographs, audiotape, videotape
- Contact the organist and/or the Music Director
  - Discuss prelude, hymns, postlude, other music
- Develop/discuss an overview of the service

Meet with the RE Committee

- To get the children involved
  - Processional – “Let There Be Peace on Earth” banners
  - Children’s Story
  - Other involvement: passing out pencils, etc.; taking collection (consider UNICEF)
- Email the parents about what the children are doing and when

Talk with the Board about donating the offering to the UU-UNO

Make the Order of Service

- Plan the cover
- Work with Church Secretary on production
- Thank participants in the “Order of Service”

Rehearse the Service

- “Choreograph” the service; practice moving from one segment to another
- If relevant and possible, have the guest speaker visit the church building
- Check on altar, microphones, video camera, and other audio equipment

On UN Sunday

- Be there early
  - get water for the speaker(s)
  - set up tape recorder, video camera; test microphones
  - make sure the Religious Education participation is ready
  - greet guests as they arrive
- After the service, enjoy coffee hour/luncheon
- Introduce speaker to members of the congregation
- Collect checks made out to the UU-UNO
  - separate checks from donors who want to be members of the UU-UNO
  - have church treasurer add up the currency collected during the offering and make out a check to the UU-UNO from the Church (for a Church membership)

Follow-up

- develop pictures of the service
- write thank you notes to speaker(s), committee chairs, and others who contributed to the service
  - enclose copies of photos of participants in the service
- compose a report of the service with checks and photos to send to the UU-UNO

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# UN 101

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## **Introducing the United Nations**

With the scourge of war heavy on the hearts and minds following World War II, 51 countries met in San Francisco to create the United Nations, where they drafted and signed its Charter.<sup>2</sup> In turn, when these 51 countries signed the Charter on 24 October 1945, they became *member states* of the United Nations and committed their governments and peoples to “maintain international peace and security” as well as the Charter's other purposes and principles. When *states* become *members* of the United Nations, they agree to accept the many obligations of the UN Charter.

Much of the UN's work sets normative frameworks, advancing global thoughts and policies, which governments must take upon themselves to implement. One of the most important principles to remember when thinking about the purpose of the United Nations is the fourth: “to be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.”

A common misunderstanding is that the UN is a *director* of action or change or that it has power over states. Much like an elected or appointed representative of a city represents a constituency and makes decisions about laws and legislation on its behalf, so too does this happen (in many different ways) at the international level. Governments draft, debate and vote for or against treaties, conventions or action plans discussed at the UN.

In addition, the *entire budget* for the United Nations is financed by both dues and voluntary contributions from member states. Including the last member state to be added (Montenegro, 28 June 2006), there are 192 member states to the United Nations. This includes all “fully recognized independent states,” not including the Holy See and the Palestinian Authority which are only allowed observer status, which means that they have speaking rights but no voting rights. Working with such a diversity of peoples requires a large full-time translation team, and the UN works in six official languages: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish.

### **Purposes of the United Nations**

- To maintain international peace and security, and to that end: to take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace...;
- To develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace;
- To achieve international co-operation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion; and
- To be a centre for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends.

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<sup>2</sup> Link for the UN Charter: <http://www.un.org/aboutun/charter/>

# *2006 UUA STATEMENT OF CONSCIENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE*

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Earth is our home. We are part of this world and its destiny is our own. Life on this planet will be gravely affected unless we embrace new practices, ethics, and values to guide our lives on a warming planet. As Unitarian Universalists, how can our faith inform our actions to remedy and mitigate global warming/climate change? We declare by this Statement of Conscience that we will not acquiesce to the ongoing degradation and destruction of life that human actions are leaving to our children and grandchildren. We as Unitarian Universalists are called to join with others to halt practices that fuel global warming/climate change, to instigate sustainable alternatives, and to mitigate the impending effects of global warming/climate change with just and ethical responses. As a people of faith, we commit to a renewed reverence for life and respect for the interdependent web of all existence.

## **A Matter of Science**

There is scientific consensus that the Earth's climate is changing due to global warming/climate change caused primarily by the human use of oil, coal, and natural gas. The burning of these fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, which traps more heat from the sun. Global warming/climate change is accelerating as planetary temperatures reach record highs. The melting of polar ice and mountain glaciers may cause sea levels to rise by at least three feet, probably much more, and by eighty feet in coming centuries if the average temperature rises five degrees, warming that will be difficult to avoid. Half of the world's plant and animal species are at risk of extinction by 2100 as habitats are destroyed and ecosystems unravel. The huge Siberian permafrost peat bogs are apparently starting to melt, releasing methane and accelerating global warming/climate change. Antarctic glaciers are sliding into the ocean faster than previously expected, which may result in worldwide coastal flooding. Rapidly melting polar ice caps and glaciers provide visual evidence of global warming/climate change. Indirect effects due to melting polar and Greenland ice can upset the delicate salt balance in the North Atlantic Ocean, triggering a shift in the thermohaline current, which ironically may result in a local ice age in Northern Europe and parts of North America.

Increasing temperatures can devastate human communities and wildlife habitats. Warmer climates are extending toward the poles, dramatically altering ecosystems. Melting polar ice caps raise sea levels and upset the delicate balance of ocean salinity. This imbalance may lead to a shift in ocean circulation patterns, which could wreak havoc with regional climates. Recent increases in sea surface temperatures are linked with more intense hurricanes.

