

UN Sunday 2011



EMPOWER WOMEN
FOR A BETTER WORLD

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FOREWORD FROM THE UU-UNO DIRECTOR

We live in a global village. Every day, what happens around the world impacts our lives in substantial ways, from the food we eat to the air we breathe to the rights we enjoy or don't. Similarly, what we do in our communities impacts the lives of people across the globe. As believers in social justice, we Unitarian-Universalists need to be mindful and work on local, national and international issues. We need to be global citizens. The United Nations is our link to the world, and the UU-UNO is our link to the UN.

Most of us believe that progress is automatic and inevitable. It isn't. Many people's lives these days are harder, more challenging than their parents' lives. The progress of women, more than half of the world's population, has not been uniform or universal. Women here at home and around the world are paid less for their work; their health is neglected or compromised. The world suffers from the oppression of women, from lost opportunities. We all suffer when we fail to empower many of the world's women who could be helping to create a better world for all of us, men, women, children alike.

Progress happens only when we make it happen. It is the duty of every one of us to work hard to raise the voices of women and girls on the world's stages, which is why the UU-UNO chose "Empower Women for a Better World" as the focus of our 2011 Annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar and have adopted it as our UN Sunday theme for this year.

Women have been involved at the UN since its founding, and women's issues have been given attention at UN conferences, such as the ground-breaking 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. And in 1981, the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) came into force without, sadly, ratification by the United States. Last year the UN merged four UN agencies into one entity, UN Women, led by Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, Ms. Michelle Bachelet, the highest serving woman in UN history. This progress is good, of course, but there's much more to do.

We invite you to use this UN Sunday Packet to learn more about empowering women for a better world, and we urge you to turn that knowledge into activism. We are ready to work with your congregation to give it a global perspective. As an important part of your participation in working for a better world through women's empowerment, we ask you to organize a Sunday service or event in October devoted to this theme, as well as to a deeper understanding and appreciation of the work of the United Nations and the UU-UNO.

Every year the Canadian Unitarian Council's (CUC) Annual Conference and Meeting (ACM) contributes a third of the collection received at their special Sunday worship service to an international charity. In 2010, the UU-UNO was the grateful recipient of this CUC ACM donation. The generosity of the CUC is a model we hope you and your congregation will follow on your UN Sunday as you promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

In peace, Bruce Knotts



Table of Contents

What is a UN Sunday?	1
2011 Intergenerational Spring Seminar	2
2011 Spring Seminar Statement	3
United Nations 101.....	4
United Nations Resolutions and MDGs	5
United Nations WOMEN	7
UUA Call to action on CEDAW.....	8
What is CEDAW?	9
CEDAW Advocacy	10
How to Plan UN Sunday	11
Sample order of Service	13
Religious Education Activity.....	14
UU-UNO Program Areas.....	15
Connect to the UU-UNO	16
Inspire Your Community	17
Feedback Form	18

WHAT IS A UN SUNDAY?

The United Nations was founded on 24 October 1945, following the Second World War. The UN is a global association of governments that 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 1947, 24 October 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 invites congregations and individual UUs to deepen their understanding of the United Nations by devoting one service in October to reaffirming the connections between our UU principles and the 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. We especially encourage children and youth to participate in UN Sunday. Our UN Religious Education curriculum (UN Me) is available on our website at <http://www.uu-uno.org/getinvolved/un-religious-education/>. Further, we urge congregations to organize related religious education sessions. On our website, a short insightful history of UN DAY and UU history at the UN is an additional great resource to use. Visit our UN [Sunday](#) portion of our website and download "they called it UN DAY".

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 fellow UUs of the benefits of contributing to the UU-UNO. The UU-UN Office exists to provide a unique Unitarian Universalist perspective at the United Nations. We depend on individual and congregational support. We need your involvement, your engagement, and your enthusiastic support to help us bring our UU voice to the UN. We can help to change the world so that every person enjoys a safe and dignified life. Thank you for participating in UN Sunday.

