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Note: June 12th will be the last weekly newsletter for the church year.

A monthly newsletter will be published on July 17th and Aug 21st.

Weekly newsletters will resume Sept 11th

Take Action!

Take Action Today to End Mass Incarceration

Joint Committee on the Judiciary hearing **Mon June 5** at 1:00 PM

Try to arrive no later than 12:30 PM Hearing Room A1 / A2

(enter State House through back entrance on Bowdoin St)

Priorities include: [Bills scheduled to be heard](#)

Summary Provided by Pauline Quirion, Director, CORI & Reentry Project,

[Greater Boston Legal Services](#)

**May your life
preach more
loudly than your
lips.**

William Ellery Channing



H.3084: An Act Promoting Community Prosperity by Further Reforming Criminal Offender Record Information (Rep. Liz Malia)

[S.777/H.2359 Reduce the Criminalization of Poverty](#), Sen. Brownsberger/Rep Tyler

[S.791/H.2308 Justice Reinvestment Act](#), Sen. Chang Diaz/Rep. Keefe

Major Highlights of these Bills

- Reduce 5 and 10 year waiting periods to seal records to 3 years for misdemeanors and 7 years for felony convictions to get people back to work.
- Change the present law which says that convictions for resisting arrest can NEVER be sealed.
- Permit a person with sealed CORI to say "I have no record" in applying for occupational licenses and housing after records are sealed—not just when applying for jobs under current law.
- Stop listing cases dismissed before arraignment, and certain juvenile cases on adult CORI reports given to employers and other requestors.

S.791/ H.2308 (The Justice Re-investment Act, and H.3084, An Act Promoting Community Prosperity by Further Reforming Criminal Offender Record Information) also would:

- Require the Probation Department to establish a system for easy correction of CORI database errors which are common.
- Require prisons and Houses of Correction to provide information about the Department of Revenue Child Support Enforcement's services upon admission to the facility to help people avoid the unfair accumulation of massive child support debt which can impede their successful re-entry.

S.791/ H.2308 (The Justice Re-investment Act) would also:

- End mandatory minimums for drug convictions.
- Provide for compassionate release from jail for medical conditions.
- Set up a trust for jobs and job training.

S.791/ H.2308 (The Justice Re-investment Act) and S.777/ H.2359 (An Act to Reduce Criminalization of Poverty) also would:

- Increase amount needed to trigger a felony in larceny cases from \$250 to \$1500 because present amount is 3rd lowest in the country. The low threshold makes felons of countless people for low level crimes.

S.777/ H.2359 (An Act to Reduce Criminalization of Poverty) also would:

- Get rid of post-release parole and post-release probation supervision fees.
- Change laws that impose fees that can NEVER to be waived.
- Create a uniform fee waiver standard so it is easier waive probation and court fees for low income people and help them avoid punishment for fees they are unable to pay.
- Increase "fine time" from \$30 to \$90 so people jailed for not paying court fees get to "work off" the fines faster and are released from incarceration sooner.
- Permit expungement of juvenile and adult criminal records, and shorten sealing period for juvenile records to 1 year.
- Set up a system with the FBI so that sealed records could be removed from FBI reports so that people can get jobs with federal agencies or places with high security clearances.

**Take Action Today and Friday to Protect Those Among Us
Who Are Most Vulnerable**



Support Worker Rights

When: Today! Monday June 5th at 10:30 AM

Where: on the steps at the State House

A whole section of our society have become even more vulnerable than they already are due to federal immigration and Islamophobia policies.

Today, we will gather in support of José and his family, other workers and community members and state with our presence, and with our action, that no one is alone. José was injured on the job and then turned in to ICE by his employer. Learn more about his story here: [WBUR Story](#)

This public rally is being organized to bring attention to the poor treatment of workers and the impact that federal immigration policy is having on local communities. No worker should be silenced or feel they are alone when treated this way.