Global warming/climate change can cause both increases and decreases in local temperatures and precipitation. Until now the effects of global warming/climate change have been proportionate to increases in greenhouse gas concentrations. We can minimize the damage of climate change only if we act vigorously and soon—in the next decade according to top climate scientist. Since human-generated greenhouse gases are at a level not seen for at least 600,000 years, effects will persist and increase for a while even as we begin to control emissions. Climatic changes, combined with habitat destruction and pollution, are causing loss of species, forests, human settlements, glaciers, and coastal heritage sites. All living organisms depend on ecosystems that can be sustained only in relatively narrow temperature ranges.

The recent rapid global average temperature increase is indeed the result of human activity. While the climate is always changing, attribution studies using sophisticated supercomputer global climate

models show that natural causes do not account for the recent rapid temperature increase and that human activity does.

### **A Matter of Faith and Justice**

As Unitarian Universalists, we are called by our seventh Principle to affirm and promote "respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part." We envision a world in which all people are assured a secure and meaningful life that is ecologically responsible and sustainable, in which every form of life has intrinsic value. In other words, Unitarian Universalists are called to defer to a balance between our individual needs and those of all other organisms. Entire cultures, nations, and life forms are at risk of extinction while basic human rights to adequate supplies of food, fresh water, and health as well as sustainable livelihoods for humans are being undermined. To live, we must both consume and dispose.

Both our consumption and our disposal burden the interdependent web of existence. To sustain the interdependent web, we must burden it less while maintaining the essentials of our lives. Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are painful omens of how racism, sexism, and poverty worsen the effects of global warming/climate change. Our world is calling us to gather in community and respond from our moral and spiritual wealth; together we can transform our individual and congregational lives into acts of moral witness, discarding our harmful habits for new behaviors and practices that will sustain life on Earth, ever vigilant against injustice.

### **A Matter of Policy**

Global warming/climate change is not only an environmental phenomenon; it is a hotly contested policy issue. All countries, in particular developing countries, will be unable to protect their residents from sea level increases, frequent and intense droughts, heavy rains, and violent hurricanes and tornadoes. Species worldwide face extinction from these same events. It is a bitter irony and a grave injustice that economically developed countries that are most responsible for global warming/climate change possess the wealth, technology, and infrastructure to cope with its negative effects, while those who have the least will have the largest burdens to bear.

In 1992, the United States ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Convention calls for its signatories to stabilize their greenhouse gas emission rates. It also states that economically developed countries will take the lead in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and not use scientific uncertainty about some aspects of climate change as a cause for delaying an immediate response. While the scientific evidence is solid, there seems to be an effort by some to confuse the public. *To date, the United States has not ratified the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention*, which sets milestones for reducing greenhouse gas emission rates. International cooperation is critical for addressing this global dilemma.

### **A Call to Action**

Affirming that we are of this earth and that humankind has brought about global warming/climate change, we, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, pledge to ground our missions and ministries in reverence for this earth and responsibility to it as we undertake these personal practices, congregational actions, and advocacy goals.

\*For more information about the Call to Action (including suggestions for "Personal Practices," "Congregational Action," "Denominational Affairs," and "Advocacy Goals"), please visit <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/socialjustice/statements/8061.shtml>.

# CONSIDER THIS

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## **United Nations' Year of Biodiversity Statement**

"You rely on this diversity of life to provide you with the food, fuel, medicine and other essentials you simply cannot live without. Yet this rich diversity is being lost at a greatly accelerated rate because of human activities. This impoverishes us all and weakens the ability of the living systems, on which we depend, to resist growing threats such as climate change."

## **Ethical Aspects of Climate Change by Jan Dash** (UU-UNO Board Member and the UU-UNO representative to the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development)

According to Dr. Dash, "We have a moral and ethical imperative to learn about climate change/global warming and to act appropriately and decisively. This imperative derives from all people living today on the planet and those who will follow us. We cannot have succeeding generations say of us, '*they refused to learn*' or '*they knew but did not act.*'"

The 2009 Copenhagen Climate Conference sponsored by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) resulted in the "Copenhagen Accord,"<sup>3</sup> whose stated goal is to limit the global average temperature increase to 2°C. Most countries, including the major emitters have now specified voluntary goals for reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2020. These reductions, however, are not sufficient to achieve the goal of the Accord, nor are they binding.

An agreement incorporating more substantial reductions in a fair, ambitious, and binding (FAB) climate treaty is needed to protect future generations from massive impacts of global warming/climate change. In addition, climate justice requires the adoption of adequate, equitable, and binding financial and technical commitments by developed countries to developing countries for mitigation and adaptation.

UN Sunday can help UUs act to assist the process to help implement a FAB climate treaty. This year, 2010, is critical. Legislative/regulatory actions are needed in the United States and Canada as a prerequisite to achieve a climate treaty. American UUs can lobby for a Senate climate bill and can support the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). UUs around the world can lobby climate negotiators for a FAB treaty at the UNFCCC Climate Conference in Mexico in December 2010. UUs, therefore, can make a difference!