EMPOWER WOMEN FOR A BETTER WORLD

As Unitarian Universalists, we strive to make the world a better place for all. Our first principle affirms and promotes the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Poor healthcare and education, systemic violations of human rights, climate change, violence, and global insecurity are only a few impediments that women, on a global level, face every day.

Acknowledging the real and pressing need for these issues to be addressed, the theme of our 2011 Annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar was "Empower Women for a Better World." During the Seminar, speakers addressed international women's rights, the elimination of discrimination against women, and women's roles in peacekeeping in armed global conflicts. Panelists discussed how more countries can ratify CEDAW and how we as Unitarian Universalists can help implement the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by opening up access to healthcare and education for all women across the globe.

At the conclusion of the Seminar, participants worked together to draft a statement that was delivered to the United Nations and to Unitarian Universalist congregations around the world. The UU-UNO is committed to global equality and supporting the United Nations in this endeavor. We left this year's seminar motivated and empowered to provide women around the world with skills and opportunities to make the world better.



Youth at the UN during Spring Seminar 2011

2011 Intergenerational Spring Seminar Statement: *Empower Women for a Better World*

Whereas:

Women comprise more than 50 percent of the population yet carry the burden of systemic global injustices and inequalities;

Women suffer violence, rape, and torture;

One hundred countries have no laws against domestic violence, and 70 percent of women worldwide experience some form of violence in their lives;

Sex trafficking of women and children is an escalating issue in all countries;

Significant social change and economic development occurs when a country invests in its girls' education;

When women have access to family planning services, they choose to have smaller, healthier families;

Smaller families and women's access to reproductive health services can mitigate the negative impacts of climate change by reducing an estimated billion tons of carbon dioxide emissions;

Agricultural workers, the majority of whom are women, are unaware of and most subject to the adverse effects of climate change;

Global climate change exacerbates war and gender disparity;

The presence of women normalizes the volatile climate in areas of conflict;

Women are underrepresented in policy-making and decision-making yet bring equally beneficial perspectives, talents, and abilities to the political arena;

Women's rights are human rights,

We hereby resolve to:

Demonstrate to the world community Unitarian Universalist principles and values.

Continue to educate ourselves and our communities on global women's issues.

Support implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 and the initiatives of UN Women to strengthen civil society worldwide.

Advocate that all businesses involved in the tourism industry commit to the code of conduct for the protection of children from sexual exploitation in travel and tourism.

Lead a faith-based effort to demand the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) by the US Senate.

Invest in the education, health care, and security of women to empower them for a better world.

Provide voluntary family planning services to all women, specifically those in countries where women's reproductive rights go unrecognized.

Encourage women to educate, advocate, and organize to support sustainable living and ameliorate climate change.

Help women be equally and proportionally represented in government and international affairs.

Urge women to join together to work toward peace and civility in the world.

United Nations 101

Introducing the United Nations

With the scourge of war heavy on 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. 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 Charter¹.

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.

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.

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 (South Sudan, July 14 2011) there are 193 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. For more information about how the UN works explore our UN ME packet in the RE portion of our website.

¹ United Nations Charter: <http://www.un.org/en/documents/charter/index.shtml>

UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTIONS AND MDGS THAT EMPOWER WOMEN

United Nations Resolutions

The United Nations Security Council, comprised of 15 member states, has the ability to adopt resolutions which member states must accept and carry out. Security Council resolutions are legally binding and fulfill the Security Council's primary responsibility to maintain "international peace and security" as stated in the United Nations Charter.

