

## **SJC Meeting/Zoom - August 23**

### **[VIEW RECORDING - 131 mins \(No highlights\)](#)**

Linda:

Okay, there's our light. This opening was adapted from a piece by Erica Hewitt. The chalice as a symbol of Unitarian Universalism arose as a beacon of hope in an atmosphere of tyranny.

And the chalice arose as a sign of promise. guys. That the marginalized would neither be forgotten nor ignored because they are beloved and precious by simply being part of this world.

This morning, we remember all the people who have been told explicitly or implicitly through police violence or government policy, through derision or dehumanization, that they're anything less than whole, anything less than beloved.

As we light our chalice, may we make our church and our lives a beacon, a symbol of our promise to draw the circle wide, a sign that we will not rest until all truly means all.

Linda:

The next thing on our agenda is the Treasurer's Report and Community Outreach recipients.

Trude and Bob. Trude, you want to go first? Let Bob go first. Okay, Bob, you want to go first?

#### **[@18:18 - bob hedlund](#)**

We collected roughly \$300 for the June and July recipients. We're still counting August, of course. And the other things that I told you about, if you want to talk about them.

#### **[@18:41 - Trude Diamond](#)**

Yeah, let me just give you the hard numbers that I got from the Bookkeeper's Report. There was an additional \$65.76 for Romwe.

June Equality Florida got... \$193.76, July Poynter Institute, \$291, even August, of course, close to kids, will be reported in September.

The other little note about the outreach recipients is that we're going to remind people to please donate to the recipient, whether by through breeze or by check or cash in a designated envelope during services at only during the month when a given recipient is the official recipient.

And if anyone wants to continue giving to a recipient, they can do that directly on the recipient's website or by mailing a check to them at any other time.

It's not so important that we get credit that UUC get credit for their donation. We're going to also ask that the worship associates, Reverend Amy, mention that when they do their part of the offering, when they talk about the recipient for the month.

The reason why, you know, we're doing this is that what happens is people tend to, we get drips and dribbles every time we have a month over.

And then we have drips and dribbles of money coming in and out or in. And then it's up to, you know, the bookkeeper and the finance committee to keep track of all these drips and dribbles and then write these little checks.

That sort of follow up the big check that we send. And it's just unnecessary to put that kind of burden on.

And I think we have been remiss in not making that clear because people might not even, I'm sure people don't even think about that.

It just comes to mind that they want to give.

#### **[@21:17 - Amy \(she/her\)](#)**

So when they say anything that is donated in the month goes to the organization as chosen by social justice, if it comes in after that month, then you'll return it or what do you want to do?

[@21:37](#) - **bob hedlund**

general, we'll put it into love offerings.

[@21:40](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

Okay.

[@21:41](#) - **Trude Diamond**

They'll just give it to the church, basically.

[@21:43](#) - **bob hedlund**

Depending on the amount, if it's a large check, we will take others. We have a kind of a \$110, \$150 cutoff for processing smaller donations.

you take contributions. I Because it's a burden on the bookkeeper, which is a burden on our expenses, and we will accept late donations to the prior month for some place between a week and two weeks, because it usually takes that long to close in any event.

[@22:29](#) - **Trude Diamond**

But we will not be telling people that.

[@22:31](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

not going to say.

[@22:32](#) - **Trude Diamond**

We don't need to go into all the details. the audience wants to handle that, that's fine. our statement that we putting out to the community.

[@22:42](#) - **bob hedlund**

But again, the one exception, because we have had four months of donations to Romwe, is we're putting that into the Refugee Committee.

If we want to send a check to Romwe from Refugee Committee... The for 150 or more will be happy to do that.

[@23:07](#) - **Trude Diamond**

I don't want to do that, It's in there now.

[@23:10](#) - **bob hedlund**

It's not going away. You can leave it there. I don't care. It's up to the Justice Committee.

[@23:18](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Okay. I mean, I really want to just, like, stop.

[@23:22](#) - **bob hedlund**

No, you don't need to publicize that. All I'm telling you is that's been the case, and that is the intent, and people are going to keep doing it because of the immigrant issue.

[@23:37](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Okay, let me just say that if we tell people who have really good, generous intentions that after a given recipient's month is over, they can continue to give independently, directly at the recipient's website or mailing address all they want.

[@24:00](#) - **bob hedlund**

That's fine. All I'm saying is we already have three months of Broadway contributions, sometimes just marked immigrants or sometimes just marked refugees, and we've put it into the Refugee Committee because that is the intent, in our opinion, as finance of the donor.

[@24:27](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Okay. If it continues, it's going to go in the same place. If it doesn't, that's fine. So, okay, because I really, my problem has always been that if somebody says, marks something, they want to go to Romway, or any organization, it should be given, it should not be coming through UUC.

That's true. should be coming directly from themselves to that organization. Our monthly recipient is separate, and so we just have to deal with that.

I think we should just mention, whoever that person is, I would be happy to talk with that person and just make sure that those stop.

if you have that conversation outside this meeting, the privacy, yes. Right, yeah. So I think that we should, you know, definitely, the message that Trudy said should be the message we put out to the congregation.

I would really like to, I mean, I don't want to burden the bookkeeper. don't want to burden the system.

We have a system in place, and I just really feel like that we shouldn't be even depositing those late checks or those late monies or whatever.

They should just go back to the people until people get there.

[@25:51](#) - **bob hedlund**

puts an envelope in the plate without a name on it. There's nothing to be done.

[@25:56](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Well, that's nothing to do. But if there's a name attached, I just feel like That's different. People need to learn that.

I'm sorry. One more thing about the direction to the congregation as a whole. Reverend Amy, just so you know, for the Worship Associates, I typically give the blurb about the recipient.

I'm going to add this to that blurb that I give to the Octogram for the announcements that month.

And typically, the Worship Associate copies that from the Octogram and puts it in their notes.

So it'll be there for them. Right. Great. Thank you, Trude. Thank you, Bob. I really appreciate all the work you do for us.

Thank you for that. Okay. But wait, there's more. Yes. A different topic. Ann Burnham sent a sort of a closing set of information.