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<sup>3</sup> [http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop\\_15/application/pdf/cop15\\_cph\\_auv.pdf](http://unfccc.int/files/meetings/cop_15/application/pdf/cop15_cph_auv.pdf)

# MORE INFORMATION

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## **The UU-UNO Climate Change Website:**

*The UU-UNO Climate Change Task Force created this portal to provide resources for Unitarian Universalists. The following is a sample of what can be found on the website. <http://www.trunity.net/uuuno/>*

- Education and the IPCC
  - Adaptation to Global Warming
  - Impacts of Global Warming
  - Mitigation to Reduce Global Warming
  - Science of Global Warming, Climate Change
- Kids' Climate Change Corner
  - For the Teachers – Climate Resources
- Library, Links, and Videos
  - Links to other climate sites
  - News: Climate Change, Global Warming
  - Peace and National Security
  - UN Climate Change Gateway
  - UU Partners for climate change action
- Minister's, Social Action, and Youth Columns
- What can we do to mitigate Global Warming?
  - Events for Climate Change
  - Inter-Governmental Action on Global Warming
    - Copenhagen COP15 Conference December 2009
  - US Climate Legislation and Regulation
  - UU-UNO Climate Action
    - UU-UNO 2010 Spring Seminar on Climate Change

## **Seminar on Climate Change:**

The theme of this year's UU-UNO Intergenerational Spring Seminar was "A Climate Change: Heads, Hearts, and Hands Around the Planet." At the seminar, attendees gained a deep understanding of why climate change is happening, the global dangers it poses, how this relates to our faith as Unitarian Universalists, and what actions should be taken in the face of this change. Guest speakers included scientists, international advocates, activist leaders, and spiritual leaders.

The presentations of the featured speakers and the panelists can be reviewed at <http://www.trunity.net/uuuno/articles/view/145709/?topic=23855> and are a great resource to learn about the issue. The speakers covered everything from the science behind global warming to the religious-based call to action.

At the culmination of the Spring Seminar, youth and adults collaborated in focus groups to compose a statement that was delivered directly to the desk of the Secretary General outlining proposed actions to improve the status quo based on the information discussed at the seminar. The statement is included in this packet, on the next page.

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UU-UNO 2010 Intergenerational Spring Seminar

*A Climate of Change: Heads, Hearts, and Hands Around the Planet*

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**Spring Seminar Statement**

*Whereas...*

All seven of the UU Principles mandate environmental stewardship...

The scientific evidence supporting global warming is overwhelming and cannot be ignored...

Climate change has the potential to degrade the quality of life of all people on earth, particularly those who lack the resources to adapt.

The impacts of global warming have dire consequences, including extreme weather, rising sea levels, and mass extinctions...

There is no second planet, and so we must preserve the one we have...

Dwindling water and food supply will also increase conflict between groups and threaten world peace...

The Copenhagen Climate Conference (COP15) was a pivotal first step towards making a binding agreement but is not enough...

*We hereby resolve to...*

Be conscientious consumers by distinguishing the difference between 'need' and 'want'.

Educate our communities (schools, congregations, etc.) with the most accurate information available, to counter disinformation, and to use the Internet and the arts as tools of communication.

Take simple and economical steps in our own backyards (such as planting native trees and plants) as well as advocating for pro-environment legislation and research on a larger scale.

Support political candidates/elected officials who acknowledge the climate crisis and demand that they take action.

Urge Climate Conference (COP16) in Cancun, Mexico to develop a fair, ambitious binding agreement. The agreement should provide for substantial aid to developing countries for technology transfer and adaptation.

Work with the United Nations for generational equity so that our children and future generations will inherit a planet that is both functional and enjoyable.

# SAMPLE ORDER OF SERVICE

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We recognize that each congregation has its own routine for Sunday morning gatherings, and we encourage you to use and modify the resources in this packet to fit your own congregation's needs.

**Ingathering Music** *Higher Ground* *Wishing Chair*

**Welcome, Introduction, Announcements** *(You may wish to introduce the UU-UNO.)*

**Opening Words** *Affirmation to Do Something* [Singing the Living Tradition #457](#)

**Chalice Lighting** *Inspire Us* [Singing the Living Tradition #453](#)

**Opening Hymn** *We Celebrate the Web of Life* [Singing the Living Tradition #175](#)

**Story** *The Lorax* *Dr. Seuss*

## Joys and Concerns

**Offering** - The UU-UNO is supported financially by individual, family and congregational membership contributions. Some congregations choose to dedicate their offering on UN Sunday to our organization, while others choose to contribute in their annual budget. We encourage you to decide the best way to support the UU-UNO.

Choir selection: *Shall We Gather at the River*  
Composed by Robert Lowry, Arranged by Aaron Copland

**Reading/ Reflection/ Meditation** (to be read by all)  
[Singing the Living Tradition #648 – Beginners](#)

**Hymn** *Our World is One World* [Singing the Living Tradition #134](#)

**Sermon/ Homily/ Reflection** - Some congregations choose to invite a **guest speaker** from a local university or local United Nations Association (UNA) Chapter, **show a movie**, or have an **envoy or minister deliver a sermon** about the UN Sunday theme.

**Hymn** *We Would Be One* [Singing the Living Tradition #318](#)

## Closing Words *Go Forth in Peace*

Go forth into the world in peace; Be of good courage;  
Hold fast that which is good; Render to no one evil for evil;  
Strengthen the faint hearted; Support the weak;  
Help the afflicted; Love all people;  
Serve the most high; Rejoicing in the power of the spirit.