- **Strengthening women's participation in decision-making:** SC [Resolution 1325](#) (2000) calls for strengthening women's agency as peacemakers and peace-builders, including their participation in conflict prevention and peace processes, early recovery, governance and in peace operations. Resolution 1889 (2009) complements 1325 by calling for the establishment of global indicators to measure progress on its implementation.²
- **Ending sexual violence and impunity:** SC [Resolution 1820](#) (2008) calls for an end to widespread conflict-related sexual violence and for accountability in order to end impunity. Resolution 1888 (2009) focuses on strengthening leadership, expertise and other institutional capacities within the United Nations and in member states to help put an end to conflict-related sexual violence.³
- **Providing an accountability system :** SC [Resolution 1960](#) (2010) mandates the Secretary-General to list on the Council's agenda those parties credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of sexual violence in conflict situations. Relevant sanctions committees will be briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and may take action against listed parties. SCR 1960 also calls for the establishment of monitoring, analysis, and reporting arrangements specific to conflict-related sexual violence.⁴

Millennium Development Goals

The Millennium development goals, adopted by 183 member states of the United Nations at the Millennium Summit in 2000, promote social and economic development in the world's poorest countries.

GOAL 3: PROMOTE GENDER EQUALITY AND EMPOWER WOMEN

Target 3.A: [Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education in all levels of education no later than 2015](#)

- For girls in some regions, education remains elusive

² http://www.peacewomen.org/themes_theme.php?id=15&subtheme=true

³ http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc_resolutions08.htm

⁴ http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/unsc_resolutions08.htm

- Poverty is a major barrier to education, especially among older girls
- In every developing region except the CIS, men outnumber women in paid employment
- Women are largely relegated to more vulnerable forms of employment
- Women are over-represented in informal employment, with its lack of benefits and security
- Top-level jobs still go to men — to an overwhelming degree
- Women are slowly rising to political power, but mainly when boosted by quotas and other special measures

GOAL 5: IMPROVE MATERNAL HEALTH

Target 5.A: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio

- Most maternal deaths could be avoided
- Giving birth is especially risky in Southern Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, where most women deliver without skilled care
- The rural-urban gap in skilled care during childbirth has narrowed

Target 5.B: Achieve universal access to reproductive health

- More women are receiving antenatal care
 - Inequalities in care during pregnancy are striking
 - Only one in three rural women in developing regions receive the recommended care during pregnancy
 - Progress has stalled in reducing the number of teenage pregnancies, putting more young mothers at risk
 - Poverty and lack of education perpetuate high adolescent birth rates
 - Progress in expanding the use of contraceptives by women has slowed
 - Use of contraception is lowest among the poorest women and those with no education
- Inadequate funding for family planning is a major failure in fulfilling commitments to improving women's reproductive health⁵



The Millennium Development Goals

⁵ Millennium Development Goal's: <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/maternal.shtml>

United Nations WOMEN

As stated on their website, "UN Women is the UN organization dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide."⁶ In a speech given during the 2011 Commission on the Status of Women's annual meeting, UN Women's Executive Director Michelle Bachelet spoke on the goals of the Organization, highlighting five thematic priorities in its operational activities.

- 1) **Expanding women's voice, leadership and participation**, working with partners to close the gaps in women's leadership and participation in different sectors and to demonstrate the benefits of such leadership for society as a whole;
- 2) **Ending violence against women** by enabling states to set up the mechanisms needed to formulate and enforce laws, policies and services that protect women and girls, promote the involvement of men and boys, and prevent violence;
- 3) **Strengthening implementation of the women, peace and security agenda**, through women's full participation in conflict resolution and peace processes, gender-responsive early warning, protection from sexual violence and redress for its survivors in accordance with UN resolutions;
- 4) **Enhancing women's economic empowerment** including in the context of global economic and environmental crises; UN Women will work with governments and multilateral partners to ensure the full realization of women's economic security and rights, including access to productive assets and full social protection;
- 5) **Making gender equality priorities central to national, local and sectoral planning and budgeting**: working with partners, UN Women will support national capacities in evidence-based planning, budgeting and statistics.

Dr. Bachelet also stresses the focus points of the 2011 CSW: "Access and participation of women and girls in education, training, science and technology, including for the promotion of women's equal access to full employment and decent work".



