



Newsletter Date: 3/13/17

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*Mark your calendars - UU Mass Action Advocacy day is April 11<sup>th</sup>!*

## ACTION

Last Day for Early Bird Registration is March 20<sup>th</sup>

**UU Mass Action Advocacy Day 2017**

**When: April 11<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM**

**Where: Arlington Street Church & The State House**

[Register HERE](#)  
Now until March 20<sup>th</sup>  
\$25 Standard Registration and \$12 Reduced  
Fee

Worship Leader:  
  
Rev. John Gibbons,  
Senior Minister at First  
Parish in Bedford  
  
Musician:  
  
Rev Fred Small,  
Climate Justice  
Minister, Arlington  
Street Church  
  
Keynote Speaker:  
  
Rev. Paul Robeson  
Ford, Senior Pastor of  
the Union Baptist  
Church, Cambridge

**Why Advocacy Matters:**

- This is a crucial time for many issues in our Commonwealth - the decisions made this legislative session will have an impact for years to come

**Our Guiding Values Include:**

- Investment in clean, renewable energy which is available to all
- Invest in people and end mass incarceration
- \$15 in Wage: People who work full time should be able to meet their basic economic needs

- Paid Family & Medical Leave: Families should not have to choose between keeping their job and caring for a loved one
- #NoBanNoWall, discrimination and fear do not result in effective policy

**Your participation in UU Advocacy Day is important!**

**Here's what you can do to make this a powerful event!**

- [Register!](#) Registering by **March 20<sup>th</sup>** gives us time to prepare participants and plan the day
- **Publicity:** Help spread the word to your congregation. Everything you need - links, flyer, newsletter blurbs, details - can be found [HERE](#)
- **Group lead:** Volunteer to be a group leader. It's easy and we'll give you everything you need after March 21<sup>st</sup>
- **Appointments:** Help us make an appointment with you legislator. It's better if a constituent calls - it's easy! Not able to be a group lead? Let me know if you're willing to make an appointment: [lwagner@umassaction.org](mailto:lwagner@umassaction.org)

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## WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH SANCTUARY & SOLIDARITY?

### Gathering: Sanctuary and Solidarity

**When:** Thur March 23, 6:30 PM

**Where:** First Church in Boston UU, 66 Marlborough St, Boston



Join us as we continue to build our sanctuary and solidarity network. At this gathering we will discuss the latest updates on the interfaith sanctuary and solidarity movement. We will also work on skill building together. You'll have an opportunity to learn about asset mapping, building our rapid response network and the growing developing of cluster networks. All are welcome!

A light dinner will be available. Please RSVP on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/116201325574461/>

## What to know about the Renewed Muslim Ban

[Four Tips to Talking about the Renewed Muslim Ban](#)

American Friends Service Committee, by Dina El-Rifai, 3-6-17

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## Resources

[Anti-Islamophobia & Sanctuary to Solidarity Resources](#)

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## Event: A Syrian Woman's Journey of Courage and Hope

**When:** Sat April 8, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

**Where:** Arlington St. Church, 351 Boylston St., Boston (In the chapel)

Sarah, a Syrian young adult will share her experiences swimming out to sea to pull boats of refugees safely ashore. Sarah is a sister of the Olympic swimmer who also was a rescuer. Mo and Dima are a Muslim couple who live in Cohasset and are members of First Parish in Cohasset. Mo and Dima have worked with the [Inly school](#) to sponsor Sarah and to help share her story. [Learn More](#)

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## What's Happening with Economic Justice?

UU Mass Action is working on our Economic Justice priorities in coalition with the Raise Up Mass.

[HD 2179, SD 984](#) Raise Minimum Wage to \$15      Sen. Ken Donnelly      Rep. Dan Donahue

[HD 2573, SD 1768](#)      Paid Family & Medical Leave      Sen. Karen Spilka      Rep. Ken Gordon

[As well as the Fair Share Amendment](#)

In district meetings are being scheduled to discuss these bills with legislators and bring attention to these important issues. Let me know if you'd like to set up a meeting with you Representative

[lwagner@uumassaction.org](mailto:lwagner@uumassaction.org)

**Legislator: Representative Pat Haddad**

Sponsor: SEIU 32 BJ

When: Fri March 17, 6:30 PM

**Legislator: Representative Tom Walsh**

Where: Somerset Town Hall, 140 Wood St.,  
Somerset

When: Wed, April 5, 3:45 PM

Where: Peabody High School, Melting Pot Room

Sponsor: Coalition for Social Justice

Sponsor: Peabody Federation of Teachers

**Legislator: Representative Russell Holmes**

**Legislator: Representative Paul Tucker**

When: Fri March 21, 6:30 PM

When: Fri April 17, 5:30 PM

Where: Mattapan Library, 1350 Blue Hill Ave,  
Mattapan

Where: 10 Colonial Rd, Salem

Sponsor: American Federal of Teachers

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**[Commonwealth Conversations](#) - Let your voice be heard!**

Public statewide forums are being held with state Senators as part of the Commonwealth Conversations initiative. The next one is March 14th in Worcester.

**Tuesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:30pm – 8:30pm**

Seven Hills Foundation

81 Hope Avenue, Worcester, MA 01603

Hosts: Senator Harriette Chandler, Senator Anne Gobi, Senator Jen Flanagan, Senator Ryan Fattman, and Senator Michael Moore

For those who cannot make it, you will be able to submit testimony online. See the Commonwealth Conversations [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for more details.

Additional forums will take place on:

**March 21st - Northeast**

Hosted by: Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives, Senator Bruce Tarr, Senator Eileen Donoghue, and Senator Barbara L'Italien

**March 28th - Western Mass**

Hosted by: Senator Don Humason, Senator Adam Hinds, Senator Eric Lesser, Senator Jim Welch, and Senate President Stan Rosenberg

**April 4 - MetroWest**

Hosted by: Senator Jamie Eldridge, Senator Karen Spilka, Senator Cynthia Creem and Senator Mike Barrett

**April 11 - North Shore**

Hosted by: Senator Joan Lovely, Senator Sal DiDomenico, Senator Jason Lewis, Senator Ken Donnelly and Thomas McGee

In Addition, **Representative Jeffrey Sanchez** is also hosting [community forums](#) to learn which issues and bills are most important to his constituents. Make sure the Safe Communities Act is on that list!

His next two forums are on March 20th and 23rd in Boston. [RSVP on Facebook](#).

**Monday, March 20 - Mission Hill/Brookline**

6:30pm to 8pm  
MCPHS 6th Floor  
670 Huntington Ave.  
Boston, MA 02115

**Thursday, March 23 - Jamaica Plain/Roslindale**

6:30pm to 8pm  
First Baptist Church  
633 Centre Street  
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130

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## What's Happening with Climate Action?

### People's Climate March

**When: Sat April 29, 9:00 AM**

**Where: Washington DC**

**Individuals, Friends, and Congregations are encouraged to sign up for buses to DC, [FLYER](#)**

1. 'Red-eye' Buses organized by 350 Mass for a Better Future. Prices vary. Buy tickets online: <http://tinyurl.com/PCMBoston>
2. 'Red-eye' Buses organized by First Parish in Concord. Cost is \$110/person.  
Sign-up: <https://goo.gl/forms/5a89IMmEXd87UDF32>  
For more information, email Kate Crosby [cfcrosby@gmail.com](mailto:cfcrosby@gmail.com)
3. Weekend Bus from Framingham organized by a friend of First Parish in Wayland. Cost is \$125.  
Leaves Friday 8:00am. Departs D.C. Sunday 9:00am.  
Contact Anki at [ecedventures@comcast.net](mailto:ecedventures@comcast.net)

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**Prepare for the People's Climate March - Webinar on March 23rd, at 7:30 PM EST**

On April 29, 2017, Unitarian Universalists and people of all faiths will come together with hundreds of organizations and hundreds of thousands of people for the People's Climate Movement - March for Climate, Jobs, & Justice.

Join Rev. Karen Brammer (UUA Green Sanctuary Program Director) and Aly Tharp (Commit2Respond, UU Ministry for Earth, & UU Young Adults for Climate Justice Program Coordinator) in a webinar on **MARCH 23rd at 7:30 PM Eastern** to hear the latest about how Unitarian Universalist communities and activists around the country can participate in the People's Climate Movement - March for Climate, Jobs, & Justice. [RSVP HERE for the CALL.](#)



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**Eversource Rate increase:**

On January 17, 2017, Eversource Energy submitted a proposal to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to update the company's electric rates. The proposal requests a net increase in annual delivery revenue of \$60.2 million, representing a 7 percent increase in those revenues to support our electric distribution operations.

Eversource's request addresses increases in operating and maintenance costs and capital costs associated with investments in the electric network since the last decision by the DPU approving a general distribution rate increase in 2006.

