



Newsletter Date: 2/20/17

We believe our faith calls us to change the world

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Mark your calendars - UU Mass Action Advocacy day is April 11th!

ACTION

UU Mass Action Advocacy Day 2017!

When: April 11th, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Where: Arlington Street Church & The State House

[Register HERE](#)

Now until March 20th:

\$25 Standard Registration and \$12 Reduced Fee

Starting March 21st, the Registration Fee is \$35

Several significant changes have been made to this year's organizing plan. To read about the details of the day and to see the agenda, [Click HERE](#). A few key highlights are:

- [We need you to register by March 20th!](#) This will allow enough time for groups to meet before Advocacy Day. You will be able to register after March 20th, but will likely miss out on the group planning and preparation for your meeting.
- [We are asking for group leaders](#) to help us with the organizing plan. Group leaders will make the appointment with their legislators, gather their group for a pre-Advocacy Day meeting (concall or in person) and lead the meeting at the State House
- [We will not be splitting up into issue groups.](#) We are delivering one vision for a justice, "A World Where All People Are Honored and Valued." Our identified priority legislation supports this vision. Participants will be encouraged to speak about the bills about which they feel most passionate during the legislative meeting. [Find the one-sheet summary HERE](#)

This is a justice movement, not an issue movement!

Download the flyer [HERE](#) - please post and help us spread the word! [Share the Facebook Event Link!](#)

Updates, Sanctuary to Solidarity Movement?

We are continuing to strengthen our network. We are in communication with approx 30 UU congregations and are continuing to gather individual supporter forms. If you have not completed an individual supporter for you can do so [HERE](#)

If you'd like to download a paper version of the form, you can find it [HERE](#) (The e-version if preferred)

UU Mass Action is continuing to communicate with other faith organizations in this effort. Planning is underway to hold a gathering with faith leaders and leaders from immigrant rights organizations. It is important that we are accountable to and in relationship with immigrant rights leaders as we continue on our organizing path. In the meantime, we need to continue organizing ourselves so that we are ready when called to action.

Next steps will involve strengthening our interfaith effort by putting local leaders in touch with each other. Local faith leaders are encouraged to build relationships with each other and share knowledge and resources. We are beginning this outreach effort and will be in touch with you.

Recent Developments:

On January 25th the Trump Administration issued, "[Executive Order: Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the US](#)" We have seen evidence of this EO in [Framingham](#), where mobile biometrics equipment is being used to expedite taking people into detention.

[The NY Times reported](#) that during the week of February 5th six hundred people were detained.

[The National Immigration Law Center \(NILC\) summary of the situation.](#)

What you can do:

1. Fill out an Individual Supporter form (#2, click [HERE](#))
2. **Get on Signal!** We are continuing to explore our best options for fast secure communication but it is clear that Signal is an optimal option. Learn more on-line, <https://whispersystems.org/> Or download the signal app on your phone. Once you have this app installed, you can communicate via encrypted texts and phone calls with others who also have signal. Lead organizers will be able to set-up groups and communicate quickly - and securely - with those who within the rapid response network.

Be Heard! [Commonwealth Conversations 2017](#)

Let our Senators know what you care most about. These forums are open to the public. Be sure to arrive early if you want a chance to speak! Click on the links below to learn more.

[South Shore, February 28th](#)

[Western Mass, March 28th](#)

[Southeast, March 7th](#)

[Metrowest, April 4](#)

[Central Mass, March 14th](#)

[North Shore, April 11th](#)

[Northeast, March 21st](#)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

There are frequent changes and updates being made to priority legislation resources.

For legislation updates, go to the UU Mass Action [legislation page](#) From here, you can:

- 1) Download the entire 2017-2018 legislation spreadsheet (tracks bill progress)
- 2) Download the 2017-2018 Legislative Priorities one-sheet
- 3) Check if your legislator is a bill sponsor

EVENTS, EDUCATION AND FORUMS

Looking for ways to live your values?

*Note: Events Below are sponsored or co-sponsored by
UU Mass Action, or are being offered by our UU
partners*

Decolonizing Environmentalism

When: Thur Feb 23, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Where: North American Indian Center, 105 South Huntington Ave, Jamaica Plain

Register [HERE](#)

What is settler colonialism and how has it influenced environmentalism in the U.S.? This panel event will explore the history and present day reality of this intersection with cautionary tales for environmentalists, especially those jumping into the #NoDAPL fight. Scholars of Native and environmental history and Indigenous rights activists will offer their insights and help us begin a community-wide discussion on how we, as environmental groups, can start to decolonize our work.