⁶ <http://www.unwomen.org/2011/02/commission-on-the-status-of-women-55th-session-introductory-statement/>

2007 UUA CALL TO ACTION ON CEDAW

WHEREAS the first Unitarian Universalist principle "to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person," and the sixth principle, "the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all," correspond with the purpose of the United Nations Charter "to promote peace, prosperity, and dignity for all;"

WHEREAS the current 2007 session of the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee presents the best opportunity in over 25 years to pass legislation to end discrimination against women worldwide:

WHEREAS CEDAW, adopted by the United Nations in 1979, is one of the most ratified international human rights conventions, having the support of 185 States Parties;

WHEREAS the Treaty for the Rights of Women (CEDAW), addresses legal rights of women worldwide, empowers them in the areas of education, employment and health care, and provides prevention against and protection from violence;

WHEREAS women in the Ukraine, Nepal, Thailand and the Philippines have used CEDAW to pass new laws to stop sexual trafficking of women and girls;

WHEREAS in Nicaragua, Jordan, Egypt and Guinea, women and girls have now acquired literacy increases after CEDAW has improved access to education;

WHEREAS the U.S. failure to ratify CEDAW places it in the company of Iran, Sudan and Somalia, and four other countries, and the U.S. remains the only nation with a Member Group of the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists that has not ratified CEDAW;

WHEREAS the U.S. Senate has scheduled no hearings to reconsider the ratification of CEDAW since 1980, when President Carter signed the treaty, but the Working Group on Ratification of CEDAW has, in 2007, mobilized a call for Senate hearings, and the current Administration has delayed action by ordering an additional review of the treaty by the Justice Department;

WHEREAS ratification of CEDAW is essential to a claim by the U.S. of moral leadership in human rights; and

WHEREAS U.S. ratification will deter discrimination against women and advance their political and economic equality,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the delegates urge:

- Individual Unitarian Universalists and congregations to educate themselves about CEDAW and to lobby their elected representatives to call for hearings to ratify the Convention;
- U.S. congregations to call for U.S. Senate Foreign Relations *Committee* hearings on CEDAW during the current Congressional session and to promote coalition building based upon the 2005 End Violence Against Women Act;
- The Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office to continue to monitor and advocate for CEDAW as part of follow-up to the 2007 Annual Intergenerational Spring Seminar, "Stop Modern Day Slavery: Breaking the Web of Human Trafficking;" and
- U.S. congregations to work with the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women (SWUJW) and the Unitarian Universalist Women and Religion (UUWR) to welcome Unitarian Universalist women worldwide to the International Convocation of Unitarian Universalist Women in Houston, Texas in February 2009.

What is CEDAW?

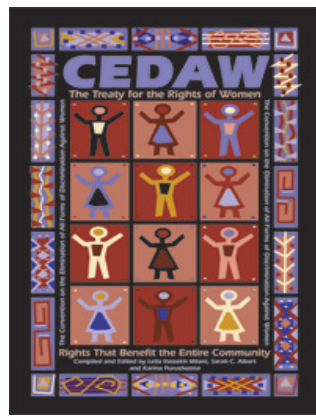
The Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) is considered as an international bill of rights for women, CEDAW outlines standards for ratifying countries to meet in the treatment and rights of women. The treaty was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1979. As of October 1, 2009, 186 countries have ratified the Treaty for the Rights of Women. Among the countries that have not yet ratified it are Sudan, Somalia, Iran and the United States. Nations that ratify CEDAW commit themselves to undertake a series of measures to end discrimination against women in all forms, including:

- to incorporate the principle of equality of men and women in their legal system, abolish all discriminatory laws and adopt appropriate ones prohibiting discrimination against women;
- to establish tribunals and other public institutions to ensure the effective protection of women against discrimination;
- and to ensure elimination of all acts of discrimination against women by persons, organizations or enterprises.

