

On 19 October 2013, 40 persons met representing 16 UU congregations and organizations, at the Washington Ethical Society to explore collaboration opportunities to ... Follow-up phone calls were held and a core leadership team volunteered to develop recommendations for a path forward. On 19 Nov 2013 the core leadership team met to generate ideas and a framework for the group purpose, identity & actions.

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During the meeting held 19 Nov 2013, we discussed potential answers to five basic questions.

1. Who are we? (identity, purpose)
2. What do we want to do? (activities, influence)
3. How will we communicate? (tools, equipment)
4. What resources do we have? (UUA organizations, other)
5. Next Steps
  - a. Next core team meeting, 17 Dec 2013, 5:00 p.m., telcon # ....., Katie' soffice
  - b. Large group, full-day, Saturday re-gathering of multi-congregation members to develop / refine goals, actions and implementation plans. [SET FOR 4 JAN 2014, ASC, 0900-1600]
    - 1) Sat., 11 Jan 2014 - ASC First Choice - [Not Possible - At ASC due to church council]
    - 2) Sat., 8 Feb 2014 - Second Choice
  - c. Re-gathering (in anticipation of mass coordination needed prior to Earth Day regional activities)
    - 1) 15 March 2014 First Choice
    - 2) 22 Mar 2014 Second Choice
  - d. The core leadership team will meet as needed monthly via phone, and quarterly in person.

#### 1. Who are we?

- A collection of regional UU Congregations, and other like-minded organizations.
- We are congregations that want to collaborate around environmental and justice issues.
- We are an UU UNO Climate Action Team- The DC Regional DC Regional
 

What is a Climate Action Team? (<http://climate.uu-uno.org/topics/view/24085/#CATs>)

A Climate Action Team (CAT) is a group working in their congregation and community specifically to combat climate change and its negative impacts.

A CAT keeps its congregation aware of current climate change issues and generates involvement in efforts to mitigate climate change. Select suggested activities or make up your own!

It may be either an independent committee or subcommittee of a Green Sanctuary or Social Justice Committee within a congregation. Involve and use existing programs and resources

- We are sponsored (?) by UUSJ. (or something stronger/different than sponsored?)

### 3. What do we want to do?

- A. Influence National policy - has increasing controls over greenhouse gas pollution, renewable power sources, price on carbon.
- B. We can take concrete actions locally/regionally, that will influence national policy.
- C. Influence emissions regionally, VA, MD, DC, Counties, Fracking, (plenty of things to organize around within the DC metro that are integral with addressing Environmental Justice.
- D. Renewal of Green Sanctuary can include environmental justice and build on awareness, and ...
- E. Stay focused on what our specific "Value Added" to the environmental justice/climate change movement can be as a group of UU Churches.
- F. Focus on ameliorating climate change and the consequences of Climate Change.
- G. Do a series of forums (pros & cons on lots of topics) (UUCF is developing this)
- H. Education Component(s) - engages our families & kids, etc.
- I. Maybe something like merit badges - for kids - things like a Rachael Carson Merit badges and have.
- J. Challenge each other (congregations) on who can be more green? This will make us feel part of a and get to know each other as part of a bigger organization, beyond our congregation - and the congregations next door.
- K. "Right here - Right Now's" - link a sermon to what people can write to legislators about right then and there. Sermons, letters, cards to legislatures. (would totally help us get the feeling that we are more than just a single congregation.) Can be done in conjunction with to films and covenant groups.
- L. Get something ready for 2014 GA- Providence, Rhode Island 25-29 June 2014, &
- M. GA 2015, Portland, OR (24 - 28 June 2015)
- N. As many congregations as possible pass resolutions on Climate Change (UUCF) , and probably divestiture too.

