



Advocacy & Witness News

Congregational Advocacy and Witness
Washington Office for Advocacy

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DECEMBER 2007

SO LONG 2007!

What a great year it has been! We welcomed new staffers and said goodbye to older ones. We worked to promote peace in the Middle East, comprehensive sexuality and AIDS education, equal rights in the workplace for members of the GLBTQ communities, and recovery of the Gulf Coast.

2008 will to be just as big. With the upcoming election year, we are going to work harder than ever to get UU values into the discussion. We are revving up for a new Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI) at GA Ft. Lauderdale. We also need your support as the Commission on Social Witness begins compiling text for the Statement of Conscience on Peacemaking.

Thanks for your help in 2007! We look forward to your continued support in 2008. Happy Holidays from every one in Advocacy and Witness!

The Elections Are Coming!

2008 is going to a big year. With the primaries and eventually a General Election, you may be confused as to what your congregation may or may not do.

The Washington Office for Advocacy has a resource available on-line to answer all your election based questions called *The Real Rules: CONGREGATIONS AND IRS GUIDELINES ON ADVOCACY, LOBBYING, AND ELECTIONS*.

The Real Rules answers such questions as:

- May we promote a particular candidate?
- How much issue advocacy is too much?
- What about voter registration?
- Can we host a debate?
- One of the candidates is a member, may she speak from the pulpit?

And much, much more!

The Real Rules: Helping you keep your 501 (c)3 while looking good doing it!
<http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/resources/> (Under Advocacy)

Put Your Church's Social Justice Work on the Map!

Faith in Public Life, an organization which provides networking tools for faith-based justice groups, has created an opportunity for churches and other faith organizations to put their social justice programs on the map!

Their searchable database, *Mapping Faith*, allows churches to post the justice issues in which they're currently involved, and find other faith groups working on the same issues.

There are currently 2,968 organizations mapped across the United States, and the number continues to grow. This map has the potential to be a great networking tool for forming local partnerships and state-wide advocacy coalitions.

You can take a look at Mapping Faith at:
<http://www.faithinpubliclife.org/map/index.html>.



"I should like to be able to love my country and still love justice."

-Albert Camus

Calendar

December 1	World AIDS Day
December 5	Hanukah Begins
December 10	Human Rights
December 25	Christmas
December 26	Kwanza Begins
January 1	New Years Day
January 8	Primary Election Season Begins

"Peacemaking is fundamentally a spiritual struggle, a battle for the soul of humanity."

- Richard Barnet, a founder of World Peacemakers

2008 Calendar

With a new year approaching, here are important deadlines and events for the 2008 social justice calendar through General Assembly.

- **Jan 8: Primary Election Season Begins (For more Information, download the Real Rules)**
- **Feb 1: Deadline for Congregational Polling on the new CSAI (See Gray Box Below)**
- **March 1: Deadline for Congregational Polling on the current CSAI, "Peacemaking" (See Gray Box Below)**
- **March 15-18: Sexuality Education Advocacy Training (S.E.A.T.)- Washington, DC (See Below)**
- **March 20: 5th Anniversary of War in Iraq**
- **June 24: UU University-Ft. Lauderdale, FL**
- **June 25-29: General Assembly-Ft. Lauderdale, FL**

New Listserv and Webpage for UU Immigration Advocates

A new listserv is now available for UUs who want to become involved in advocacy for fair and compassionate federal immigration policies.

The listserv will include periodic Action Alerts on federal legislation and organizing efforts such as the New Sanctuary Movement.

The list is being launched in conjunction with a new section on Immigrant Justice on www.uua.org with information and resources available at <http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issues/immigration/index.shtml> (or just go to the Social Justice page and click on 'Issues' and 'Immigration.')

If you would like to add your name to the listserv, send an email to lswanson@uua.org.

"Before water turns to ice, it looks just the same as before. Then a few crystals form, and suddenly the whole system undergoes a cataclysmic change."

-Joanna Rogers Macy, Deep Ecologist

"It was a thought that built this whole preposterous war machine and it will be a thought that shall melt it away."

-Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

Sexuality Education Advocacy Training (S.E.A.T.)

Supporting Comprehensive Sexuality Education from a Religious Perspective

For UU/UCC Youth, Young Adults, and Adult Allies

**March 15-18, 2008
Washington, DC**

We seek to create a conference community that is diverse in terms of religion (UU and UCC), race/ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, geography, and other identities.

For more information:

ggarner@uua.org or
202-296-4672 x13
www.uua.org/socialjustice

STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE T-SHIRTS AVAILABLE ONLINE

You may have seen them at General Assembly or at protest rallies. Now you and your family can own the "Stand on the Side of Love" shirt.

Just in time for the holidays, order your shirt now. Get your favorite activist a shirt for the upcoming year of actions.

Hurry! Supplies are limited.

Our handsome shirts come in both adult and children's sizes. And are made from pre-shrunk, 100% cotton materials.

For more information, pictures, and/or to place an order, please go to www.uua.org/uuawo and click on "ONLINE STORE" on the left side of the page

There is a \$3/shirt discount for bulk orders, so order as a congregation! If you'd rather place an order by phone, please call Kat Liu at (202) 296-4672 x12

**"If I can't dance...I don't want to be part of your revolution."
-Emma Goldman (1869-1940)**

We Need Your Feedback!

The Commission on Social Witness needs your congregation's feedback.

Has your congregation been working on the CSAI on Peace?

Let them know what you have been doing. Your feedback allows your voice be heard on the Statement of Conscience on Peace.

Visit <http://uua.org/csai> and click on "Comment Form"

Feedback due by **March 1st, 2008**

Have you heard about the new potential CSAI topics?

What do you and your congregation think about them?

Find out more about the topics and fill out our Congregational Poll to let us know which one you prefer. Deadline is due **February 1st, 2008**

Visit <http://uua.org/socialjustice> and click on "Congregation Poll"