Countries around the world are shocked that the United States has failed to ratify CEDAW, a call for essential women's rights. The UU-UNO hopes your congregation will help us in urging the United States to pass CEDAW. To learn ways to take action, please visit our [website](#).⁷

CEDAW Around The World:

Despite the United States failure to ratify CEDAW, countries throughout the world including Canada have ratified and used CEDAW as a way to implement further rights for Women. CEDAW has many success stories, in Bangladesh CEDAW became a stepping stone to help the government handle the many lawsuits Bangladesh women filed for sexual harassment. CEDAW'S recommendation 19 for violence against women became a guideline for all of Bangladesh. In Mexico, the committee on CEDAW examined a number of systematic human rights violations against women in the Ciudad Juarez section of Chihuahua and issued a "series of concrete resolutions including the 2007 "Mexican General Law on Women's Access to a Life Free of Violence". Please [read more](#)⁸ CEDAW success stories!



⁷ <http://www.uu-uno.org/what-we-do/wisp/take-action/>

⁸ http://www.unifem.org/cedaw30/success_stories/

CEDAW ADVOCACY

For Members of US Congregations:

Support CEDAW for Women and Girls:

American women enjoy opportunities and status not available to most of the world's women. But few would dispute that more progress is needed in certain areas, such as ending domestic violence and closing the pay gap. Ratifying CEDAW would not result in any automatic changes to U.S. law. Instead, CEDAW provides a practical blueprint to achieve progress for women and girls and an opportunity for policymakers and advocates to work together on how best to end discrimination and ensure women's full equality, for example in areas such as:

- **Domestic violence:** the landmark Violence Against Women Act, has done much to prevent domestic violence and meet the needs of victims, yet two million women a year report injuries from current or former partners in the United States.
- **Maternal health:** the United States ranks 41st among a ranking of 184 countries on maternal deaths during pregnancy and childbirth, below all other industrialized nations and a number of developing countries.
- **Economic security:** U.S. women continue to lag behind men in income, earning on average only 77 cents for every dollar that a man makes.
- **Human trafficking:** the Trafficking Victims Protection Act has played a pivotal role in combating human trafficking. However, estimates suggest that there may be 20,000 women, men and children trafficked into the U.S. each year.

Ratification of CEDAW would provide an effective catalyst for the U.S. to examine areas of persistent discrimination against women and develop strategies for solutions. www.ratifycedaw.org.

Countries around the world are shocked that the United States has failed to ratify CEDAW, **the** call for essential women's rights. The UU-UNO hopes your congregation will help us in urging the United States to pass CEDAW. To learn ways to take action, please visit our [website](#).⁹

Tell your US Senators to ratify CEDAW Today!

For Members of Canadian Congregations:

Unlike the US, Canada has successfully passed CEDAW! However, there is still gender discrimination taking place in Canada today. Canada's 2007, fifth report to the United Nation's Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against women shows the progress Canada has made more than 20 years after passing CEDAW. Since passing CEDAW, Canada has invested in women's shelters, created stricter legislation forbidding discrimination in the federal employment sector and has started to tackle the rampant inequalities aboriginal women face. Canada's 2007 Sixth CEDAW country [report](#)¹⁰ outlines in detail measures the Canadian government has made to promote greater rights for women since passing CEDAW. However, Canada still has a long way to go. The Women Inequality Alliance in Canada tracks Canada's women right's abuses since CEDAW, you can visit their [website](#)¹¹ to learn more about ways to take action in your community against women's rights violations.