There's about HEP and the backpacks and stuff. I'm just going to read that into the minutes. Joe Pace, Financial Secretary, reported \$1,200.68 was the total raised from 16 members.

What is not in Joe's report is that Eloise counted a plate of donations for backpacks from Rachel Lide. A non-UUC friend of Anne's, Tracy Rogers, also contributed to the fund.

Anne and Maryann Hamilton sent thank yous to everyone who donated except Rachel, who supplied no contact information. Eloise and Jocelyn Gonzola from the Kiwi Group shopped for backpacks on July 20th.

Anne and Eloise met Madeline Stone at HEP on July 23rd to deliver all the backpacks and school supplies. Eloise submitted a request to Tim.

... Lauren, for a check to be sent to HEP for the amount remaining in the account after buying the backpacks and some miscellaneous supplies.

HEP is grateful for UUC's help as they have 110 children to equip for school this year. Wow. Yeah.

Okay, now you want me to go on to info.

Carol has her hand raised. Carol? I just wondered, Trude, do we know what the dollar amount was for the remaining?

I have no idea. Okay. But I do know, hold it. In my upcoming notes, we have, I'll skip this one when we get to it.

We have thank yous from people. So, the one from HEP says, recent gift, yeah, they say \$91.87.

Great. As well as the backpacks.

in next section. That's awesome.

#### [@29:02](#) - Sue Hand

So that's really, really wonderful.

#### [@29:05](#) - Trude Diamond

Beautiful, oopsie, beautiful little thank you. Ah, thank you. Okay. All right. Anything else, Trude? We have, in addition to that, thanks for the segue, Carol, I prompt you to do that?

We have from, I'll find it, from Hope Villages of America, a thank you. From the Pinellas Education Foundation, which is HEAT, H-E-A-T, the Homeless Assistance Program.

A thank you. Of course, from Hap and from Bromley, we have a thank you and a certificate of appreciation.

Yay! know, I wish they weren't wasting their money on paper and printing, really. up andatori work? I WON. Whatever!

I'll Give the money to the people. We don't need a piece of paper. I'm not sure if we need to, you know, frame that and hang it anywhere or even put it in a folder, but I think the image will be attached to the minutes, so Linda will have it or whatever.

I know it's always, it's always an interesting conversation about we get these lovely thank yous and we've, in the past, we would sometimes would try and put them on the social justice bulletin board when we had one and, or read them at, to the, back to the people.

I, I don't know if, if anyone has any feelings about that. I do. Yes, Trude. too much information.

People have so much information nowadays to process.

That might have been a sweet thing to do in days of your, but in days, in days of ours now, I think it's just good that.

We realize that we get thank yous, and I don't know, Linda, maybe when you give a report on social justice, you might want to skim, because whenever we get thank yous, I put them in the notes, then you might want to skim the minutes and say, you know, and we received, over the past six months, received six thank you notes from these organizations.

Reverend Amy?

#### [@31:28](#) - Amy (she/her)

Yeah, so, you know, there is that bulletin board with all of the ribbons. It's time for me to pull the things off of there.

I think that's from April. Why don't we put those letters, why don't I put the letters up on that board that's out there?

**@31:47 - Trude Diamond**

kind of a great way, that way newcomers will walk over and say, oh my gosh, this organization sponsors all these groups.

Yeah, I'll bring them on Sunday. That's a great idea. Okay. And Reverend Amy, I'm sure you're just looking for another place to use your artistic talents.

Yeah.

**@32:10 - Amy (she/her)**

It's all about letting newcomers know who we are and what we're doing, too.

**@32:14 - Trude Diamond**

Yeah. Nice. Great idea. Excellent. Okay. We have other stuff. We have communications from non-outreach recipients. I'll handle them appropriately.

We had a brochure from the Goodwill, not Goodwill Charities, Goodwill Meditation Group. And it's a global organization that meditates weekly on goodwill, strengthen goodwill among all people, help resolve problems facing humanity.

And I gave that booklet about goodwill meditations to Kathy Crone to use for And it had, you know, besides information about the group itself, it had a few guided meditations in there.

So that's up to Kathy and Ned Benedict or anyone else who's leading the exhale meditations. We also got 20 plus postcards to distribute for the St.

Pete UU animal ministry team, advocating protection for Florida black bears. These will be placed in, I'll put them in the lobby so our folks can, you know, grab a postcard and, you know, mail it on in to reject.

There's a proposal in front of Florida legislature for a Florida black bear hunt. Did you see the information I sent you, Trude, on that, that I think that's too late?

I think they voted. I think, I think it's too late because it's, yeah, because it was, I don't know how long ago it was.

Put in our mailbox, but I hadn't been to church for a while. I think I saw something that they had voted.

vote has gone? Okay, well, I will check the dates, and if it's too late, it's too late. Yeah, I think it is too late.

I think they voted already to have the bear hunt. Oh, well. Well, I hope the bears are quick on their four little feet.

Yeah. Okay, so for upcoming outreach for September, it's Common Cause Florida to ensure that every eligible voter can cast their ballot freely and fairly and securely.

Nonpartisan programs that prioritize voter access, voter education, and engagement. That's, I mean, me, I'm going to give to them every month for the next three years because it's so important. Anyway, in October. It's the ACLU of Florida, and that's all I got for that. Two very important recipients coming up, timely and important, so thank you.

Yep. Thanks. Great. Okay. The next is committee reports. Racial justice? Yeah, same little report as always. Racial justice, engagement opportunities, I detail monthly in the newsletter to the mailing list.

In August, members participated in indivisible activities and attended exhibits that were very inclusive at Creative Pinellas and events at Studio at 620 in St.

Pete. Wonderful. Thank you for keeping up on that stuff. The next report is F.A.S.T., and the F.A.S.T. Ministry. ...

... .. was pleased to welcome April Birdsong, our lead organizer for FAST, to our congregation.

April presented an inspiring message about the power of organized people to make social change in our community on August 17th, and I noticed that message has been posted now on our webpage. She did a great job, so I was so pleased. Following that meeting, we had an opportunity to sponsor the Coffee Hour, and we also had sign-up sheets for the small meetings that we call them small meetings now, not house meetings, because they're not in anyone's house, and to begin our kickoff process.