# SUGGESTED READINGS & HYMNS

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## Opening Words

**Singing the Living Tradition** #434 – World Community  
#436 – One People  
#445 – The Womb of Stars  
(also see *Affirmations*)

## Chalice Lighting

**Singing the Living Tradition** #448 – Celebrating Shared Life  
#455 – The Chalice of Our Being  
#453 – Inspire Us

### **Spirit of Life**<sup>4</sup>

In times of darkness we stumble towards the tiny flame.  
In times of cold we seek the warming fire.  
In times of repression we reach for the lamp of truth.  
In times of loss we pray for the comforting light.  
In times of joy we light a candle of celebration.  
Spirit of Life, as we kindle this light, help us find what we need this day.  
— Reverend Brian Kiely (President, ICUU Executive Committee)

### **The Earthen Chalice**<sup>5</sup>

This earthen chalice was born of clay and water, the flesh and blood of Gaia;  
Given form by the hand of the potter;  
Set by the bonding fire of the kiln.  
As we touch the flame to her lips, joining fire and air,  
May her light remind us of that unity  
of earth, air, fire, and water,  
of plant and animal, human and mineral,  
that we and the earth are one.  
— Edwin A. Lane

### **The Light of Truth**<sup>6</sup>

May the Light of Truth illumine our minds,  
May the Spark of Love set our hearts on fire,  
May the Flame of Freedom burn brightly within us,  
Now and always.  
— Richard M. Fewkes

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<sup>4</sup> "Chalice Lightings," December 2007, ICUU, [http://www.icuu.net/resources/chalice\\_2007.html](http://www.icuu.net/resources/chalice_2007.html)

<sup>5</sup> "Chalice Lightings," 1997 UUA Worship Materials Collection,  
<http://archive.uua.org/worshipweb/opening/laneea-chal01.html>

<sup>6</sup> "Chalice Lightings," UUA, <http://archive.uua.org/worshipweb/opening/laneea-chal01.html>

## **Affirmations & Responsive Readings**

### **Singing the Living Tradition**

#457 – Affirmation to Do Something	#464 – And Then
#470 – Affirmation to Build a Better World	#474 – Unto the Church Universal
#483 – Meditation on Inner Peace	#475 – We, the People of the UN
#496 – Prayer for Goodness	#505 – Let Us Be At Peace
#570 – Prayer for the Earth	#594 – Principles and Purposes

## **Closing Words**

### **Singing the Living Tradition**

#683 – Be Ours a Religion	#456 – Extinguishing the Chalice
#692 – If You Have Found	#686 – Go In Peace
	#709 – Be Doers of the Word

### **Robert F. Kaufmann - Closing Words<sup>7</sup>**

We have come together to share our deepest concerns, speaking and singing words of inspiration and hope. We have committed ourselves to do what we can to ease the burdens of those who suffer, to stand for decency and compassion. We have pledged to work for a more wholesome environment for us and for all the generations that will follow.

But these are just words. The hymns we sing are just songs. All our reflections are just idle thoughts. When we convert them all into loving and responsible action throughout the week, then and only then will this morning become what we want it to be -- a time of worship.

## **Hymns**

### **Singing the Living Tradition**

#21 – For the Beauty of the Earth and Sky	#91 – Mother of All
#134 – Our World is One World	#137 – We Utter Our Cry
#174 – O Earth, You Are Surpassing Fair	#175 – We Celebrate the Web of Life
#203 – All Creatures of the Earth and Sky	#308, 309, 310 – The Earth is Home
#318 – We Would Be One	#413 – Go Now in Peace

### **Singing the Living Journey**

#1024 – When the Spirit Says Do
#1028 – The Fire of Commitment
#1073 – The Earth is Our Mother

## **Choir Anthems**

*Shall We Gather at the River* – Composed by Robert Lowry, Arranged by Aaron Copland

### **Included in this Resource Packet (p.11):**

- *We've Got the Whole World in Our Hands*
- *International Hymn of Peace*
- *We Shall Overcome*

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<sup>7</sup> Kaufmann, Robert. "We Have Come Together to Share Our Deepest Concerns," UUA, <http://www.uua.org/spirituallife/worshipweb/closings/submissions/6056.shtml>

## **We've Got the Whole World In Our Hands**

*Chorus:* We've got the whole world in our hands (repeat 4 times)

We've got the wealth of nature in our hands (repeat 3 times, chorus line 1 time)  
We've got the earth and water in our hands (repeat 3 times, chorus line 1 time)  
We've got the air and mountains in our hands (repeat 3 times, chorus line 1 time)  
We've got our brothers and sisters in our hands (repeat 3 times, chorus line 1 time)  
We've got the tools peace and plenty in our hands (repeat 3 times, chorus line 1 time)  
We've got the hope for the future in our hands (repeat 3 times, chorus line 1 time)

## **International Hymn of Peace**

*Sung to the tune of Beethoven's 9th Symphony (a.k.a. Ode to Joy)*

*Words by Lorraine N. Finley*

Rise, O Nations, rise together, Work for universal peace,  
When the world becomes united, War and fear of war shall cease.  
Now has come the time for healing, Now the time for our rebirth;  
Peace will spread its wings restoring, Our misled and troubled earth.  
Stand, O Nations, stand together, Firm against what we abhor;  
Let our riches flow toward progress, Let there be no waste of war.  
Then our efforts, grown constructive, Shall build justice as they should,  
Temples in our helpful spirit, Monuments to all things good.  
Sing, O Nations, sing together, Praise of our unending dream,  
Love of home and truth and justice, Sing the one eternal theme.  
Bury deep the wrong and evil, Gone the night of blood and tears;  
Let our hard won freedom triumph, Forward, friends, the dawn appears.