The DPU will conduct public hearings in Eversource's service area, and then make a decision by November 30, 2017 for new rates to become effective January 1, 2018.

Public Hearing Schedule

**March 22 at 7 p.m.**  
Natick Town Hall

2nd Floor, Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room  
13 East Central Street

Natick, MA 01760

**March 23 at 7 p.m.**

Department of Public Utilities  
5th Floor, Hearing Room A  
One South Station  
Boston, MA 02110

**March 30 at 6 p.m.**

Cambridge Public Library  
Lecture Hall  
449 Broadway  
Cambridge, MA 02138

**April 3 at 7 p.m.**

Barnstable County Complex  
Harborview Conference Room  
3195 Main Street

**April 24 at 6 p.m.**

Katharine Cornell Theatre  
51 Spring Street  
Tisbury, MA 02568

Barnstable, MA 02630

**April 5 at 7 p.m.**

Keith Middle School  
225 Hathaway Boulevard  
New Bedford, MA 02740

**April 6 at 7 p.m.**

Plymouth South High School  
490 Long Pond Road  
Plymouth, MA 02360

**April 10 at 6 p.m.**

The Berkshire Athenaeum Auditorium  
1 Wendell Avenue  
Pittsfield, MA 01201

**April 12 at 7 p.m.**

Springfield City Hall  
School Committee Meeting Room  
(Room 220)  
36 Court Street  
Springfield, MA 01103

**April 26 at 7 p.m.**

Greenfield Middle School Auditorium  
195 Federal Street  
Greenfield, MA 01301

[More info: March 1 Globe article](#) [AG Maura Healey opposes \\$96 Million increase](#)

**New Study:**

[UNH Research Finds Increased Energy Use Not Needed to Grow Economy](#)

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**EVENTS, EDUCATION AND FORUMS**

Looking for ways to live you values?

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

## Reclaiming Our Democracy, sponsored by Americans for Economic Fairness

**When:** Mon March 13, 7:00 to 9:00 PM.

**Where:** First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord



Following up on our very successful January event *Reclaiming Our Democracy*, we will watch and then discuss a TED Talk by Larry Lessig titled *Our Democracy No Longer Represents The People. Here's How We Fix It*. Participants will then work in small groups on tasks such as event planning, designing a logo, creating a web site, writing a song, researching related groups, developing written materials and getting our message out.

Come and enjoy homemade refreshments. All are welcome. Please click [here](#) and let us know if you plan to attend. For more information contact Fred Van Deusen at [fredvandeu@gmail.com](mailto:fredvandeu@gmail.com).

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## Forum: Represent us, with speakers: Cristian Morales, Coordinator of Represent.us Boston Thursday, March 16 (always the 3rd Thursday of the month) 7 p.m. The Democracy Center, 45 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge

Continuing our parade of allies, we are pleased to host Cristian Morales, of Represent.us, who will present another approach to tackling money in politics.

New people welcome at 6:30. We will also have a chapter member discussion about the pros and cons of endorsing other democracy legislation at the end of the meeting. All are welcome to participate.

Note: The DC is not wheelchair accessible, please contact [info@democracycenter.org](mailto:info@democracycenter.org) or [617-492-8855](tel:617-492-8855) to discuss improvement plans or your accessibility needs

Harvard Square T and lots of on-street parking available nearby. Please email [boston@WtPMass.org](mailto:boston@WtPMass.org) for more information.



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## Creation Care Leadership Through Organizing

**When:** Four Saturday afternoons: March 18 & 25, April 1 & 8

**Where:** Bethel AME, 40 Walk Hill St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130; Embassy Room, Youth Center

Register today at: <http://conta.cc/2klahUg>



Registration limited and available on first come first served basis. No Fee. Two Participants per congregation recommended – no more than three. A light meal will be served. Convenient to MBTA Orange Line, Forest Hills station and buses. All faiths welcome!