I already had my first one on Zoom. It was very successful. We had a lot of continuing people at that, as well as a brand new person.

This couple came up and signed up who had just been coming for two months and wanted to find out about Fathom, so we were pleased to welcome them to that meeting.

Anyone interested in learning more about Fathom or interested in helping Fathom decide what our next issue is going to be, there's still signups on the social justice table.

So you can still sign up for those meetings. And I'm one of the team leaders and Lori Ergel is the other team leader.

So FAST is beginning its process. I'm excited about that. Since Christine is not here, I don't think there's going to be a NAMI report.

Maryann, do you have anything for Interfaith Tampa Bay?

#### [@37:58](#) - **Maryann/Fla**

Oh, yes, let me pull it up. I apologize to Trude for being so late, but our meeting is on Thursday morning and it's been busy two days.

It was quite extensive. There was a lot of discussion at the meeting. had Deneen Wyman from the Pinellas County Schools gave a very wonderful talk and plea.

They really are desperately in need of mentors for the different programs to work with kids because of the budget cuts.

Many of the positions that have been paid are they're going to have to rely on volunteers in the school system for even things in the offices, individual and at the administration.

I'm building, but... Um, I, it, it was really wonderful to hear all the things that they are doing. They, uh, if you're, I know some of my hesitation about volunteering is because I didn't want to have to go the fingerprint thing again.

And, um, but they have two levels of, uh, volunteering and the low, the level one, you don't have to be, uh, fingerprinted.

so, but, uh, if you go to their website, um, I sent links to everything to Trudy. Uh, but, um, that was really, I thought it's really good program.

And we really need to support our, our, uh, school system for, because of all the budget cuts and that, um, the interfaith week, we now have location for the Sunday, uh, event.

Uh, it's Sunday, it's The 19th is going to be at Temple of the Living God, and then we're hosting the Thursday night event that week at UU.

They are still looking for a location for the Saturday part of the event because they were going to be at the Baha'i Center, and the Baha'is discovered a conflict in the schedule.

They couldn't do it. But other things that were brought up at the meeting is Emma's Revolution is going to be at UU St.

Pete, September 13th. The Unity Midtown reminded us about World Day of Prayer, September 10th and 11th. And another thing that was brought up that I think is really important, Mary Burrell is one of our ...

Board members for ITB, and she works with the county for community engagement programs and emergency management. She's really involved with all of that, and she asked for churches to find out who in their congregation need to be, if there's an evacuation if they have to evacuate for a

storm, who in the congregation needs special needs centers and to help be sure that they, those members of the congregation know where to go, where they can get the help that they can if they're handicapped in any way.

So that was something that I thought was really important because evidently they had, she said that was a big problem they had last year with.

They had people who-old. well, no, They you. We're handicapped and didn't know where to go. And I sent links to a lot of those things.

[@42:11](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Great. Thank you. Thank you, Maryann. Um, Sibby, you want to give a little garden report?

[@42:21](#) - **Cibby**

Yes, thank you. We are back to having our activities. We started last week with a Martin Luther King Community Garden.

I don't know if you know that we, UUC and Bill and My Veggie Garden are partnering with the community garden, the Martin Luther King Community Garden.

And they are really growing the community. We had 15 new people last week.

[@42:55](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Wow.

[@42:56](#) - **Cibby**

Um, all of them, of course, from African descendants, I'm I'm I'm Some were from Jamaica, some from the Dominican Republic, some from Puerto Rico.

The youngest was three years old, and the oldest was 75 years old. From all walks of life, people are coming to learn how to garden because they want to eat healthier.

So this is really great. And the next weekend is our side of the partnership. EON and some of the gardeners over there will be coming to our activity that we have on August the 30th, where we will be doing a volunteer day in the forest from 8.30 to 11.00 and then from 11.00 to 11

1130 we will have a meditation time in the forest, from 1130 to noon we will have a quick gardening class, and then from there on we will have a potluck in a drum circle, and if you're wondering why we have all these activities in one day, it's because we're having a partnership with the Gulf Coast JFCS Center with the Jewish Center.

They requested that we do activities for the refugees that are coming. We have about 20 refugees coming to our activity next week, about seven families, some of them will volunteer in the forest, some of them are coming for the gardening class, some of them are coming.

Coming for the potluck and the meditation, but the fact is that what Mary Vasquez, the director who is doing the partnership with us, what she wants is a safe place where refugees can come and have not only physical but mental, a mental health place where they can come and feel safe.

And we are trying to provide that place to be at UUC to be the forest and the gardens.

[@45:37](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Oh, that's wonderful.

[@45:39](#) - **Cibby**

Yes, we are very happy about that. I have a meeting with Mary this afternoon to continue with the activities, monthly activities, so that we can continue to bring the refugees into our campus.

Yes. Um, so, uh... So this is happening next week. We are very happy also to say that our neighbors are coming also.

Some of them just walking to the gardens and forest, and I have invited them. Hopefully they will come, but some of my neighbors are very enthusiastic about our forest being restored.

And they see the changes that are happening. So more and more neighbors are coming into our forest. Okay, now into the teaching garden.

This fall semester, the nonprofit that I lead, Salus Production, brand name, Building My Veggie Garden, is having a partnership with USF.

We are going to have three interns. We are very blessed and grateful that USF gave us that opportunity. They are paying the interns through the Mellon Foundation for the interns to come all the way over here and be part of what we are doing.

I am also trying to see if we can do a video about what we're doing in the forest, the restoring of the forest, so we'll see if that happens.

But the agreement that we have with USF right now is that they want to hear about the teaching garden, what we have in there.

So we'll see what happens. Our program with the interns start next week, the 30th at 3 p.m. when they will be coming.

To the teaching garden and starting with some videos to promote what they are doing and to promote what the partnership that we have with the USF.

We are also, I talked a little bit about the partnership that we have with Mayor Baskis and the Gulf Coast JFCS Center.

We are very happy about that because that means that our campus is becoming a place where refugees can come.

And so for us, that is really, really amazing and important. The food forest. Representatives of the Clearwater City came to tour the forest on Wednesday, this last Wednesday.

We've been trying to get a grant from the city for a very long time. And so they came to look at our forest, what we're doing, the restoration process, and what we're doing.