## **We Shall Overcome<sup>8</sup>**

We shall overcome, We shall overcome, We shall overcome, some day.  
Oh, deep in my heart... I do believe, We shall overcome, some day.  
We'll walk hand in hand, We'll walk hand in hand, We'll walk hand in hand, some day.  
Oh, deep in my heart...  
We shall live in peace, We shall live in peace, We shall live in peace, some day.  
Oh, deep in my heart...  
We shall all be free, We shall all be free, We shall all be free, some day.  
Oh, deep in my heart...  
We are not afraid, We are not afraid, We are not afraid, TODAY  
Oh, deep in my heart...  
We shall overcome, We shall overcome, We shall overcome, some day.  
Oh, deep in my heart...I do believe, We shall overcome, some day.

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<sup>8</sup> Baez, Joan, "We Shall Overcome," Lyrics Mode, [www.lyricsmode.com/lyrics/j/joan\\_baez/we\\_shall\\_overcome.html](http://www.lyricsmode.com/lyrics/j/joan_baez/we_shall_overcome.html).  
Words & Music by Zilphia Hart, Frank Hamilton, Guy Carawan, and Pete Seeger.

# RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ACTIVITY

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*We encourage all congregations to fully engage all of their youth in UN Sunday. Please refer to our Religious Education packet, "UN Me," available on our website.*

## **Objectives:**

- to consider the relationship between Unitarian Universalism and addressing the issue of climate change
- to explore the effects of human activity on our planet
- to begin to understand the concept of sustainable living, and what that involves

## **Suggested Lesson Plan:**

RE teachers should start by educating themselves on the issue of global warming/climate change and then drafting a brief lesson (less than 10 minutes) for the children. (The resources on page 6 will be especially useful for this.) It is always helpful to begin the class by asking the students what they already know about the issue.

After the lesson, teachers may select an activity from the suggested ones below or, of course, may come up with their own creative, interactive way to engage the children (for example: growing bean sprouts to remind them to eat local, organic food). Following the craft, we suggest reading a book. Please feel free to choose from the list on the next page. (This is often a good time for "snack.")

A powerful way to end the class is to prompt the children to connect what they have learned to the seven UU principles. If they are not already posted, teachers should print out a copy of the principles, so that the children can identify which principles are directly related to the issue of climate change and can see for themselves the relationship between being a UU and acting responsibly with regard to our planet.

*The following websites are great places to find ideas for activities that relate more specifically to climate change.*

**UU-UNO Climate Change Website:** <http://www.trunity.net/uuuno/topics/view/44236/> and <http://www.trunity.net/uuuno/topics/view/24422/>

**NOAA Climate Services:** <http://www.climate.gov/#education/teachingResources>

**Earth Ministry:** <http://earthministry.org/resources/suggested-publications/for-children-and-youth>

*The following activities are related to the general work of the United Nations.*

**Paper doll chains** represent the interconnectedness of people, our common humanity, and compassion. <http://kiddley.com/2006/06/09/making-paper-doll-chains/>

**Friendship necklaces** will teach children about the value of sharing.

<http://www.dltk-kids.com/crafts/friendship/mnecklaces.htm>

**Friendship Bracelets** signify friendship, and represent essential aspects of human rights - compassion, empathy and love.

<http://www.amazingmoms.com/html/artfriendshipbracelet.htm>

**Peace Dove** <http://www.crayola.com/crafts/detail/dove-of-peace-craft/>

# SUGGESTED BOOKS

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The following list of books was compiled by Earth Ministry and can also be found at <http://earthministry.org/resources/suggested-publications/for-children-and-youth/books>.

## **A Prayer for the Earth: The Story of Naamah, Noah's Wife**

Author: Sasso, Sandy Eisenberg, and Bethanne Anderson. Most children know the story of how Noah helped the animals of the world survive the Great Flood. Now children can hear a story, based on an ancient Jewish text, about Noah's wife, Naamah, and how she helped keep alive all the plants on Earth.

## **All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir**

Author: Staines, Bill, and Margot Zemach. The lively, contemporary folk tune "All God's Critters ..." comes to life in this visually playful book. Parents and teachers can help children to learn the song with the help of printed music in the back of the book. Then look out: everyone will want to "clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got." A true celebration for all members of God's choir of creation.

## **Beyond Ecophobia: Reclaiming the Heart in Nature Education**

Author: Sobel, David. Beyond Ecophobia speaks to teachers, parents, and others interested in nurturing in children the ability to understand and care for nature. This expanded version of one of Orion Magazine's most popular articles includes descriptions of developmentally appropriate environmental education activities and a list of related children's books.

## **Earth Child: Games, Stories, Activities, Experiments and Ideas About Living Lightly on Planet Earth**

Author: Sheehan, Kathryn, and Mary Waidner. The book focuses on celebrating events in nature (i.e. solstices, change of season) that easily coincide with some events in faith communities. Its plays, recipes, craft projects, wealth of resources, and much more engage children in appreciating their relationships with the rest of creation.