Public Safety & Homeland Security hearing, Fri June 9 at 10:00 AM

Try to arrive no later than 9:00 AM.

There will also be a rally outside on the State House steps at 12 noon

Hearing Room A1 /A2 (enter State House through back entrance on Bowdoin St)

The Safe Communities Act will be the only bill heard at this hearing!

1. All People Should Be Valued & Honored

[S.1305/H.3269 Safe Communities Act](#), Sen. Eldridge/Rep. Matias [Backgrounder](#) [Video Overview](#)

Our partners at [MIRA](#) have compiled excellent resources to help you prepare your testimony.

Click [HERE](#) for specific talking points and written testimony guidelines

Upcoming Hearings

Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Tue June 13 at 1:00 PM

Try to arrive no later than 12:30 PM **Hearing Room B2**

(enter State House through back entrance on Bowdoin St)

Priorities Include: ([full list of bills](#))

[S.1048/H.2172 Paid Family & Medical Leave](#), Sen. Spilka/Rep. Gordon

Join supporters for a briefing in **room 437 at 11:30**. After this, there will be an opportunity for lobbying and then you can go to the hearing

Joint Committee on the Judiciary hearing Mon June 19 at 1:00 PM

Try to arrive no later than 12:30 PM **Hearing Room TBD**
(enter State House through back entrance on Bowdoin St)
Priorities Include: (full list TBD)

[S.819/H.741 End Mandatory Minimums](#), Sen. Creem/Rep. Carvalho

[S.1296/H.2248](#) Solitary Confinement Reform Sen. Creem/Rep. Balsler

[S.1306/H.3071](#) Reduce Recidivism, Curb Unnecessary Spending and Appropriate Use of Segregation, Sen. Eldridge/Rep Homes

[S.1286/H.3092](#), Data Collection Solitary Confinement, Sen. Chang Diaz/Rep. Markey

Joint Committee on Labor and Workforce Tue July 18, 1:00 PM

Try to arrive no later than 12:30 PM
Hearing room B2 (enter State House through back entrance on Bowdoin St)
Priorities Include: (full list TBD)

[S.1004/H.2365 Raise the Minimum Wage to \\$15](#), Sen. Donnelly/Rep. Donahue [“The Cliff Effect”](#)

ECONOMIC JUSTICE

[The Constitutional Convention](#) will be Wed **June 14, 1:00 PM** in the House Chamber.

Supporters of the Fair Share Amendment will meet at **11:30 AM**, across from the House Chamber (3rd floor).

Upcoming in District Meetings: Hold your legislator accountable and Advocate for [Raising the Minimum Wage](#), [Paid Family And Medical Leave](#) and [The Fair Share Amendment](#)

Representative: Aaron Vega

When: Mon June 12, 5:30 PM

Where: Holyoke Public Library, 250 Chestnut St,
Holyoke

Sponsor: SEIU 1199

Representative: RoseLee Vincent

When: Mon June 12, 1:00 PM

Where: State House
Sponsor: SEIU 32BJ

CLIMATE ACTION

Take Action on RGGI - A [MA Power Forward](#) Call to Action

Submitted by, Ben Hellerstein, State Director, [Environment Massachusetts](#)



RGGI ("Reggie"), the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, is an agreement between Massachusetts and eight other northeastern states to reduce global warming pollution from power plants. Right now, Governor Baker and other officials have the opportunity to double the rate at which emissions decline under RGGI, which would bring major benefits to our health, our climate, and our economy.

Baker administration officials said last August that they support doubling the strength of the program, but so far they have failed to live up to their promise. A critical decision about RGGI is coming up in the next few weeks, and if we're going to strengthen the program, we need Governor Baker to be leading the charge, not sitting on the sidelines. Learn more about RGGI [HERE](#)

Here's how you can help urge the Baker administration to strengthen carbon limits under RGGI:

1. Call Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Martin Suuberg: [617-292-5856](tel:617-292-5856)
2. Speak with a staff member, or leave a message on the answering machine. Here's a sample message you can use:

Hi, my name is _____ and I live in _____ (town). I'm calling to urge Commissioner Suuberg ("soo-berg") and Governor Baker to follow through on their promise to strengthen the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative. By doubling the strength of RGGI ("reggie"), we can take big steps towards reducing global warming pollution and protecting public health. Please speak out in support of doubling the strength of RGGI!