⁹ <http://www.uu-uno.org/what-we-do/wisp/take-action/>

¹⁰ <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/reports.htm>

¹¹ <http://www.fafia-afai.org/en/categories/cedaw-international-conventions-and-un-bodies/cedaw-0>

HOW TO PLAN UN SUNDAY

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

Set the date with the church, preferably around October 24th

Develop the theme

- Incorporate the theme into the sermon
- Guest speaker(s) – consider inviting someone from the UU-UNO
- 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. We will post readings throughout September by UU ministers on our [UN Sunday](#) portion of our website.
- Special presentation (i.e. show a video)
 - Ask us about our 14 minute video on “every child is our child”
- 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

- Develop/discuss an overview of the service
 - Consider using our sample order of service
 - Consider our weekly UU Minister prayers, that will be posted on the website each week in September
- 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

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
- Email the parents about what the children are doing and when
- Suggest activities from “UN Me” curriculum

Service Preparation

- Plan the cover design
- 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 to:
 - 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
- Have church treasurer add up the currency collected during the offering and make out a check to the UU-UNO from the Church to become a sustaining friend of the UU-UNO

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
- Talk with the Board about donating the offering to the UU-UNO
- Notify the UU-UNO about contributions collected and see if your congregation qualifies for a Blue-Ribbon status
- Apply for the 2012 Dana Greeley Award
- Fill out our feedback form located in the back of the packet



Bruce Knotts speaking at a UN Sunday Service

SAMPLE ORDER OF SERVICE

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. If your congregation is unable to hold a service, consider holding an event and/or fundraiser about the work of the UU-UNO on UN Sunday. For further inspiration, starting in September and leading up to UN Sunday we will post prayers from UU Ministers on the [UN Sunday](#) portion of our website.

Welcome, Introductions, Announcements: Use this time to introduce UN SUNDAY and the UU-UNO. Possibly have an Envoy introduce the service. Read "We The Peoples of the United Nations": Singing the Living Tradition #475

Opening Words/ Chalice Lighting: Singing the Living Tradition #561

Joys And Concerns: (if your congregation normally has them)

Opening Hymn: Singing the Living Tradition #121: We'll Build A Land

Reading/ Story: Excerpt from the opening of *Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide* (our Spring Seminar Book, by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl Wu Dunn), pp. xi-xii- ending paragraph: Rath's saga

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

Reading: Singing the Living Tradition #567

Sermon/ Homily: Some congregations choose to invite a **guest speaker** from the **UU-UNO**, a local university, or local United Nations Association (UNA) Chapter. Also consider **showing a movie**, or having an **Envoy or the Minister deliver a sermon** about the UN Sunday theme.

Closing Hymn: Singing the Living Tradition #169: We Shall Overcome

Closing Words: Singing the Living Tradition #457



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ACTIVITY

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.

Suggested Lesson Plan

RE teachers should start by educating themselves through our resource section on current work of the UN on women and children. Then draft a brief lesson for the children. After the lesson, engage the children in an activity/ craft. Possible suggestions for the craft are in our RE packet. Following the craft, we suggest reading a book. Please feel free to choose from the list below. (This is often a good time for a "snack.") A powerful way to end the class is to prompt the children to connect what they have learned to the seven UU Principles. With the UU Principles, children can identify which ones are directly related to the issues that women and girls are facing today in America and throughout the world.

Suggested Books

- Mighty Mountain and the Three Strong Women by Irene Hedlund. A Folktale, for children ages 5 and up. The Japanese tale about a wrestler who, on his way to the capital to compete in the Emperor's wrestling match, encounters three women stronger than he! They help him train for the competition, he wins, and then he returns to marry one of the women. A funny story with beautiful color illustrations.
- Shower of Gold: Girls and Women in the Stories of India by Uma Krishnaswam. Folktales, ages 5 and up. A collection of eighteen folk tales from India, including the story of Chitrangada, who chooses to rule her kingdom rather than remain the wife of a handsome prince; and Supriya, who teaches adults about compassion. Told in a simple, engaging style.
- The Adventures of Pippi Longstocking by Astrid Lingren. Astrid Lingren challenges traditional masculine forms of children's literature by featuring a female Pippi Longstocking as the protagonist. Throughout the series, Pippi Longstocking challenges gender norms through her rebellious adventuresome spirit. The Swedish book series is both beautifully written and illustrated.
- The Paper Bag Princess by Robert Munsch. Robert Munsch challenges the traditional narrative of fairy tale stories by featuring a young girl in her mission to save a dragon.