Our panelists:

- Elizabeth Hoover (Mohawk and Mi'kmaq descent), Manning Asst Prof of American Studies at Brown University
- Christian Hopkins (Narragansett), Indigenous Activist/Cultural Preservationist and Entrepreneur
- Rosalyn LaPier (Blackfeet/Métis), Asst Prof of Environmental Studies at University of Montana and Visiting Prof at Harvard Divinity School
- Kristen Wyman (Nipmuc), Outreach and Program Coordinator at Gedakina

Moderator:

Mahtowin Munro, Co-Leader of United American Indians of New England, Lead Organizer for Indigenous Peoples Day MA (list of sponsors can be found on the registration page)

Interfaith Service and Solidarity Event

When: Thursday, February 23 7 PM - 8:30 PM

Where: Congregación León de Judá (Lion of Judah), 68 Northampton St, Boston

Join us for a multi-faith service as we stand in solidarity against the senseless targeting of our fellow community members. In this community, no one is alone!

Sponsored by Episcopal City Mission, UU Mass Action, Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston

[Facebook Page](#)

Divest from the Dakota Access Pipeline!

When: Sat Feb 25th, 11:00 - 1:00 PM

Where: Bank of America in Harvard Square, 1414 Mass Ave

Join with other allies in this solidarity action to tell the banks funding the Dakota Access Pipeline to DIVEST NOW, and to support fellow protesters in closing their accounts!

Sponsored by the Medicine Wheel Solidarity Network and the Democracy Center.
Learn more and sign up [here](#).

350 MA For Better Future: Berkshires Training

When: Sat Feb 25, 10:30 - 4:00 PM

Where: UU Church in Pittsfield, 175 Wendall Ave, Pittsfield



We are so excited to get together and host a training in the Berkshires! Please join us to learn about strategies for new member outreach, our current state legislative work, and our fight for 100% Renewable Cities. [RSVP here](#).

Film: Gathering Our Hearts at Standing Rock

When: Sun Feb 26 at 1:00 PM

Where: UU Meeting House of South Berkshire, 1089 Main St in Housatonic

“Gathering Our Hearts at Standing Rock” a documentary in process by Fidel Moreno followed by a panel discussion of Standing Rock, the CT pipeline and water protection concerns closer to home.

[Facebook Event Page](#)

We've put up our Black Lives Banner, Now What?

When: Sun Feb 26, 3-4:30 PM

Where: First Parish in Brookline, 382 Walnut Street, Brookline (Brookline Hills T stop)

Come hear Black Lives Matter Boston activists on the front lines talk about the context of black history, and what the struggle looks like today! Discover how individuals and faith communities can make a difference.

[Flyer](#)

Creating Sanctuary - UU College of Social Justice and UURISE

This webinar will be led by the [UU College of Social Justice](#) and Katia Hansen, President and CEO of [UU Refugee & Immigrant Services and Education \(UURISE\)](#), and will focus specifically on what it means to become a Sanctuary congregation and how to get there. We'll also consider other ways to be in solidarity with those most at risk in this new political landscape.

Open to all: The Path Toward Sanctuary: A Practical Guide

Monday, February 27 7:00-9:00 pm (ET)

Register here: <https://uusc.zoom.us/webinar/register/0fc7045d80e5cfcf7c24e00bf0acd2b8>

**Hosted By The New England Region G.R.A.C.E. Team
(Growing Racial And Cultural Equity)**

REGISTER NOW for these FREE sessions

Waking Up to Whiteness in Your Congregation

February 28, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Recent events have made it clearer to many that we do not live in a post-racial country. Whiteness is still the default culture in many of our institutions - including our congregations. Are you hoping to inspire and support your congregation to look at its culture to see how whiteness may be limiting your ministries and welcome? Whether you attended the GRACE Summit in November or not, you are sure to get some ideas for addressing whiteness in your congregation from this web conversation. We'll explore the concept of whiteness and consider strategies and best practices for lovingly waking folks up to whiteness.

Beyond Banners TBA, mid-March

So, your congregation has a Black Lives Matter banner. Now what? How do you continue your



commitment to social and racial justice beyond the banner? Come learn with others who are considering the same questions you are. *[If interested, register now and we'll let you know when the date is as soon as it's set. We understand the date might not work for you and will adjust accordingly.]*

It's Our Future - Environmental Legislative Forum

When: Wed March 1, 7:00 PM (doors open at 6:30 PM)

Where: First Parish in Framingham, 24 Vernon St, Framingham

Join us for a discussion of Massachusetts legislation that has been proposed for the current session to address climate and renewable energy issues. We will be joined by State Senators Karen Spilka and Jamie Eldridge, as well as State Representatives Chris Walsh, Carmine Gentile and Jack Lewis.