For more information contact: Vince Maraventano: vince@MIPandL.org or 617-244-0755

Topics: • New Creation Care Ethics — How Climate, Economic & Social Justice are related • Psychology of Climate Change — Honoring Our Fears • Climate Conversations — Communicating Effectively about Climate Change • Introduction to Public Narrative — The Story of Self • Building Strong Teams — The Story of Us • Effective Goal Setting & Campaign Strategy — The Story of Now

Speakers:

Rev Mariam White-Hammond Minister of Ecological Justice Bethel A.M.E. Church

Vince Maraventano, M.Div. Executive Director MA Interfaith Power & Light,

Emily Kirkland Director of Organizing 350 Mass. for a Better Future

Andy Gordon Legislative Coordinator 350 Mass. for a Better Future

*Lead sponsor: MA Interfaith Power & Light*

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### **A Conversation with Black Lives Matter**

**When: Sun March 19, 5:00 - 6:30 PM**

**Where: Theodore Parker Church, 1859 Centre St., West Roxbury**

Register [HERE](#) Free [FLYER](#)



Featured Speakers: Martin Henson and Karlene Griffiths Sekou, BLM Boston

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.

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### **Nuclear Regulatory Commission Public Meeting**

**Annual Assessment and Results of Phase “C” Inspection**

**When: Tue March 21, 7:00 PM**

**Where: Memorial Hall, 83 Court St, Plymouth**

Is an accident the only acceptable criteria for the NRC to close Pilgrim?

Come speak up to shut Pilgrim Down now! [www.capedownwinders.info](http://www.capedownwinders.info)

Carpool: <https://www.groupcarpool.com/t/hwyj29>

[Download Flyer](#)

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### **FORUM on PreTrial Justice and the Massachusetts Bail Fund**

**When: Sat March 25, 1:00 to 3:00 pm**

**Where: All Souls Church, 196 Elm Street, Braintree [781 843 1388](tel:7818431388)**

Handicap Accessible [Download Flyer](#)

Most people incarcerated in any given year have not been convicted of anything. They simply cannot afford bail, however small it may be, to be able to wait at home for their court date. Come learn about the state of pretrial justice, legislative efforts to reform bail on Beacon Hill, and how the Massachusetts Bail Fund is making a difference in five counties.

Speakers :

**Atara Rich-Shea**, Operations Director of the Mass Bail Fund who will give us an overview on Pretrial Justice

**Meghann Perry** Public Speaker and Recovery Coach who will share her personal experience

Free to attend. Refreshments will be served. RSVP requested but not required to [agdgs@aol.com](mailto:agdgs@aol.com) Facebook page link <https://www.facebook.com/events/216528878753296/>

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## **The Politics of Justice: Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform in Massachusetts**

**When: Sat March 25, 12:45-5:00 PM**

**Where: First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington, 630 Mass. Ave. in Arlington Center**

Preregister at <http://tinyurl.com/hf43b6v> [Download Flyer](#)

Everyone agrees that the criminal justice system should be fair and effective, but how do we get there from here? Come learn about key bills that were recently filed at the State House and would contribute to truly comprehensive criminal justice reform. After a panel, panelists and participants will talk in smaller groups about how to move forward on the bills that most interest them.

Speakers include:

- **Sen. Will Brownsberger** on the Council of State Governments omnibus bill
- **Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan** on restorative justice
- **Idris Abdullah** of Teens Leading the Way on juvenile justice
- **Sen. Ken Donnelly** on mental health issues and pretrial reform

- **Cassandra Bensahih** of Jobs Not Jails on the Justice Reinvestment Act
- **Rahsaan Hall** of the ACLU-MA's Racial Justice Program on the racial implications of this season's proposed legislation.

There will be also time for networking and action opportunities, and Bill Gardiner, Colleen Kirby and Rep. Dave Rogers will offer an optional 30-minute workshop on interacting effectively with legislators.

This forum is organized by the Mass Incarceration Working Group and co-sponsored by 25 organizations. Questions? Email [end-mass-incarceration@firstparish.info](mailto:end-mass-incarceration@firstparish.info)

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### **Performance: Mariposa and the Saint**

["Mariposa and the Saint"](#) is a powerful, informative, free 45-minute play based on the true story (told through letters to the playwright/actor) of how a year in solitary can break your spirit.