3. Send me an email and let Ben know how your call went! Ben@environmentmassachusetts.org

Attend a gathering of the MA Clean Energy Tour!

These are similar to Commonwealth Conversations - The Senate Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change is hosting hearings throughout the Commonwealth to get input from you on pressing issues in clean energy and climate. How do you think the legislature should keep our state healthy, sustainable and strong?

Dates & Location: Learn more, [HERE](#)

June 12: Springfield, 6:00 PM @ Western New England University
School of Law, J Pellegrini Moot Courtroom, 1st Floor

June 19: Pittsfield, 6:00 PM @ Berkshire Community College

Click on this [LINK](#) if you'd like to send the Senate Committee an email or tweet about your ideas.

New: Synapse Energy Economic Inc
[An Analysis of the Massachusetts RPS](#)

June 20: North Shore, 6:00 PM @ Essex Agricultural and Technical High School

June 26: Boston, 6:00 PM @ TBD

END MASS INCARCERATION

FAMM Issues a New Report - Using Time to Reduce Crime, By Kevin Ring and Molly Gill

Today we released the findings of the first-ever independent survey of federal prisoners in a report, "[Using Time to Reduce Crime: Federal Prisoner Survey Results Show Ways to Reduce Recidivism](#)." Last summer, we sent a series of questionnaires to the more than 39,000 prisoners with whom we are in touch via email. More than 2,000 people responded to questions about the type and quality of educational and vocational training programs available in their facilities, as well as substance abuse and mental health treatment.

And unfortunately, our analysis of all the responses we received confirms what we've heard from prisoners over the years: Too many prisoners are not getting access to the programs that have been proven to reduce recidivism. President Trump's new budget proposal, which slashes the Bureau of Prisons' staff and corrections officers, will only make the problem worse.

Key findings from the [REPORT](#) include:

- Access to quality education is scarce.
- Most jobs afforded to inmates are "make work" jobs to service the prisons, such as cleaning bathrooms and living spaces or dining hall services.
- Not all inmates who need substance abuse or mental health services are getting help.
- Most prisoners are housed too far away from their families to maintain connections.

Good News! - Unanimous Vote by MA Senate to Increase Civil Legal Aid

Update by Laura Booth, [Equal Justice Coalition](#) Director

Last week the Senate unanimously adopted Senator Creem and Senator Brownsberger's amendment to increase funding for the Massachusetts Legal Assistance Corp.

Increase: \$2 million, for a total appropriation of \$20 million for FY18!

Next Steps: Conference Committee in June - Continued advocacy will be needed to protect the funding increase adopted by the House and the Senate. Action alerts will be sent out when it's time to make those calls!

Why this is Important: Lack of funding forces legal aid programs to turn away 57,000 eligible low-income people every year who face civil legal issues related to housing, family law, domestic violence, immigration, health care, public benefits, employment, education, and others that threaten their safety and stability. We continue our efforts because we believe that everyone deserves justice, regardless of income. Increased funding for civil legal aid will help more families, children, elders, veterans, domestic violence survivors, low-wage workers, people with disabilities, and students achieve equal access to justice.

Thank you again for asking your Senator to support civil legal aid, and thank you for all of the work that you do to serve vulnerable residents. We look forward to your continued support as the budget process moves to the Conference Committee.

