

June 18, 2014

Dear (see recipient list after signers),

In March 2014, thirty leaders representing at least eighteen organizations across the larger Unitarian Universalist community came together in Detroit. Over the course of four days, we looked deeply into environment, race, class, and a host of other critical factors intersect in this era of massive global change. After engaging in some strategic thinking, we have committed ourselves, individually and organizationally, to continue this work and it is work we call our Unitarian Universalist leadership to engage in with us.

The oppression of marginalized human communities and of other species, as well as all aspects of our natural, built, and social environment, intersect through unjust power dynamics. The logic that led to slavery and colonization and the degradation of humans at various times in history is the same that has led to speciesism and is leading to the destruction of Earth. It is the framework that suggests everything is in service to the dominant class. People who fight racism or sexism but don't extend the models of oppression to Earth are supporting the degradation of the planet, and people who work for environmental sustainability but not socially sustainable models are supporting the dominant structure which will ultimately defeat Earth or will, at least, terminate her ability to maintain human life. The fight for justice is the fight for life in every form. The dismantling of the power structure of dominance is the dismantling of the same structure that dominates Earth.

The environmental justice movement was founded by people of color who charged mainstream environmentalist organizations to recognize the power analysis needed to dismantle the structures that are damaging our planet, with an eye on how our decisions affect those who are most vulnerable in our society. Whether one refers to addressing this work as environmental justice or ecological justice is less important than acting on the reality that many oppressions are inextricably linked. Each signing organization and individual commends your organization or staff group to also make that connection in analysis, education, and strategy.

The individuals and organizations listed below are dedicated to our Unitarian Universalist vision and faith community. We bring our collective presence to bear as we ask you to consider our invitation. We are committed to engaging ongoing dialogue at all levels of our Unitarian Universalist community.

We are appealing to Unitarian Universalist organizations, asking you to enlarge your agendas to prioritize environmental justice. We are requesting that you engage with us in direct conversation regarding our new planetary reality and our shared desire for justice in all our communities. We hope these conversations will inspire a shifting of priorities in your areas of expertise and circles of concern.

As we work across organizational boundaries, we have become acutely aware that some of our Unitarian Universalist cultural and organizational habits do not serve our movement and the larger world as well as they might. We are learning a great deal about collaboration and intersectionality, where issues tend to be pitted one against the other in competition for scarce resources. We commit ourselves to help shift this dynamic in our spheres of influence, and hope to support this process at as many levels, and in as many areas of the Unitarian Universalist world, as possible. We are committed to engaging in ongoing dialogue about environmental and

ecological justice, and we ask that the UUA leadership and Unitarian Universalists engage this conversation with us.

Thank you for your attention to these critical issues and for thinking with us on behalf of this world and this faith we love. The need is great and the time, we believe, is right and necessary in ways it has never been before. We look forward to hearing from you and continuing this conversation in the months ahead. You can contact us at ējuucollaboratory@gmail.com.

In Faith,

Rev. Peggy Clarke, Minister, First Unitarian Society, Hastings on Hudson, NY and
Racial and Social Justice Consultant, UU Metro NY District

Rev. Rose Edington

Barbara Ford, Advisor, UU Ministry for Earth

Meck Groot, Justice Ministries Coordinator, Clara Barton and Mass Bay Districts
of UU Congregations

Dr. Michael Hogue, Professor of Theology, Meadville Lombard Theological School

Rev. Mel Hoover

Rev. Dr. Leisa Huyck, Minister-At-Large

Rev. Beth Johnson, President, UU Animal Ministry

Rev. Susan Karlson, Central East Regional Group (CERG) Disaster Response Coordinator

Irene Keim, Chair, UU Ministry for Earth

Rev. Kurt Kuhwald, Assistant Professor, Starr King School for the Ministry

Dr. Kat Liu, Board Member, UU Ministry for Earth

Matthew McHale, Summer Minister, West Shore UU Church, Rocky River, OH

Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti Sr. Minister, The Unitarian Universalist Church in Cherry Hill, NJ

Jennifer Nordstrom, UU Young Adults for Climate Justice

Rev. Karen Quinlan

Christopher D. Sims, UUA Nominating Committee and DRUUMM Executive Team.

Rev. Dr. Frances Sink, Minister, The Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Stamford, CT,
Board Member, UU Ministry for Earth

Nancy King Smith, First Unitarian Church, Cleveland, OH

Rev. Jan Taddeo, President-Elect for Allies for Racial Equity

Recipients of this Letter:

Jim Key, UUA Moderator

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Rev. Sarah Lammert, Director of Ministries and Faith Development

Carey McDonald, Youth and Young Adult Ministries Director

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Janice Marie Johnson, Multicultural Ministries Director

Susan Leslie, Congregational Advocacy and Witness Director
Jennifer Toth, "Standing on the Side of Love" Campaign Manager
Rev. Scott Tayler, Director of Congregational Life
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Helene Atwan, Director, Beacon Press
Mary Benard, Editorial Director, Skinner House Books
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Commission on Social Witness
Journey Towards Wholeness Transformation Committee
Youth Ministry Advisory Committee
UU Finding Program
Ministerial Fellowship Committee
UUA Presidential Search Committee
General Assembly Planning Committee
UU Service Committee
UU College of Social Justice
UU-United Nations Office
UU Women's Federation
UU State Advocacy Networks
UU Ministry for Earth
Diverse Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries
Allies for Racial Equity
UUs for a Just Economic Community
UUs for Social Justice
Interweave
UU Trauma Response Ministry
UU Young Adults for Climate Justice
President's Advisory Committee on Ethical Eating
UU Animal Ministry
UU Ministers Association
Liberal Religious Educators Association
UU Society for Community Ministries
Meadville Lombard Theological School
Starr King School for the Ministry
Covenant of UU Pagans
UU Buddhist Fellowship
UU Christian Fellowship
UUs for Jewish Awareness
UU Humanist Association
UU Veatch Program at Shelter Rock
Church of the Larger Fellowship