## **God's Good World: A Peacemaking Resource for Children**

Author: White, Vera K. This [five-session curriculum] was designed to serve as a vacation Bible school or church school curriculum for third through sixth graders, but can be used in a variety of other ways. ...Through activities, stories, and prayer, children and their leaders will learn more about God by experiencing God's world and will find out ways that they can help to care for the world.

## **God's Quiet Things**

Author: Sweetland, Nancy, and Rick Stevens. A gentle book that encourages children to discover the marvels of God's creation through looking, listening, and touching. Toddlers will enjoy its melodic words and colorful artwork, and young readers its simple poetry.

## **Grandad's Prayers of the Earth**

Author: Wood, Douglas, and P.J. Lynch. "'Did you know, boy,' Grandad whispered, 'that trees pray?'" This heart-touching story is told by a boy whose grandfather helps him to understand that every part of creation (including himself) has a prayer to offer their Creator. This beautifully illustrated book can also help children deal with the difficulties of grieving the death of a loved one.

## **In the Beginning There was Joy: A Creation Story for All Ages**

Author: Matthew Fox.

## **Listening to Nature**

Author: Cornell, Joseph. This classic environmental education resource engages children in nature awareness. Each book is filled with ideas, reflections, and creative games that serve to involve all of the senses with the natural world.

## **Loving Our Neighbor, The Earth: Creation-Spirituality Activities for 9-11 Year-Olds**

Author: Jenkins, Christie L. This curriculum consists of twenty lessons for children and teaches them to enjoy creation and the Creator, and care for creation. Topics include water conservation, cultivating the Earth, "God and Garbage," learning the stars, and more. Contains photocopyable handouts.

**Morning Has Broken**

Author: Farjeon, Eleanor, and Tim Ladwig. Many children and adults are familiar with Eleanor Farjeon's moving hymn inspired by her deep awe for God's creation and Psalm 118:24. The stunning illustrations in this book bring Eleanor's words to life through a little boy and his grandfather living in a modern, urban setting.

**Old Turtle**

Author: Wood, Douglas, and Chen-Khee Chee. This richly illustrated fable draws children and adults into a world in which all parts of creation communicate with one another and God. It specifically calls readers and listeners into a deeper understanding of what it might mean for humans to be "a message of love from God to the earth, and a prayer from the earth back to God" (from the book).

**Protecting God's Creation: A Resource Manual**

Produced by the National Catholic Youth Initiative. An excellent resource for youth that creatively combines Catholic social teachings with actual opportunities to care for creation. After an introductory session on the sacredness of God's creation, youth and their leaders may choose from a variety of topics (wastes, pesticides, rainforests, etc.) to further explore care for creation.

**Resources for Outdoor Retreats; Journey into Nature, Journey into the Heart**

Author: Bob Grgic. Filled with well-chosen resources to help you design your own outdoor retreats and prayer experiences. You will find clearly outlined directions, imaginative suggestions and handouts for retreatants' participation.

**Sharing Nature with Children**

Author: Cornell, Joseph. This creative guidebook helps parents and teachers to engage with the intricacies and mystery of nature as a child might. Such an engagement equips adults to invite children to explore and cherish the world in ways that call upon children's natural curiosity and empathy. This book contains forty-two games and interactive experiences.

**Sharing the Joy of Nature: Nature Activities for All Ages**

Author: Cornell, Joseph. This classic environmental education resource engages children in nature awareness. Each book is filled with ideas, reflections, and creative games that serve to involve all of the senses with the natural world.

**The Hymn of the Sun**

Author: St. Francis of Assisi. The first illustrated version of St. Francis of Assisi's beloved poem.

**The Lorax**

Author: Geisel, Theodore (Dr. Seuss). A classic Earth-care book that deals with consumerism and endangered "species," and offers an invitation to stewardship. Dr. Seuss' genius and compassion shine through.

**The Sense of Wonder**

Author: Carson, Rachel. Carson has been called "the patron saint of the environmental movement." In this book, with wonder-inspiring photography, Carson describes how adults can open the world of nature to children, and how children can help adults grow and revel in their own wonderment.

**We are God's People: Stories of Faith for the Family of God**

Performance Edition. Author: Betsy Beckman, Lisa von Stamwitz and Jeanne Cotter. Through this performance piece the prophetic voice of our children has a chance to be heard by the whole family of God. In this script we find children's own stories of faith woven together with song and gesture into a celebration of life. These heart-felt stories and vignettes reflect children's experience of God, themselves, and their world. They are children's own words of struggle with grief, illness, divorce, and violence as well as expressions of joy in new life, hope, love, and reconciliation. Children present their stories in the form of readers' theater.

**\*For Every Child**

UU-UNO Executive Director Bruce Knotts also highly recommends this book, published by UNICEF, about the rights of the child.

# BEYOND UN SUNDAY: OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

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## **Encourage your congregation to include an international perspective**

Does your congregation currently have a group focused on climate change? How about one working for immigrant justice? Chances are that whatever your congregation's passion is, the United Nations is engaged with these issues as well. In the research, education and advocacy that your social action/ justice group does, don't forget to find out what is going on at the UN on that issue. Encourage your members to subscribe to the UU-UNO listserv to receive important updates and action alerts.

