RECAP of our
Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)
Stewardship Circle Meeting
in Seattle, Sept. 11-13, 2025
from Teri Wiss

The meeting began with a moment of silence to remember our partner, Juan López, murdered by a masked gunman, one year ago, while leaving church with his wife and young daughter, because he dared to defend his community and the environment from the hands of corporate greed. You will learn more about Juan and the ongoing work of our partner in Honduras, Fundación San Alonso Rodriguez and their campaign to save the Guapinol River in November, during UUSC's ***Guest at Your Table*** program, as our November Shared Plate and you can read more in this blog: https://www.uusc.org/remembering-juan-lopez/.

We heard news about UUSC being one of 200 non-profits (and some are our partners) receiving letters from Homeland Security wanting more detailed information about financial matters. UUSC responded with a legal letter, but is also taking actions to protect the organization and staff.

We heard details about UUSC's human rights and social justice work, both in the US and around the world. This work is needed now more than ever! At UUSC, we believe that the transformational solutions we need come from communities most directly impacted by injustice. A couple of our partners were able to be at the meeting, to hear first-hand about their work, and their appreciation for our partnership! We are having a transition and renewed presence at the United Nations, and I sat next to the primary person in this role. She is eager to take on this challenge! From its inception, Unitarian Universalists have been active in promoting values of human rights and global justice at the UN. This has been provided by the UUA but is transitioning to the work of UUSC.

UUSC has a new "Resistance Network". They will be sharing messages and opportunities to take action throughout the fall. Learn more and sign up to receive these emails at https://www.uusc.org/initiatives/join-uuscs-resistance-network/. You may also want to check out the Messaging Guides found at https://asocommunications.com/.

As we grapple with authoritarianism and human rights attacks in our country and globally, we are inspired by the work of the Austin Sanctuary Network, the Transgender Law Center, Pink Haven, and the legacy of Juan López. Our gathering provided a sense of the many ways that—together—we are building communities of resistance and resilience. Out of an abundance of caution, I am not including details about our work or our partners. Go to UUSC's website at https://www.uusc.org/ or reach out to me directly if you would like to discuss any of this in more detail!