And so they are agreeable to partner with UUC on environmental and extreme heat actions so that we are waiting to see how that develops and what it is that they want us to do so that we can comply with what they want so that we can get funding for what we're doing in the forest.

So we are very excited about that. In the last three months, I've been contacting every university and college here in the Tampa Bay area to see what universities and colleges want to partnership with us to actually restore the forest.

and, uh, After many conversations and emails going on with basically all universities on the side of Tampa and on the side of Pinellas, we are, I'm happy to say that I have solidified partnerships with two colleges, UF and IFAS, and Eckhart College.

UF IFAS agreed to share with us the Grandmaster Gardeners who volunteer in their program. So we have a Grandmaster Gardener volunteer coming this Sunday at 4pm to take a tour of our forest and see how he and another Master Gardener can, uh, us with.

Um, so they are... Coming this Sunday, I'm very excited because this is something that Mark is one of them.

He is very excited to work in a forest. He says that even though he's a gardener, he's never really working in a forest.

So he is willing to do labor work and learn whatever he can to help us with our mission. So I'm very happy about that.

The other partnership that is happening right now is with Eckhart College. They have a form and they have a volunteer program.



Out of the volunteer program, students are supposed to do 70 hours of volunteer work per semester. So I've been talking to the professor in charge of the volunteer program. program and I said, is there a way that we can put our programs there we That So Organizations in front of our of your students and see that because it's a long drive, you know, from Eckhart College all the way to here.

But it'd be great if the students that work in the farm and all the students who want to volunteer in environmental issues, if they can come and help us with the forest.

So we are in talks about them getting a bus and coming once a month to our forest to help us volunteer, to help us restore, do whatever it needs to be done.

And they also want to do internships, but we're not ready for that yet in the forest. But we're trying to figure out what it is that they need so that we can comply with the requirements of the internship, so that we can start some sort of

A program in the spring of 2026, so that we can bring students from universities to come and have an internship and have an internship program in our forest where students not only can come to learn, but they can also come and help us restore our beautiful forest.

So we are very excited about all these things happening. So the Professor Adam, who is in charge of the volunteer program, is so intrigued about what we're doing that he's coming to volunteer with his two kids.

He's bringing his two kids and he's volunteering on next week on the 30th. And he says he wants to bring the students by the buses.

He says, you know, but... And, you know, he said it's up to the students where they want to volunteer, so we are trying to come up with a good promotional thing so that the students want to come to our forest, so very excited.

We are very excited about that. No, but the front gardens, yes, the front gardens are also part of our committee.

We are very excited that an idea came up that there's a little free library in the front of the building. We want, we, well, Chris came up with the idea, so I said, well, you're designated to go and talk to the ER Lifetime Learning, you go and ask them if we can put

A little section where we can put seeds in there so that people can come and bring, take not only books, but they can also take seeds so they can put it in their gardens.

So hopefully ER will say yes and we'll have a little section there of free seeds in our little free library in front of the building.

[@55:26](#) - **Trude Diamond**

So that's a wonderful idea.

[@55:28](#) - **Cibby**

Yes, isn't it? Yeah, I thought it was wonderful that our neighbors can, you know, be part of what we're doing and they can tell others, you know, about free seeds and they can come to us and ask about what we're doing.

So I thought that was wonderful.

[@55:51](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Yeah, that's great.

[@55:53](#) - **Cibby**

So that's my reward.

[@55:55](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Thank you. Sibby, really need to start doing something because you're clearly not doing enough. So please do something.

[@56:01](#) - **Cibby**

Bye. Oh, my God.

[@56:07](#) - **Trude Diamond**

What an impressive report.

[@56:09](#) - **Cibby**

Thank you, Cibby. That's amazing.

[@56:11](#) - **Trude Diamond**

I'm really excited to hear about the project with the refugees and just all of your projects are just so in line with, you know, our goals and our values and what we're trying to put out to the community. So thank you.

[@56:30](#) - **Maryann/Fla**

Maryann, did you have something you wanted to I just wanted to ask again, what was the date of the volunteer day that you mentioned at the beginning?

[@56:39](#) - **Cibby**

It's August the 30th.

[@56:41](#) - **Maryann/Fla**

It's next Saturday.

[@56:42](#) - **Cibby**

Okay. And so, yes, we are very excited that Mary Vasquez, the director of the Jewish Center, she wants to partner with us.

She came and the pitch that she had at the beginning was that we had floods for the- For the, for the refugees, but her idea was not about the refugees coming to, um, coming to, uh, plant in, in do a garden, um, I think what she wants to build is a community, a community where the refugees can come and feel safe, and we are more than willing to be that community for them.

So we are very happy that Mary's talking to us about it.

[@57:35](#) - **Trude Diamond**

So, yes. That's wonderful. Wonderful. Thank I'm looking forward to meeting them on Saturday, whoever's there.

[@57:45](#) - **Cibby**

Thank you.

[@57:46](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Thank you. That would be awesome. Okay, um, let's move on to our new and continuing section. Um, the first thing on the agenda is the Democracy Advocacy Team and the...

You all got copies of that AWI, and I think you probably got copies of me before as well. If you recall, a couple of months ago now, the UU Social Justice Group in Washington, D.C. had a workshop and talked about this AWI that was passed at the General Assembly that has to do with faithful defiance of authoritarianism, reaffirming our covenants for democracy and freedom. And during this, I did go to that webinar, and there's UU congregations, one presented, that has taken this AWI, looked at the recommendations for Congregations, and actually has started to implement it. And I thought that this is something that really makes sense in terms of what we do here at UUC.

At the same time, at the last board meeting, Bruce Scott mentioned that he would like to see the congregation being involved in some of these pro-democracy kinds of actions, and was told to, you know, get a group together and start looking at that idea and bring it back to the board, which Bruce did, and he involved me, and then I told him what I was thinking about with this AIW, this Action for Media Witness.

And so it just was a lot of good things. Things coming together at the same time. So the board is going to be meeting on Wednesday and they are going to be voting or discussing on this resolution that is in this AIW.

And they are also gonna be looking at putting together a democracy advocacy team that I think a lot of people will be involved in.