**UU-UNO.ORG** | [OFFICE@UU-UNO.ORG](mailto:OFFICE@UU-UNO.ORG)

## **Hold an intergenerational UU-UNO fundraiser**

The UU-UNO exists to provide a unique UU perspective at the United Nations. We receive no funding from the UUA and depend on individual and congregational support. We ask for your support, your involvement, your engagement and your enthusiastic membership to change the world so that every person can enjoy a safe and dignified life. Consider holding a coffee house, dance, spaghetti dinner, international food fair or craft sale to support our work. This can be a fun opportunity to learn about an issue, build intergenerational community and raise necessary funds. Order membership cards from our cart or submit donations online.

**[UU-UNO.ORG/CART](http://UU-UNO.ORG/CART)**  
**[UU-UNO.ORG/DONATE](http://UU-UNO.ORG/DONATE)**

## **Compete in the Annual Greeley Sermon Competition**

All UUs are invited to submit a sermon (or address) to the UU-UNO. The purpose of this annual award program is to encourage and to recognize UU principles, thought and action on a wide range of global issues as well as the role of the UN and our own UU-UNO. While all submissions will be considered, those highlighting the work of the UN and the UU-UNO will be given priority consideration. The winner will be awarded a cash prize of \$1,000 and will have the opportunity to deliver the sermon or address at the upcoming 2010 UUA General Assembly. See the website for more information about the guidelines for submission.

**[UU-UNO.ORG/GETINVOLVED/DANA-GREELEY-ADDRESS/](http://UU-UNO.ORG/GETINVOLVED/DANA-GREELEY-ADDRESS/)**

## **Become a Blue Ribbon Congregation**

United Nations Sunday is a great opportunity to increase support for the UU-UNO by helping your congregation achieve blue ribbon status. In order to do this, a congregation needs to:

1. Have an Envoy, Youth Envoy, or Envoy Team
2. Hold an annual UN Sunday service
3. Have 5% of your congregation be contributing members to the UU-UNO
4. Have your congregation formally commit to annually giving the UU-UNO a budget line or collection plate.

**[UU-UNO.ORG/GETINVOLVED/BLUE-RIBBON-CONGREGATION/](http://UU-UNO.ORG/GETINVOLVED/BLUE-RIBBON-CONGREGATION/)**

## **Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office**

777 UN Plaza Suite 7G, New York NY 10017

T: 212.986.5165 F: 212.983.5498 E: [office@uu-uno.org](mailto:office@uu-uno.org)

# LEARN MORE & BECOME INVOLVED: CONNECT TO THE UU-UNO

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## **Become a UU-UNO Envoy for your Congregation**

Envoys are extremely valuable to the UU-UNO because they are the link between the office and the global UU community. As an envoy, you represent the UU-UNO within your local congregation. You connect your congregation to the UU-UNO and relay important information on current UN activities. You engage your congregation members in UU-UNO program initiatives and then plan events such as UN Sunday to promote UN education. Make sure your congregation has an envoy and this connection to the United Nations!

**[UU-UNO.ORG/GETINVOLVED/ENVOYS/](http://UU-UNO.ORG/GETINVOLVED/ENVOYS/)**

## **Embrace Leadership as a Youth Envoy**

The Youth Envoy Program is a way for youth around the United States and Canada to incorporate personal, congregational, and UU beliefs in the worldwide efforts of the United Nations. The responsibilities include raising awareness of UN events within your congregation and planning discussions, fundraisers, and other international events to connect your youth group to the UU-UNO. Youth Envoys raise visibility of the UN and our office so we can work together to make the world a safer and more just place!

**[UU-UNO.ORG/GETINVOLVED/YOUTH-ENVOYS/](http://UU-UNO.ORG/GETINVOLVED/YOUTH-ENVOYS/)**

## **Join the Intergenerational Spring Seminar**

Every April, youth and adults gather in New York City for our exciting and educational Spring Seminar. All participants gain a deeper understanding on a topic of global concern and have a lot of fun. Past seminars have focused on water, poverty, HIV/AIDS, human trafficking, and peacekeeping. The topic for 2010 was Climate Change. Not only do youth attend the conference, but many also take on important leadership roles in its planning and execution. Contact our office for more information on how to participate in the next spring seminar!

**[UU-UNO.ORG/EVENTS/SPRING-SEMINAR/](http://UU-UNO.ORG/EVENTS/SPRING-SEMINAR/)**

## **Consider the Internship Program**

The internship program provides young people with an exciting opportunity to learn about the United Nations and to work in support of UN efforts to eradicate injustice, armed conflict and intolerance around the world. Interns working at the UU-UNO conduct research, participate in conferences, and write articles for Window on the World (our newsletter). The talent and cultural diversity of our interns is evident in the various articles, video documentaries and web-page designs they have produced. Their contributions have been invaluable.

**[UU-UNO.ORG/ABOUT/PEOPLE/INTERNS](http://UU-UNO.ORG/ABOUT/PEOPLE/INTERNS)**

# UU-UNO PROGRAM AREAS

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## **LGBT/SOGI HUMAN RIGHTS**

Over the past 40 years, UU congregations have become more aware and supportive of their LGBT constituents. However, even members of the North American LGBT community and their allies are largely unaware of the dangers faced by LGBT individuals outside of North America: in over 80 countries, people can face criminal prosecution based on presumed sexual orientation or gender identity – sometimes with fatal consequences. Thanks to a generous grant from the Arcus Foundation, the UU-UNO now has new staff dedicated specifically to advocating at the UN for decriminalizing homosexuality around the world. Using its unique position at the UN as a leader within the ecumenical community, the UU-UNO works to garner support among the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO), especially the faith-based community, to end criminal sanctions based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Additionally, the UU-UNO holds UN ECOSOC consultative status, allowing it to build consensus and coalition among other NGOs with consultative status to support decriminalization.

