

*The Unitarian Universalist
Justice Ministry
of North Carolina*

Annual Report

2017

GOODBYE 2017! WELCOME 2018!

As 2017 was drawing to a close, John Pavlovitz, a Christian pastor and writer who lives in Raleigh, wrote these words:

“Dear 2017, You’ve been one terrible decade. When midnight arrives on December 31st it won’t be a millisecond too soon, though when it does it will feel less like celebration and more like acknowledging survival.”

John’s right, of course.

This past year has been a hard and dark one for many of us—a year of attempts to ban the immigration of Muslims, of threats to deport hundreds of thousands of young “dreamers” who came to the United States as children, of revelations of sexual harassment and abuse, of horrific mass shootings and the even more horrific failure to adopt common sense gun safety laws, of racists marching through the streets with torches and Confederate flags, of continued and increased division, partisanship, and extremist policies that undermine health care and benefit the wealthy and powerful at the expense of the middle class, the poor, the vulnerable, the marginalized, and the oppressed.

But, John continues, this past year has also been a year in which people of good will have pushed back against the worst things that the past year brought, resisting bigotry and wall-building and fear-mongering and political plundering, fighting to live as normally as we could in unfathomably abnormal times, creating and dreaming and loving and doing what we could to redeem the year as often as we were able.

And 2017 was also the year in which the “new” Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of North Carolina was “re-branded,” “reorganized” and “re-launched.”

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Forward Together



The Unitarian Universalist
Justice Ministry of
North Carolina

*Giving Life the
Shape of Justice*

www.uuforwardtogether.org



2017 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Reorganized as Nonprofit Corporation**
- **Recognized as Section 501(c)(3) Charity**
- **New Website**
- **Received \$12,000 Grant from the UUA Funding Panel**
- **Received \$1,945 in Individual Donations**
- **Recruited New Six-Member Board of Directors**

HKonJ UU Gathering
 Saturday, February 10, 2018,
 1:00—4:00 pm
 Church of the Good Shepherd,
 125 Hillsborough Street, Raleigh
Lunch Provided
Volunteers Needed
Keynote: John Pavlovitz
[www.tinyurl.com/
 UUJMNCHKonJ2018](http://www.tinyurl.com/UUJMNCHKonJ2018)

DOUG RHODES

Doug Rhodes founded the UU Legislative Ministry of NC in 2012 and is the interim President of the “re-launched” UU Justice Ministry of NC.



Doug lives in Chatham County and is a member of the Eno River UU Fellowship. Before moving to North Carolina, Doug was a member of the UU congregation in Princeton, New Jersey and was involved in establishing the UU Legislative Ministry of New Jersey.

REV. JOHN L. SAXON

Rev. John L. Saxon is UUJMN’s volunteer, interim Executive Director.



He received his M.Div. in 2009, worked as a hospital chaplain, and served as Assistant Minister and Lead Minister of the UU Fellowship of Raleigh from 2010 to 2017. Before entering ministry, he worked as a legal aid lawyer and was a Professor with the UNC-Chapel Hill School of Government.

ALBERT HARDY

Albert Hardy is UUJMN’s volunteer administrative coordinator. He is a member of the Eno River UU Fellowship and previously worked with the NC Interfaith Power and Light project.



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In just a few short months, we’ve taken the first steps to recreate UUJMN as a better-organized, adequately-funded, more visible, and more effective statewide UU justice ministry that will work to “*give life the shape of justice.*”

UUJMN was legally incorporated in September as an independent, nonprofit, nonpartisan, faith-based justice organization. In October, UUJMN was designated by the Internal Revenue Service as a section 501c3 charitable organization (which means that your contributions to UUJMN are tax-deductible), created

a new and improved web site, and opened a bank account with the Self-Help Credit Union in Durham. And in December, UUJMN recruited an initial Board of Directors and received a \$12,000 grant for “start up” expenses from the UUA’s Fund for UU Social Responsibility.

UUJMN got off to a great start in 2017 and we’ve got big plans for 2018!

But we need your help! Visit our new website (www.uuforwardtogether.org) to get connected, get involved, and make a donation to support UUJMN’s work to “give life the shape of justice” in 2018.

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.” Martin Luther King, Jr.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE UU JUSTICE MINISTRY OF NORTH CAROLINA

UUJMN’s history dates back to the creation, in 2012, of the UU Legislative Ministry of North Carolina. Between 2012 and 2017, Doug Rhodes, a member of the Eno River UU Fellowship in Durham who was previously involved in starting the UU Legislative Ministry of New Jersey, was not-quite-single-handedly responsible for planting and watering the seeds of what eventually became the UU Justice Ministry of North Carolina. During that time, Doug established a relationship between UULMNC and the Coalition of State UU Action Networks (CUUSAN), recruited a group of congregational contacts, created a mailing list of 300 UUs across North Carolina, recruited a volunteer to design a web site for UULMNC, and shared social justice information and resources with UUs across North Carolina through an email newsletter.

Despite Doug’s continued dedication and hard work, however, UULMNC never really “got off the ground” and never really realized its hoped-for potential.