- O. Film/Dialog, Research project, documentary, etc - to explore how to better communicate and collaborate between a mostly white environmental activist movement and people of color, social justice, environmental justice, explore how to better unite for common causes.
- P. Coordinate Earth Day Activities - Rachael Carson 50th anniversary of her death 2014- Music festival - use the talented choirs from ASC, Mosaic from UU Fairfax - "Northeast Corridor" a Karaoke group - Hold Symposium - tie in Rachael Carson and climate change - i.e. invite secretary of energy, fish & wildlife (Carson former employer) to support it.
- Q. Fairfax will be Earth Day Activities on April 27, 28th. (Same as Paul Erlich at River Roads UU). Silver Spring UU is near watershed that was Rachael Carson's home.
- R. Set Grand and distant Goal for our group. Weave many actions and events (large and small) that all support the same common vision in different ways into the realization of that goal over time (and involve single or multiple UU Congregations/Organizations).
  - 1. Influence National policy (greenhouse gases, renewable power sources, price on carbon)
  - 2. Position UUs to lead and influence national support for IPCC effective action in Nov 2015, Paris, when critical international emission goals will be agreed upon by the participants(?). Build awareness in advance via DC regional activities and successes with national policy and local legislatures, GA 2014, Sponsor with other faith organizations a Faith & Science Environmental Justice Conference in Washington 2015 to build awareness, build awareness via GA 2015, IPCC Paris 2015.
- R. Build events around all 5 plus themes
  - 1) Climate Change (this includes energy issues as well)
  - 2) Environmental Justice (this includes the race and class workshop idea)
  - 3) Ethical Eating, gardening/permaculture, food issues
  - 4) Environmental Stewardship (this includes the repair and restoration/conservation work related to various natural spaces AND greenin
  - 5) Spiritual Renewal / Grief for the earth / Sustaining hope
  - 6) Other
- S. Find ways to link to events from multiple locations so that we can jointly participate together (simulcast/skype). Share & circulate film rentals/purchases. Purchase equipment (UUSJ?) for sharing events between congregations.

#### 4. How will we communicate?

What Resources UUA and others do we have?

Find ways to simulcast our events.

Films - spread them around to the other congregations and promote them at multiple locations.

- "Chasing Ice".

Bill Alsmeyer - UUSJ - Communication vehicle - can offer services - SALSA - can set up list serves, can do e-mail blasts, volunteer sign up forms, petitions - (feature to search for your correct representatives based on districts) Document sharing - "drop box" - (free cloud service). Find someone(s) to take on the administrative tasks of communications updates, [how to keep up the database] [Eric will ask his Fairfax group how he can support or contribute at Sunday meeting].

UUSJ has a u-tube account - catch video clips and post them.

Does UUSJ own equipment and if so, what is it and how can we check it out?

What about simulcast event equipment?

### 5. Next Steps.

Dec -17 th Tuesday - target 5:00 start. Same phone number and same pass code.

First choice Jan 11, Second Choice - Feb 8th (Doris may be gone) Maybe 1 Feb is better, When is superbowl? [MEETING SET FOR 4 JAN 2014 - ASC]

Some March Date needed - for mass coordination - 15 March 2014 , 22 Mar 2014 in anticipation of Earth Day preparation.

Jan 2014 Meeting (large group full day) would be to: agree on priorities, a calendar, shared resources, unveiling our communications plan and new UUSJ website, announce and connect our campaigns - right here right now kinds of things, distribute fact sheets, materials, packets ready to go, breakdown into groups and have them build on a theme - topic, etc.

Invite: Jan Dash UU UNO, Jim Driscoll, Paula Jones (deepen relationships with people of color) as we help refine our plans.

### Questions:

1. Where is our (our UU Regional Group) value added based on that we are a group of churches. (i.e. bond with 350.org ?)
2. How to work with entrenched positions.
3. What are the things that everyone is comfortable doing? Each individual can do something small to large, write a check, talk on the hill, etc. Find entry points that allow everyone to be involved at their comfort level.

Parking Lot -

"Climate nexus" - provides content for climate activists - can put on our web site

"honoring the pain" Jim Driscoll (Eric Contact), recently located to DC - developing networks to provide emotional support to "stay in the fight for the environment" and also to develop connections with people of color - Bridge the racial differences and levels of involvement

Lisa Van Sustren (Gretta's sister) - report - psychological trauma of climate change - Eric's resources

IMAC - Interfaith Moral Action on Climate - something around MLK Birthday - UUSJ event - should we schedule a large gathering meeting along with that?

ASC - If perceived as the Moral Lead of the region/nation. (if our center is an aggressively multi cultural welcoming community and our civil rights core of who ASC and A Paul Davies, etc. it makes it more possible to be seen as a worthy movement.) ASC - Can/should be the UU anchor church for the region. (with Annapolis, Richmond, and ASC of DC as the center).

**Potential Future exercise to help us better define our goals and objectives:**

SWOT Analysis - Apply this analysis to our unique position as UU (progressive liberal religious inclusive) in the Nation's Capital, so that we can better define how we can best add value, to a specific cause.

Strengths

Weaknesses

Opportunities

Threats