Because this whole idea of fighting fascism and promoting democracy in our country right now is something that's bigger than just our social justice team, as mighty as we are, to participate in. However, I do think that many of you have been invited to . Participate in this Democracy Advocacy Team, which would be the steering committee for bigger projects as time goes on, as it's envisioned.

But I also wanted us to think about the things that we're doing and how we might expand what we're doing to meet the times that we're at.

And use some of the tools or some of the things that we have in place already to help our community and the community at large fight fascism and promote democracy.

And so did you all have a chance to look at the AWI that I sent out? Does everybody have a chance to look at that?

[@1:01:57](#) - Sue Hand

I'm just reading it now.

[@1:02:00](#) - Trude Diamond

Okay. Um. So if you look towards the end, there's a section that specifically talks about what this AIW is asking congregations, UU congregations, to do.

The first bullet point is adoptive congregational resolution that affirms their collective commitment to protect and strengthen freedom and democracy and to resist through peaceful and principled means encroachment by authoritarian forces seeking to strip citizens and non-citizens of their rights, voices, and power and to hold leaders accountable.

And that's going before the board at the board meeting. The next thing that is on this bullet point is to contribute to a vital pro-democracy movement by designating or creating a democracy.

The action team, or whatever your UUC, or whatever your UUC community chooses to call it, composed of congregational members.

And that's what is also being promoted at the board meeting. And there is a group of people that have come together to be the steering committee for that community.

We're calling it a democracy advocacy team. So what I see as the Social Justice Council piece of this, again, is for us to look at what we're doing already and build on that.

So the first thing is building an existing infrastructure guidance and support by engaging with UU organizations and other UU congregations, as well as local, state, and national organizations and religious groups.

Please. you. And so I just wanted to spend a minute or two to think about what local groups do we have connections with that we can reach out to in building this community, this community of, you know, resisting this.

So can we just do a little bit thinking about what we might, what we might change or what we might do in our communities in that we're already sort of doing to promote this?

I'm going to throw out one idea to get this, get the thinking going. And then what I was thinking about is that in the, you know, we all, we do have the social justice calendar that Carol Hamilton keeps up to date.

Um, in the past we've, we've. We've, kept that to be just UUC, things that we're doing or that we have endorsed, and what I was thinking that a way that we could expand that effort is to also promote that calendar, but also include things that some of our groups that we're affiliating with, or coordinating with, is doing, so that that would be a more inclusive calendar.

It would not be limited just to things that our UUC organization is doing. But for example, I've had people say, well, I hear about these protests in the community, but I don't know that they're happening.

Is there a way that the Social Justice Council can communicate to the congregation and other people that get the calendar that these protests are going?

Or specific seminars or webinars that are being presented in the community that are being sponsored or co-sponsored by the Social Justice Council or UUC, you know, so that we're taking a more upfront or position that we are, that we as a UUC, the Social Justice Council is supporting some of these protests.

A lot of us are already going to them, but a lot of people don't know that we're, that we're, that, but then they're going as individuals, not as members of UUC.

So what do you think about that idea? Sue?

#### [@1:06:54](#) - Sue Hand

Sue? Sue? Sue? Sue? Sue? Sue? Sue? I delete every day. I just, I find it overwhelming because I've expressed interest and I've donated to things.

And so I'm on a million lists and I can't keep up with it. And what I'm thinking is that it would be great if we had one person who was keeping an eye on one set of things, like there's a person you can contact.

If you want to know what's happening with Side With Love. And they're just going to commit to keeping up to date on that one organization.

So anyone who wants to know can contact that person. I feel like I could be more useful if I only had one, you know, like if I only was in charge of making sure that anybody who had questions about what's going on at they say.

You could call me or contact me. I think that a lot of people are feeling overwhelmed and, and there are lots of organizations that are doing good, good work, but you can't support everything.

#### [@1:08:22](#) - Trude Diamond

Right. And there's different, you know, a lot of places are looking for financial support and other places are looking for action, you know.

Either to protest or write letters or sign petitions or whatever. So it's, it, I know what you mean about being, feeling overwhelmed, which sometimes could lead to, lead to not doing anything because you're so overwhelmed.

And so that's what I was hoping that maybe the social justice council could assist people in filtering out some of those things by focusing on certain things.  
So on the same level as you're thinking about it.

[@1:09:02](#) - **Sue Hand**

Yeah. And I think that, you know, for me, the level of participation, it really makes a big difference to me.

Like, I'm not going to be going out standing on a street corner starting conversations with strangers. It's just not in my wheelhouse.

But there are things that I can do. And, and I think people need to, to be involved at the level that they're, that they're comfortable and a little bit stretched, rather than, rather than getting so overwhelmed, they don't do anything.

[@1:09:47](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Good point. Other folks?

[@1:09:54](#) - **Trude Diamond**

What she said.

[@1:10:00](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Anything else? That no other thoughts about that. All right. Well, then I think that that being said, I wonder how we could implement that.

And what organizations do you feel like we need to be connected to in our community? I mean, there's a million, there's organizations that are like national organizations, you know, that don't have any local affiliation, they're working on a national level.

But then there's local affiliate, there's local things that are happening or local affiliated organizations. So what groups are you familiar with that you think that would be important for us to be connected to?

[@1:11:02](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Well, I'm not personally familiar, like I haven't called them and talked with people, but our recipient for next month, Common Cause Florida, which is very voting focused and voter focused, they co-lead a non-partisan Florida Election Protection Coalition of over 35 organizations.

Sounds like a one and done kind of support we can do to them, and their staff does all of the connections to others.

Beyond that, there's a small but growing voter activist group that I'll talk about in a minute. But I really think Common Cause is...

[@1:12:05](#) - **Trude Diamond**

I know that you said that you're not that you haven't like talked with anyone. Are they, are they just like a, do you know if they're just like on a state level or if they have local affiliates?

[@1:12:18](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Let me find out real quick.

[@1:12:21](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Go and talk about other things and I will look at their website again real quick. Yes. I mean, clearly this voter focus is going to be something that we are going to be having.

[@1:12:31](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Well, okay. Their banner is fighting the influence of money in politics. They defeated Amendment 6 on the 2024 Florida ballot.