PLEASE INVITE your state representative to join you at a performance OR Invite your state legislators **to attend a free performance on Tuesday, March 28** at the Statehouse, This performance is for legislators and staff only. [Find Your Legislator here](#) Performance is: Tue March 28 at 12 noon, Room 428

FREE Performances [FLYER](#)

1. **Wednesday March 22, 2:30 pm:** UMASS Boston, Ryan Lounge, McCormack Building, 3rd Floor
  2. **Thursday, March 23, Noon:** Boston City Hall, Ianella Chamber, 5th Floor
  3. **Saturday, March 25, 7 pm:** Unitarian Society of Amherst, 121 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA
  4. For Statehouse Staff/electeds only: Tuesday, March 28, 12 noon, Room 428.
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*Are you ready to take the next step for climate justice in the Greater Boston area?*

*Can you spend part of a Saturday learning from the nationally known Philadelphia based Earth Quaker Action Team?*

## **UUs Resist - A New Campaign of Joyous Resistance**

**When: Sat April 1, 2:00 - 5:30 PM, dinner following event**

**Location: First Parish Dorchester, 10 Parish St, Dorchester**

**Speaker:** [Lina Blount](#), EQAT board member and volunteer organizer

On Saturday, April 1, UU Mass Action will host the nationally known, Philadelphia based Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) for a presentation on their groundbreaking *Power Local Green Jobs* campaign. EQAT gained fame for a five year, non-violent civil disobedience campaign in which they successfully forced one of the country's largest banks, PNC, to divest from mountaintop removal coal mining. EQAT's new campaign seeks to force their local utility company to radically increase their investment in renewable energy in a way that specifically creates jobs and benefits people in low income communities.

We will hear about their new [Power Local Green Jobs](#) campaign, and discuss what it would look like for UUs to create and launch a similar campaign in the Boston area.

Ample, free parking in lot by church and Mather School lot

10 min walk from Fields Corner Red Line station

Cost: Free! \$10 suggested donation to cover food and space rental

Accessibility: Space is fully accessible

For more info or to volunteer, contact, Evan Seitz at 413-687-8444, or [eseitz@uumassaction.org](mailto:eseitz@uumassaction.org)

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## **Centro Presente & First Parish in Concord Present:**

### **The Invisible Crisis: The Female Face of Forced Migration**

**When: Sun April 2, 11:30 - 1:00 PM**

**Where: First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Rd., Concord**

**RSVP: [Facebook Page](#)**

Centro Presente has produced the short documentary "The Invisible Crisis: The Female Face of Forced Migration" to bring the stories of Central America women to light. Please take a moment to watch it here.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iINd0WG3-cl>

One group of women perhaps with the most to lose under a Trump Presidency are the women migrants fleeing violence and social instability in their home countries. Victims of systemic human rights abuses in their countries of origin, they come to the U.S. seeking to survive and to save the lives of their children. Yet upon arrival to this "nation of immigrants" they again see their human rights abused by a system that fails to recognize their plight and their humanity. Until now their stories have been invisible.

Join us for a showing of this documentary followed by a conversation with one of these women about the realities confronted by undocumented immigrants in these times of Trump. Please let us know if you are interested in Centro Presente coming to your Congregation, organization or school to host such an event by sending an email to Patricia Montes, [pmontes@cpresente.org](mailto:pmontes@cpresente.org)

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## **Immigrants Day at the State House**

**When: Wed April 5, 9:00 - 2:00 PM**

**Where: State House, Boston, Hall of Flags**

*Lead Organizer: MIRA (Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Network)*

It's that time again! With everything that is happening at a national level it is more important than ever that immigrant voices are heard at the state level. This year we will be focusing on the [Safe Communities Act](#), a bill to protect the civil liberties of ALL Massachusetts residents and making sure that our legislators stand against the anti-immigrant policies coming out of the White House. [Please register online here!](#) More info to follow.

In solidarity, The MIRA Organizing Team

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## **Webinar: Beyond Banners**

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

**[REGISTER NOW](#) FREE session**

**When: April 10, 7:00 PM**

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.]*

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## 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!

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## RESOURCES

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://uucs.org/solidarity-sanctuary-options-for-congregational-action/>

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[Blog Post: How to Fight for Justice in a Jeff Sessions and Donald Trump America](#)

[By Tony Webster, 2/10/17](#)

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## UU College of Social Justice

### Immersion Program: Beyond Fair Trade: Building Just Relationships



In partnership with Equal Exchange, this program explores the meaning of international solidarity. Learn from members of an Equal Exchange coffee cooperative and many others: human rights groups, women’s groups united to create their own livelihoods, and rural communities standing together for sustainable development. Find out why not all fair trade is equally “fair” and why UUSC and congregations across denominations work with Equal Exchange to source coffee and other goods in a way that truly benefits small farmers.



Dates: May 13 - May 20, 2017 Cost: \$850 (not including airfare; financial aid available)

**Deadline to register: March 20, 2017** [Visit uucsj.org/Nicaragua](http://uucsj.org/Nicaragua) to apply and for more info.