



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

A Place to Connect, Grow and Serve

Tanner and UU Teens @UUNO

Marietta Jones Tanner (adult, center in above photo) attended the Unitarian Universalists United Nations (UUNO) conference in Manhattan. This meeting, held yearly, is a place where teens from UU congregations all over the U.S. and Canada gather to talk about an issue before the world body. The purpose is to have young people lead, hear learned speakers, deliberate and express their conclusions about the issue with UU Principles guiding their decisions.

This year the topic was “When Crisis Calls: Advancing Just Migration for All.” Through interactive panel discussions, workshops, worship and community building activities participants equipped themselves to respond to the pressing issue of worldwide migration. Dr. Wakar Uddin spoke about the Rohingya crises, Rev. Fulgence Ndagijamana, a founder of a Unitarian church in Burundi, spoke on LGBT displacement in Africa, and Ben Lasso, a Washington, DC Hip Hop Artist was inspiring on The Sanctuaries in DC, among several other outstanding specialists.

Bruce Knotts, Director of UUNO, moderated a panel on Climate Change and forced displacement. Max Solomon-Frye, the teen tri-chair, helped to coordinate and bring his special message of UU activism to the group. One session was held at the United Nations building so the teens got an opportunity to visit and sit in an actual meeting room.

UUNO was founded in 1947 by Adlai Stevenson to give life to our 7th principle: The goal of world community with liberty and justice for all. The participants were urged to return to their respective churches armed with knowledge of the importance of the United Nations in bringing nations of the world together to deliberate and find solutions for problems of migration and other pressing issues. Forces in the United States’ government want to defund the UN and are bent on denigrating its work. Participants vowed to lobby their congressional delegations to pay the United States’ full share, and to become Envoys in their congregations, spreading the word about the world body’s unique and indispensable functions.

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