So I'm pretty sure they are a Florida organization. Yeah. Keep Florida voting. New laws and voting can be confusing together and make sure all eligible Florida voters have access to the ballot box. And I'm taking a look at the page.

[@1:13:00](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Marianne.

[@1:13:01](#) - **Maryann/Fla**

Go I know Indivisible is one that's very active locally. I know I've talked to it, you know, I've been mentioning about the Ukrainian man who I've made a connection with, and that's something that he locally is very active in and has even gone to D.C.

to, you know, a couple of months ago. So I'm kind of inclined, I'm like Sue, I just, it's overwhelming, and of the things that I get, but I agree, I try to do it, things that we're really going to be able to be involved in locally, physically locally.

Mm-hmm. So like, and a common cause to, do they have a local active group or?

[@1:13:55](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Yeah, well that's what, that's what Trude is, is looking at.

[@1:13:59](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Yeah. Yeah. Right now. Just so I don't have to keep running my mouth, I am going to put in the chat a link to Common Causes page on how Floridians can help each other register to vote, and so you can, you know, copy it to yourself and look at it over the course of the next month, and we can decide, you know, what to do.

So actually, the smaller group that I'm going to talk about in a little bit, okay, the link is in the chat for Common Causes, the one I'm going to talk about is kind of redundant with one of the methods, not redundant, but it's a how to implement one of the methods that's on this page from Common Causes.

[@1:14:52](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Great. So getting back with Indivisible, I know that I get a lot of stuff from Indivisible as well, but I know that they are, they are directly.

Directly. They're for organizing a lot of the protests that are going on, and so they would be a helpful group to keep us in touch with that.

They're also involved in a training program called One Million Rising, and it's a training program to help people recognize that we are in the throes of a fascist, of a fascist takeover, a little bit about what that means, and also how people can identify their own personal spheres of influence and take steps to resist within their own spheres of influence.

I took that training, and that might be something that we have available, a training like that at you. UUC as a support of Indivisible, but certainly that would be, we have people in our congregation that are very involved in it, Lori Ergel and Janine, blanking on her last name?

[@1:16:22](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

Coyne.

[@1:16:23](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Coyne, thank you, are both very active in Indivisible, and so I think that that would definitely be another group.

Another group in terms of voting action is the League of Women Voters, and I know they have a local chapter here, so that would be another.

One of the things that, you know, the gerrymandering issue that's come up, and it looks like Governor DeSantis is going to be going to to get the state of Miami.

For I mean, it's already gerrymandered out of, you know, I mean, look what's happened in Pinellas County last time, but there may be a letter writing campaign to a local representative, state representatives that about, and letters to the editor and other kinds of, you know, letter writing kind of stuff that we can start doing now to protest.

going into special session to further gerrymander the district. So something like that would be, I would think that the league might have some information about that.

But that sounds like something that, that our congregation could do, because that we're good at postcards and letters and letters to the editor.

[@1:17:58](#) - **Trude Diamond**

And how much good did I do? But anyway, here's. Here's. Here's just some information that might light a fire under some of this.

And this is, you can find this information just through Google or Gemini or whatever AI du jour you like.

So it's just numbers. Florida used to be, in terms of voter registration, majority Democratic, although Democrats didn't turn out to vote.

So it crept being more and more Republican in its voting, who actually showed up. And now, in terms of registration, there are more than a million more registered Republicans than Democrats.

So getting progressives and even independents to be registered to vote at all is really important. That fits into a nation.

I picture of registered Democrats nationally. I forget the number, so look it up if you care enough to do that.

But let's just say, do you know how much it is, Sue?

[@1:19:22](#) - **Sue Hand**

I don't, but I do have a comment when you're done with that sentence.

[@1:19:28](#) - **Trude Diamond**

I didn't mean to interrupt. Okay, I thought you might have the crucial number. Although if you look it up, let me know.

But let's say it's, I'm just pulling this out of the air. Let's say it's Democrats have lost a little bit, let's say 2.3 million registered Democrats across the nation.

Republicans have gained a cat!

[@1:20:00](#) - **Trude Diamond**

goody!

[@1:20:02](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Katz would do Republicans a lot of good.

[@1:20:06](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Amy has joined the committee, that's all.

[@1:20:12](#) - **Trude Diamond**

And Republicans have gained 2.1 tenth more registered Republicans. That does not mean that the Democrats all became Republicans. It means that people who were registered Democrats may have lost faith in pretty much everything and registered as independent.

And some people who were independent were not registered at all before, have registered as Republican. My point is, we have a lot of wiggle room for persuading.

There's a big wedge of people that we can persuade.

[@1:20:57](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Mm-hmm.

[@1:20:58](#) - **Trude Diamond**

And a million of them are in Florida. Yeah. So.

[@1:21:02](#) - **Sue Hand**

I heard that same report on the radio, on NPR, and they were focusing particularly on Florida, but I think that it's misleading because Trump has a residence in Florida, and any time that you survey the activity of the voters in the state where the president lives, I think it's going to show more activity on the side of that party and less on the other side.

And with this particular administration being so negative and foul-mouthed, it doesn't surprise me that there are people who don't want to admit that they're democratic in this environment.

I don't want to take those numbers with a grain of salt. I really do. I mean, I don't think that that means that we shouldn't do anything.

I just think it's going to be, it's going to be skewed on the side of whoever the president's party is.

[@1:22:15](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Yeah, I did see a guy who's very conservative leaning, who's a researcher, wrote a book recently affiliated with the Manhattan Institute, which is supposedly libertarian neutral, but it's really conservative. He said that his reporting, his research, found that more people from, say, the Midwest have moved here to retirees who were registered Republicans anyway.

I mean, we know that we're a big attraction for retirees. And on the West Coast, from the Midwest. So that's part of that.

Whatever the cause is, and however honest people are in their registration versus how they actually vote, as Sue was saying, we still have a big wedge of people to persuade to not vote against their own interests.

[@1:23:26](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Right. Yeah. I think there is definitely work to do. So I would like, this is not going to be decided or finalized here in this moment, but I think we've got some directions to go to if people can continue to look, think about what other organizations they want to link up with.