Update from the Certified Working Groups

To contact us or to join the **Economic Equity in Politics** Certified Working Group, please go to:

<http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/EEP-CWG>

The next bi-monthly conference call of the UU Mass Action Certified Working Group **(CWG): Economic Equity in Politics** will be held on **Monday, June 12, 2017**, starting at **7 p.m.** Please feel free to join us. For a copy of the Draft Agenda (including call-in info) please click [HERE](#)

Black Lives Matter

The next quarterly meeting of the UU Mass Action Certified Working Group **(CWG): Black Lives Matter** will be held on **Sunday, June 11, 2017, 2-4 p.m.** at First Unitarian Society Newton. Please feel free to join us. For a copy of the Draft Agenda (including a link to directions) please click [HERE](#)

Animal Rights

Animals used by most meat and egg corporations are abused in horrific ways. MA voters took a stand last fall by overwhelmingly passing a ballot measure that will simply require that pigs, calves and chickens be given enough space to stand up, turn around and extend their limbs. But now agribusiness interests are pushing a deceptive bill that would create a board stacked with industry insiders authorized to determine MA's farm animal welfare regulations. The goal is to confuse the public, and to undermine existing and future protections. Please call your state legislators and ask them to reject H.441. More info and a form to take action are at www.HumaneSociety.org/MAboard.



Reclaim Our Democracy

In June of 2016 the UUA adopted a new Congregational Study Action Issue **The Corruption of Our Democracy**, which is focused on the negative influence that huge amounts of money from corporations, billionaires, and special interest groups have on our national elections and on the effectiveness of congress.



The Denominational Affairs Committee at First Parish in Concord, Massachusetts formed a group to work on this issue called Reclaim Our Democracy and the group has created a website

ReclaimOurDemocracy.org that they hope others will use and make available to their groups.

The group's goal is to reclaim our democratic rights as citizens of the United States of America to have a government that truly represents and supports the needs and desires of all people, and their objectives are to

- Elect leaders that are not under the influence of moneyed interests who can truly represent the needs of the people.
- Repair our governmental systems: reform campaign financing, eliminate gerrymandering, enable and encourage citizens to vote.
- Pass a 28th Amendment to the Constitution which makes it clear that corporations do not have the same rights as people, that money is not the same as free speech and that improving the lives of "we, the people" is the purpose of our government.

For more information, or to join their mailing list, email Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@gmail.com or visit their website: <http://reclaimourdemocracy.org/>.

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

Boston's Future Buildings: How Do We Get to Net Zero? An Expert Panel Discussion

Sponsored by the *Boston Clean Energy Coalition* and the *Jamaica Plain Forum*

When: Thur June 15, 7:30 PM

Where: First Church in Jamaica Plain, 6 Eliot Street, Jamaica Plain

Speakers include:

- Matt O'Malley—Boston City Council Chair, Environment & Sustainability Committee (panel moderator)
- John Cleveland—Executive Director, Boston Green Ribbon Commission
- Henrietta Davis—former Mayor of Cambridge
- Joan Fitzgerald—Professor of Public Policy and Urban Affairs, Northeastern University
- Stephanie Horowitz—Managing Director, ZeroEnergy Design
- Cammy Peterson—Director of Clean Energy, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)

The most effective work to create a clean energy future needs to happen in our cities and towns. We can be more nimble, targeted, and successful than the federal government and move our country forward by taking steps locally to transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy. Boston has a tremendous opportunity to show how our state and our nation can accelerate this transition by maximizing energy efficiency and local, renewable sources of energy. The initial *Imagine Boston 2030* report describes a major construction boom but does not call for the state-of-the-art efficiency requirements essential to keeping this development from locking us into new fracked- gas infrastructure to power new buildings and decades of dependence on fossil fuels.