In February, 2017, about two dozen UUs from eight UU congregations met in Raleigh after the HKonJ Moral March to discuss “re-booting” UULMNC as a more visible and effective state justice ministry. Following that meeting, Doug and Rev. John L. Saxon contacted state UU justice ministries in Arizona, California, Oregon, New Jersey, Minnesota, Massachusetts, and other states to learn more about their histories, organizational structures, missions, programs and activities, staffing, and funding, and then worked together to develop and implement a plan to re-brand, reorganize, and re-launch UULMNC as the UU Justice Ministry of North Carolina, to enhance its organizational structure and capacity, to create a reliable and sustainable funding stream to support its mission and work, to create closer working relationships with North Carolina’s UU congregations and other faith-based and secular justice organizations in North Carolina, and to provide resources to support individual UUs and UU congregation in their work to “give life the shape of justice” in North Carolina.

That’s the short story of where UUJMN came from.

But the real story isn’t where UUJMN came from. It’s where UUJMN is going!

*And **you** can be part of that story!*



Black Lives Matter at the UU Fellowship of Winston-Salem

2017 FINANCIAL REPORT

UUJMNC opened a checking account with the Self Help Credit Union in Durham, North Carolina in October, 2017 and established a credit card/EFT processing account with Democracy Engine that allows UUJMNC to accept online donations.

UUJMNC's income for the period September 1 through December 31, 2017 was \$13,945.87. The major sources of income were a \$12,000 grant from the UUA Funding Panel and \$1,945.30 in individual donations.

Expenses for the period September 1 through December 31, 2017 were \$1,331.24. Major expenses included \$445.16 for internet/web expenses; \$363.15 for business and legal expenses; \$222.15 for IT/office equipment; and \$100 for dues (Coalition of UU State Action Networks).

UUJMNC RECEIVES \$12,000 GRANT FROM UUA

In September 2017, UUJMNC submitted a grant application to the UUA Funding Panel seeking \$15,000 to help "re-launch" UUJMNC as a better-organized, more visible, more effective, and adequately-funded state justice ministry.

In December, the UUA Funding Panel notified UUJMNC that UUJMNC would receive \$12,000 in funding as well as an additional \$1,000 "challenge grant" (which must be matched by \$1,000 in contributions from new UUJMNC donors). Over the coming year, the UUA grant will be used to (1) enhance UUJMNC's organizational structure and capacity; (2) create a reliable and sustainable funding stream to support UUJMNC's mission and work; (3) establish and strengthen UUJMNC's relationships with UUs, UU congregations, and other faith-based and secular justice organizations in North Carolina; and (4) provide resources to support the social justice work of individual UUs and UU congregations in North Carolina.

The UUA grant must be used by January 30, 2019. UUJMNC will submit a report to the UUA Funding Panel at the end of the grant period describing the activities and programs that have been supported by the grant funds.

MEET UU FORWARD TOGETHER'S NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Laurel Amabile lives in Asheville, North Carolina and is the Director of Development for the Mountain Conference Center in Highlands, North Carolina. She previously served as the Director of Religious Education for the UU Congregation of Asheville and worked with the UUA's Stewardship and Development Department.



Rev. Jacqueline Brett is the Minister for Member Engagement at the Eno River UU Fellowship in Durham, North Carolina and serves as the staff partner for ERUUF's Social Justice Council. She received her M.Div. from Meadville Lombard Theological School in 2017.

Bill Crowley is a long-time social justice activist, a member of the Piedmont UU Church in Charlotte, North Carolina, and chairs the PUUC social justice council.



Alyson Grine is a member of the Community Church of Chapel Hill (UU) and a former member of the CCCHUU Board of Directors. She is an assistant professor at North Carolina Central University's School of Law.

Elizabeth Terry lives in Wilmington, North Carolina and works for the UUA's Department of Stewardship and Development. Her partner, Rev. Cheryl Walker, is the minister of the UU Fellowship of Wilmington.



Rev. Sally White has served as the minister of the Unitarian Coastal Fellowship in Morehead City, North Carolina since 2003. She received her M.Div. from Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California. She served as a professional religious educator in five UU congregations before being ordained as a UU minister.



GIVING LIFE THE SHAPE OF JUSTICE

The mission of the Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of North Carolina is to “*give life the shape of justice*” by

- Supporting the social justice work of individual Unitarian Universalists and UU congregation in North Carolina;
- Building relationships and partnerships with other faith-based and secular organizations that are working for justice in North Carolina; and
- Giving voice to our Unitarian Universalist faith and values through witness, advocacy, and action with respect to important social, economic, environmental, and political issues affecting North Carolina.

GOALS FOR 2018

- Encourage UUs to contact federal, state, and local officials about specific justice issues in response to UUJMNC online and email “Action Alerts.”
- Organize at least three statewide UU “Justice Action Teams” to coordinate witness, advocacy, and action with respect to specific justice issues (for example, voting rights, immigration, LGBTQ, health care, climate change).
- Create at least two online social justice webinars and an online discussion forum or covenant group for congregational social justice leaders.
- Hold a gathering of UUs after the HKonJ Moral March in Raleigh.
- Organize an annual UU legislative advocacy day (Justice on Jones Street).
- Establish relationships with North Carolina’s UU congregations by visiting at least 12 UU congregations to make presentations about UUJMNC; establishing “Justice Partner” covenants with at least eight congregations; and recruiting UUJMNC liaisons in at least 20 congregations.
- Contact other faith-based and secular justice organizations to foster communication and begin establishing good working relationships, partnerships, and coalitions.
- Begin to develop an adequate and reliable funding base for UUJMNC by raising at least \$2,500 from 100 new donors, at least \$6,000 from 35 sustaining donors, and \$6,000 from UU congregations.

Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of North Carolina

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PLACE
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HERE