And I'll speak with Carol Hamilton about starting to put more information about what's happening with some other community organizations.

Carol Hamilton, and Carol See if we can start doing things as congregants at UUC to be visible to the community that we are concerned about this.

Any final statements about this before we move on?



[@1:24:18](#) - **Sue Hand**

Sue Hand? Is there an appropriate place for some of this information on our website? I know we're walking a fine line between being political and apolitical, but since democracy is right in our mission statement, surely there's some wiggle room there to put Yeah, I think, well, you just reminded me about what the piece that I wanted to add that I couldn't remember is, and that has to do with rewriting the web page.

[@1:25:03](#) - **Trude Diamond**

And so I just wrote that down as number six on our agenda, and we'll get back with that and keep that in mind when we get back with that.

[@1:25:11](#) - **Sue Hand**

Okay.

[@1:25:12](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Okay. Great. All right. So let's go on to Trude, you wanted to talk about the Voter Action Pinellas. That's a fast item because you, you know.

[@1:25:22](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Yeah, real quick. Voter Action Pinellas, who's, you can Google Voter Action Pinellas, you'll get their web page, go read them.

They use an app. They were busy during the last election, which of course they're, they are a democratic leaning group.

They're not necessarily. They spoke at, um, the last month's, uh, Upper Pinellas Women's Democratic Club, which is where I heard the, one of the founders talk about this.

Um, they have an app called Reach, R-E-A-C-S The link that I saw for it was tied to the old Harris Waltz or Biden Harris campaign website, but REACH is an app that lets you maintain a list of acquaintances, of informed, enthusiastic voters in Pinellas, and you can provide them voter registration and mail ballot information just casually.

understand, you know, Sue's description of walking up to strangers and starting to talk about politics, even just voting, is not something that's in my nature to do.

But if you are at a protest, you know, not everybody at a protest necessarily has All the links for where to make sure you're registered, register if you're not registered, you know, if you got unregistered, if you got wiped out with something that DeSantis did and you need to re-register to ask for a mail-in ballot.

One of the main things that I got from the woman speaking from Voter Action Pinellas is that ballot voting is critically important that people who, and this is data they can track because all these numbers are recorded, the percentage of people who get mail-in ballots actually do use them to vote.

compared to the number of people who are registered voters and who just want to walk in even if they do early voting.

So the number of registered voters who ask for For a ballot versus the number of registered voters who don't ask for a ballot and just intend to vote because they're registered, the percentage is higher of those who asked for a ballot.

So that's what's important, and I don't even want to talk about Trump's blather recently because Putin said ballots are dangerous.

He would have lost if there hadn't been Republicans voting by ballot last time. So, really? Anyway, I think that using the Reach app, if you get the, you know, phone number or email address of people who are interested in finding out this information, you send it to them.

You can ask them to, you know, consider voting early and then follow up with them to see if they have just a friendly little, I think these notes are.

Are automated. Hey, did you have everything you need to vote? Did you get it all? If you lost the link, here it is again.

And because we want to remain politically nonpartisan, this would be an individual commitment to share factual information among our beyond UUC friends and family and colleagues from other organizations, just to increase the number of well-informed, enthusiastic voters in Pinellas.

I mean, this isn't something, because they're so Democrat-affiliated, I don't think we should do it as UUC, but as individuals, sure can.

[@1:29:51](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Okay.

[@1:29:52](#) - **Trude Diamond**

And it's just how to vote and where.

[@1:29:54](#) - **Trude Diamond**

It's not which way to vote. There's no... Yeah. Yeah.

[@1:29:58](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Great. Okay. They had great success with... ... Voting among the people that they're small but growing at work because once you get somebody who didn't know, somebody who's uninformed, knowledgeable, they have a whole lot more friends who are just as uninformed as they are than you may have of uninformed friends.

[@1:30:22](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Okay. Sounds good.

[@1:30:24](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Thank you.

[@1:30:25](#) - **Trude Diamond**

all I got. Thanks. Okay. Let's move on to the next thing, which is not the thing I forgot because this next thing is what we were talking about.

Social Justice webpage and new video by Margie.

[@1:30:38](#) - **17272156850**

Hi. I'm on the phone.

[@1:30:40](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Margie's on the phone. She's coming back from her birthday celebration. And are you still driving, Margie?

[@1:30:50](#) - **17272156850**

I am driving on I-4 and it's, it's lightly raining. So, um, uh, a little challenged here, but that's okay.

Do you want to do a little report? I agree. Yes and I'm going to try and be brief. When Urban Gypsies, I'm going to take you back a couple weeks to when Urban Gypsies appeared at UUC and it was wonderful and I, for the offering, I created a video highlighting the social justice action that's taken place over the last 12 to 18 months at UUC and I also create the welcome videos in case you all aren't aware of that.

So it was similar to that. I found some music. I'd be answering the call of love music and put the pictures to the music and created a video.

And Linda happened to be the Zoom host that day and said she really liked it, would like to find another use for it beyond the one time offering at the service.

So it is now posted on the UUC social justice page on the website. Okay. In asking Ann. Ann Gilbert, our office administrator, is the person who actually posted on the website.

In asking Ann to do it, I was poking around the website, and I discovered there are actually two social justice webpages on the website, which in itself is a little confusing.

There is one in the About Us tab. You go to the website, you go to About Us, and you scroll down in the tab, there's a social justice portion.

And then there's another one on the tab that says, find your place, find your place at UUC. And the two pages are similar, but also different.

And there was some outdated information on the one that's in the About Us tab, about having an immigrant and refugee committee, and noted that that is now on hiatus, but nonetheless, the information is still up there.

her, but Thank you we're so, I think question issue And I'm afraid I don't have it in front of me since I'm driving, but I did look at it before.

There are some detailed descriptions on the social justice page that's on the Find Your Place tab.

There are some detailed descriptions of committees, but I'm not sure they're up to date.

I'm not sure they're current. What I propose to Linda, oh, and by the way, that's where the video now lives.

If you go to Find Your Place, Social Justice, at the bottom you can find that video. What I propose to Linda was that each person on the Social Justice Council who's involved with a committee or a group under social justice, look over the description, see if it's current, if it needs to be updated, if there's things that you're doing now that you weren't doing when it was written, how it can be revised, and just freshening it up.