For more info and co-sponsors, see [FLYER](#)

Black Lives Matter Boston presents:

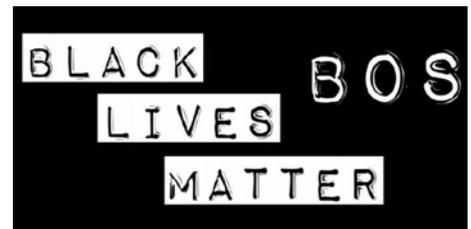
The Power of Now Level II Workshop: Growing from Allyship to Solidarity and Turning Privilege to Power

(You do not need to have attended Level I in order to participate in Level II)

When: Sat June 17, 9:00 AM - 1:30 PM(Registration and Breakfast 9 am)

Where: First Parish in Brookline, 382 Walnut Street, Brookline MA

(Brookline Hills T stop, and Number 60 bus to Cypress and Walnut streets. Street Parking available)



Presenter: Karlene Griffiths Sekou [TICKETS](#) [FLYER](#)

The current political moment in the United States presents some not so new challenges in immanent ways. There are real opportunities for resistance, growth, cultivating authentic and connecting relationships, and building collective power within a strong mass social movement.

This Level II Workshop will:

- A. Use personal stories, film, case study, and/or role play to build and strengthen participant conversations on race, healing justice, active resistance, white supremacy.
- B. Discuss the Radical Black Freedom Struggle and BLM's role in it
- C. Offer a framework for choosing to be an ally, accomplice or freedom fighter. Discuss what we mean by privilege, appropriation, White supremacy, White backlash racism, discrimination, cultural bias, etc.
- D. Discuss what you need to build effective partnership with the BLM movement. How do you go from allyship to solidarity and move from privilege to power.

Workshop fees will support BLM Boston. For sliding scale fees contact the organizer at almasdossa@gmail.com

Black Lives Matter Cambridge Symposium

When: Sat June 24, 9:00 AM - 7:45 PM

Where: Lesley University, Washburn Hall, 10 Philips Place, Cambridge

BLM Cambridge is hosting a day-long symposium focused on achieving racial justice and social equity in the Metro-North, and beyond. Keynote speakers include BLM Co-Founder Patrisse Khan-Cullors, and Executive director of the Marsha P. Johnson Institute, Elle Hearn. Also featuring Future (Janaya Khan) and DiDi Delgado. Join us as we envision and work towards creating a lasting and equitable future!

Note: We encourage QT/POC and those with financial constraints to contact the organizers at blmcambridge@gmail.com for sliding scale accommodations.

Register [HERE](#) [Facebook Page](#)

4th Annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival

When: Sat Aug 5, 10AM - 7:00 PM

Where: Unity Park, along Barton's Cove, Connecticut River (GPS: 56 First St, Turner Falls)

Free Event

Come enjoy this festival at beautiful Unity Park with nesting Eagles or waterfowl flying in the background of the Music Tent, over the River. Gather with 30 partaking artisans and crafts people, exhibits of crafts, canoes, jewelry, flutes, musicians, drum groups, elders, storytellers, a children's games tent, walking history tours, —visiting tepees and wiki-ups—and food. Take advantage of opportunities to purchase stunning art —basketry, jewelry and many crafts, and help make the Festival a success for our dedicated vendors!!

The Rowe Center Presents:

Robin Wall Kimmerer, the author of the absolutely stunning book " Braiding Sweetgrass."

Robin Wall Kimmerer is a remarkable writer. Poetry flows through her veins, but primarily she is a Botanist—both a Western Scientist and a practitioner of Indigenous Ecological Knowledge (TEK), (Potawanami)



This event is scheduled for November 3-5 but it is expected to sell out fast - Register today! [Register](#)

RESOURCES

Have you discovered this great new UUA / UUSC Resource?

[Love Resists](#)

LOVE RESISTS

Attention Worship Committees -

Are you planning your worship calendar for next year? UU Mass Action would love to join you in leading a worship service! Please feel free to contact us. This is a great way to support the work of UU Mass Action and collaborate on our shared work! Thank you!

Laura Wagner, Executive Director (Justice Building Theme) lwagner@uumassaction.org

Evan Seitz, Climate Justice Organizer (Climate Justice Theme) eseitz@uumassaction.org