**UU-UNO.ORG/LGBT** | [LGBT@UU-UNO.ORG](mailto:LGBT@UU-UNO.ORG)

## **EVERY CHILD IS OUR CHILD**

The Every Child Is Our Child (ECOC) Program is a UU-UNO initiative towards the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG's) that were established by world leaders in 2000. The program consists of offering essential resources and health care assistance to orphans and vulnerable children, enabling them to attend primary school in the Manya Krobo district in Ghana. The ECOC directly contributes to the goals of achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality, and combating HIV/AIDS. Additionally, ECOC gives priority to girls, in order to help promote gender equality. Finally, the program contributes to the fight against AIDS, since children are taught about HIV/AIDS prevention in school, starting in Grade 2. The ECOC program provides real life opportunities to practice UU spiritual principles. By providing education to a threatening generation, we further affirm and promote the worth and dignity of every person.

**UU-UNO.ORG/ECOC** | [ECOC@UU-UNO.ORG](mailto:ECOC@UU-UNO.ORG)

## **WOMEN: SECURITY and PEACE**

The Women: Security and Peace program promotes awareness and action through education and advocacy in three key areas:

- The effects of armed conflict on women
- The importance of women's role in peace-building and peace-keeping efforts
- Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all form of Discrimination Against Wome (CEDAW) by the U.S. and international implementation

Our goal is to encourage the strong voices and actions of women as part of the peace-building process. Through this program the UU-UNO supports and advocates for the global implementation of key international agreements such as Security Council Resolution 1325 and CEDAW.

**UU-UNO.ORG/WISP** | [WISP@UU-UNO.ORG](mailto:WISP@UU-UNO.ORG)

# FURTHER RESOURCES

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*There are a number of ways that you and your UU congregation or group can carry the momentum from UN Sunday forward throughout the year. We have provided a sampling of tools for education, advocacy and outreach that are available to you through our Office and other resources.*

[www.uu-uno.org](http://www.uu-uno.org) - **Our Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office** provides news updates, articles, and links to more resources. Also visit the Youth Page.

[www.un.org](http://www.un.org) - The official **United Nations** website includes documents, news and links to the UN family of specialized agencies, departments and programmes.

<http://www.un.org/rights/> - The official **United Nations Human Rights** website.

<http://www.ohchr.org/> - The website for the **Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights** provides a detailed overview of the Office's work in human rights as well as human rights news.

[www.millenniumcampaign.org](http://www.millenniumcampaign.org) - The **Millennium Campaign** website provides education and updates on the Millennium Development Goals.

[www.earthsummit.info](http://www.earthsummit.info) - Initially a tool for understanding the **Earth Summit**, this website aims to provide independent and apolitical resources and information to promote discussion of global social and environmental issues.

[www.unep.org](http://www.unep.org) - The **United Nations Environment Programme** aims "To provide leadership and encourage partnership in caring for the environment by inspiring, informing, and enabling nations and peoples to improve their quality of life without compromising that of future generations."

[www.c-r.org/about/approach.php](http://www.c-r.org/about/approach.php) - **Conciliation Resources** is an international non-governmental organization working mainly in the Caucasus of Eastern Europe, Uganda and West Africa in partnership with local and international civil society organizations and governments to promote dialogue and peace.

[www.centerforunreform.org](http://www.centerforunreform.org) - This non-governmental organization promotes analysis and discussion of proposals to reform and strengthen the United Nations.

[www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org) - Earth Ministry is a 501(c)3 non-profit committed to engaging the Christian community in environmental stewardship. We work in partnership with individuals and congregations to respond to this great moral challenge through education, individual and congregational lifestyle choices, and organizing for social change through environmental advocacy.

# FEEDBACK FORM

Please take a few moments to consult with those involved in planning your UN Sunday and fill out this form. Your response will help us learn how congregations celebrate UN Sunday and how we can better support these initiatives.

## **How You Celebrate UN Sunday**

Our congregation celebrates UN Sunday regularly. (please circle) YES NO

Our congregation supports the UU-UNO financially. (please circle) YES NO

Please provide a description of your UN Sunday celebration.

(Did you have a guest speaker? A video? A sermon by a lay leader or a minister?)

Our congregation takes an intergenerational approach to UN Sunday. YES NO

In the space below, please provide examples of what children and youth did to celebrate UN Sunday.

## **Planning Process**

The order form was clear and easy to use. YES NO

We received materials ordered on time. YES NO

In the space below, please comment on the planning process.

## **Resources from UU-UNO**

Resource Packet overall Great! Okay Needs Improvement

UN Sunday Section Great! Okay Needs Improvement

Beyond UN Sunday Section Great! Okay Needs Improvement

Additional UU-UNO materials Great! Okay Needs Improvement

Materials about the UN Great! Okay Needs Improvement

In the space below, please comment about the resources. (re: Quality? Were they easy to use?)

Thank you for filling out this UN Sunday Feedback Form and for your ongoing commitment to *peace, liberty, and justice for all*. Please return this form to us by email, mail, or fax. We also encourage you to send us a copy of your Order of Service and photos from your UN Sunday.

**Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office**

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