We the People - Fixing Our Broken Democracy

When: Thur March 2, 7:00 - 8:45 PM

Where: Maynard Public Library in the Roosevelt Room, 77 Nason St., Maynard (parking and entrance is behind the building)

"Fixing Our Broken Democracy" traces the evolution of corporate power and the loss of our democracy through an engaging multimedia presentation and small group discussions. We end by discussing legislation pending in Massachusetts that would make the state a leader in promoting the US Constitutional Amendment that we need to take back our democracy.

30th Local Environmental Action Conference!

When: Sun March 5, 8:30 - 6:00 PM

Where: Northeastern University's Curry Center, Boston

Lead Sponsors: Toxic Action Center & Mass Climate Action Network [Register](#)

Register now for the opportunity to join community leaders, environmental advocates and activists from across New England for an exciting day of skills training, networking, and inspiration. Whether you have been to every conference or are attending for the first time, be sure not to miss this amazing opportunity to connect and grow our grassroots movement.

[Keynote Speakers: Lois Gibbs and Kandi Mossett](#)

Kandi Mossett (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara – North Dakota) has emerged as a leading voice in the fight to bring visibility to the impacts that climate change and environmental injustice are having on Indigenous communities across North America.

Lois Gibbs has lead many environmental movements for several decades. She initially became alarmed about reports of chemical waste in her neighborhood in Niagara Falls, New York.

Black Lives Matter UU Mass Action Working Group, Quarterly Meeting

When: Sun March 5, 4:00 -6:00 PM

Where: First Parish In Cambridge, 3 Church St Cambridge

We had to postpone our 2/12/17 meeting due to the weather. We have rescheduled it for Sunday, March 5, 2017, 4-6 p.m. at First Parish Cambridge in Harvard Square. An updated Proposed Agenda can be found [HERE](#). Please join us.

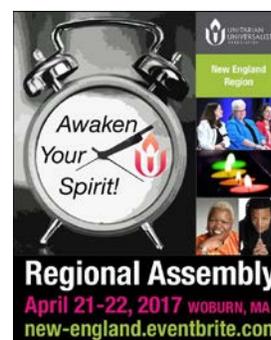
New England Regional Assembly - Register now!

When: Fri April 21 & Sat April 22

Where: Hilton, Boston/Woburn, 2 Forbes Rd, Woburn MA

[See flyer for more details](#) [REGISTER](#)

Celebrate our Unitarian Universalist Faith through inspired worship, music, engaged learning, fun and fellowship. Meet UUA presidential candidates. Sing. Reflect. Make Connections. Awaken your spirit!



RESOURCES

Consumers for Sensible Energy, MassPLAN, Mass Energy Consumers Alliance released a report this week on Access NE. Here is the [Report](#) from Synapse.

Highlights: pipeline will cost ~\$6.6 billion (that's twice what it is being estimated as the cost);

- Even if pipeline does what proponents say it will regarding winter demand, it will cost NE consumers more overall, not less
- Given all laws and regulations around increases in renewable energy and decreases in greenhouse gas emissions, use of gas for electric generation will decrease by 23% in next 15 years, and will drop dramatically in 1.5 years after ANE would come online.
- With electricity demand flat, new energy like wind and hydro would displace existing fossil fuels. By 2030, 41% decrease use of natural gas for electric generation.

When you click the link, you'll see the summary of the report. The entire 74 page report can be viewed here: <http://www.synapse-energy.com/sites/default/files/New-Englands-Shrinking-Need-for-Natural-Gas-16-109.pdf>

Link to summary: <http://www.synapse-energy.com/about-us/blog/access-northeast-pipe-dream>

Through a joint UUSC, UUA, and College of Social Justice’s Solidarity and Sanctuary initiative, the **Congregational Action Guide** has been published which offers a wide range of suggested actions related to making municipalities, counties, and schools safer, more welcoming for all – particularly undocumented immigrants, Muslims, people of color, and the LGBTQ community. The actions vary in the amount of energy and experience required so as to provide ideas for congregations of different sizes, capacities, and political environments. Some are geared towards policy advocacy while others involve developing and strengthening relationships with grassroots groups doing local organizing. There is also a category of possible discernment steps.

You can find it at: <http://uucsj.org/solidarity-sanctuary-options-for-congregational-action/>

Save the Date!

UUJEC: Reversing Inequality Conference

When: April 3-5

Where: Washington DC

For registration and more information Click [HERE](#)

People’s Climate March

When: Sat April 29, 9:00 AM

Where: Washington DC

For more details, see [Facebook Event Page](#)

Is your congregation planning to organize a bus? Are you thinking about going to the March? Let me know. UU Mass Action will explore booking a bus for MA UUs
Lwagner@uumassaction.org