Activities/ Curriculum

For additional RE resources, check out our website. The UU-UNO has developed two religious education curriculums: UN Me and Human Rights. The Human Rights curriculum includes a list of Religious Education activities appropriate for UN Sunday and any other Sunday during the year. <http://www.uu-uno.org/getinvolved/un-religious-education/>

BEYOND UN SUNDAY : BECOME INVOLVED IN UU-UNO PROGRAM AREAS

EVERY CHILD IS OUR CHILD

The Every Child Is Our Child (ECOC) Program is a UU-UNO initiative begun in support of achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) 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. 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 threatened generation, we further affirm and promote the worth and dignity of every person.

www.uu-uno.org/ecoc ecoc@uu-uno.org

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.

Our program is dedicated 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 (NGOs), 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.

www.uu-uno.org/lgbt lgbt@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 Forms of Discrimination Against Women (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.

www.uu-uno.org/wisp wisp@uu-uno.org

CLIMATE CHANGE TASK FORCE

In accordance with the UU-UNO's mission of promoting well-being, peace, and justice, the Climate Change Task Force sees a moral and ethical imperative to learn about global warming, and to act appropriately and decisively. As part of our efforts, we act in conjunction with the NGO Committee on Sustainable Development, CoNGO. Together we have produced a document entitled "Climate Change: A Discussion Paper," which was hand delivered to world leaders at the 2009 Copenhagen Climate Conference, and at the Cancun Conference the year after. For more information on climate change and our activities, see:

www.climate.uu-uno.org.

CONNECT TO THE UU-UNO

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.

www.uu-uno.org office@uu-uno.org

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.

www.uuu-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. In partnership with congregational Envoys, 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.

www.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 2011 was Empower Women for Better World. Both youth and adults attending the Spring Seminar 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. Next year's topic focuses on race and immigration.

www.uu-uno.org/springseminar

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 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.

www.uu-uno.org/getinvolved/become-an-intern.



Our Every Child is Our Child Children in Ghana

INSPIRE YOUR UU COMMUNITY

Enter 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 2012 UUA General Assembly. See the website for more information about the guidelines for submission.

www.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 or event on UN Sunday
3. Have 5% of your congregation be contributing friends to the UU-UNO (or 15 people for larger congregations)
4. Have your congregation formally commit to annually giving the UU-UNO a budget line or collection plate.

www.uu-uno.org/getinvolved/blue-ribbon-congregation

Hold an intergenerational UU-UNO fundraiser.

The UU-UNO exists to provide a unique UU perspective at the United Nations. We depend on individual and congregational support. We ask for your involvement, your engagement and your enthusiastic financial support to help us 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. You may submit donations online.

www.uu-uno.org/donate

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

Please provide *examples of what children and youth do to celebrate UN Sunday.*

Planning Process—

When did you set the date for your UN Sunday Service? (MM/DD/YY)

Please comment on the planning process (Materials used? Other ways we can assist you?).

Resources from UU-UNO

Resource Packet overall	Great!	Okay	Needs Improvement
Background Information (p.1-4)	Great!	Okay	Needs Improvement
Empowering Women at the UN (p. 5-10)	Great!	Okay	Needs Improvement
UN Sunday Planning (p. 11-14)	Great!	Okay	Needs Improvement
Beyond UN Sunday Section (p. 15-18)	Great!	Okay	Needs Improvement
Additional UU-UNO materials	Great!	Okay	Needs Improvement

Please comment about the resources (Quality? Were they easy to use?).

From your UN Sunday service, will you be sending the UU-UNO...

Pictures? YES NO

Order of Service? YES NO

Donations? YES NO

Thank you for completing this UN Sunday feedback form and for your ongoing commitment to *peace, liberty and justice for all*. Please return this form and any additional items to our office by email, mail, or fax.

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