I also think I might... My personal recommendation is that it's confusing to have two different social justice webpages and I'm putting on my communications professional hat on this aspect.

It's confusing. So I would eliminate one of them and probably the one that's under the About Us section. I also see, I know there is a separate page for the food forest and garden activities.

I believe it should belong under the social justice page because that also is a little confusing. But those were my thoughts on this.

So I'd love to hear any feedback on what I said or anything anybody has to say.

[@1:34:53](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Thank you, Margie. Be careful. You're on the road there. So, Sue, do you...

[@1:35:03](#) - **Sue Hand**

Did you have your hand up? No, I was seeing if there was really two pages to the agenda.

[@1:35:17](#) - **Trude Diamond**

So I absolutely agree with Margie. I think that we need to have one page. And when Margie mentioned this, I thought, you know, really, if you look at the council, because like Margie said, she

was suggesting that each person who is the head of a group, that the council, I mean, we have groups that report regularly in the council.

Our environmental group right now is on hiatus, and I don't know what's happening with that. The racial justice group has

It a report, but it's not, it's more like what's happening in the community and what people have gone to, and I'm just wondering, and we're talking now about some big things that are happening in our society that we may need to address, and I'm just, I'm wondering about if this, if the structure that we have that we have for reporting and so forth is really the, the right structure for our council at this moment.

I mean, clearly the garden and the far and the food forest is, is a very energetic piece of our social justice work right now.

Um, and FAST continues to be a piece of our social justice work right now. Certainly our giving part that the the, um,

The recipient and that monthly giving that we have set up continues to be a vibrant piece in our social justice.

I'm wondering if we may want to take a look at, in terms of the webpage, if we want to restructure our social justice system.

Council at this point. And this might be, Margie, I think you gave me the inspiration when you said the people to write what they're doing.

And I'm saying, well, it seems like we need, you know, there's, there's these, there's other pieces that are happening.

And I'm, I'm just wondering if we could have like a subcommittee to, to think about a restructuring of the Council.

What do people think about that? Bigger question. I think about what your role is here, what you've been doing.

Yes, Trude?

#### [@1:38:17](#) - **Trude Diamond**

I think that since it's a web page on our public facing medium media, that we should show what the whole structure is, what each of the pieces parts are.

But how it's presented visually might be structured so that big things we're doing. So the big things we're doing are more front and center.

#### [@1:39:00](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Could you say more about that, Trude?

#### [@1:39:02](#) - **Trude Diamond**

I'm not sure I understand. you. Well, I'm not either.

#### [@1:39:05](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Yeah, I know you're thinking it through it. We all are, yeah.

#### [@1:39:08](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Okay, here's a web page. If you could have a featured event of the month that changes every month. I'm sure that several months at least of the year, it's going to be the food forest, because that is such a big thing within our community, as well as in the community at large, because it's something that attracts people from all around.

But as we do other things, if we're having, if we're hosting some kind of festival, if we're hosting one of LSAO's Hispanic organizations, it's something like that could be, you know, big top banner, third of the page, blah, blah, blah.

And then the other. Things could be, you know, we need people to be able to see the different kinds of things, like FAST, like interfaith, like racial justice, like, you know, ecology, blah, blah, blah, but because that lets people know if we're doing something in whatever is closest to their heart.

But we should also feature the some big thing a month. I'm done.

[@1:40:34](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Okay. Reverend Amy?

[@1:40:37](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

Yeah, I think the responsibility for who put, who tells and what to put every month on the pages. I don't think that's going to realistically, I'm just saying realistically, it might happen for a month or two, and then it'll kind of get forgotten.

But I do think they ought to consolidate. I think that what's great about the social. the a Yes. Justice Listing is there's bold titles for each group, I think, rather than having the separate reports, that maybe it is, these are the groups that UUC incorporates, that we're all doing, and the description under those groups, because I think an outsider would say, what are these groups?

What are they doing? And kind of a general what we do, what we do, what we do, who we affiliate with, the report, the monthly report, I don't, I think that's okay to be public, if you're interested in seeing most recent activities, click on this monthly report, and then a link, do you want to get involved?

Go here, which would have the activities, if you want. Now, if you're nervous about public, knowing what activities and where you're going to be is different, but maybe even send them to the Octogram, sign up to get the Octogram so you can keep up to date, and then we know who's Thank you.

So I agree with you, I do think, though, for the web page, probably, and it's a good idea, Trude, but realistically, if I think in the beginning it might happen, but six months from now, I don't think, I don't, I don't think we'll be able to, maybe a Facebook page posting that, so you all send something to Lori Thorne, who can update a Facebook posting, or you all can update the Facebook posting, that's realistic.

[@1:42:31](#) - **Trude Diamond**

You know, real quick, to Reverend Amy's point, there could be something fairly prominent on the one page that will consolidate to saying, for today's monthly, you know, for this month's featured activity, a link to the Facebook page.

[@1:42:53](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Yes.

[@1:42:55](#) - **Cibby**

Yes. Yes. I do appreciate that we are part of this amazing council. Thank And I totally agree that we should be under the Social Justice Council, but I also think that while we are trying to figure out a way to attract people to help us restore the forest, we need to have it up front and on, where people can find it easily, so that when we are promoting our activities, when we are asking people to come and be part of the community, that there will be not too many layers in which they have to find the forest.

I also think that the less clicks they can take, the better, so that they can find us. I also think that it's I'm You

A good thing for people to, because the neighbors, you know, they, some of them, you know, I'm there almost every day when it's not raining.

And some people have told me, I didn't even know you had a forest here. So I think that, um, it is important for people to understand that we are part of these, part of the neighborhood.

We are part of these, uh, way in which we are willing to restore our communities with the forest, with, with, uh, all these activities that we are trying to promote through the forest.

I appreciate being part of the social justice, but I think that while we are trying to attract not only people in our neighborhood, but, uh,

As well as people in the educational institutions and people who don't know about us yet and what we're doing, I think this is a good thing to have the food force up front to say this is part of who we are and what we have in our campus.

So I'm asking for an exception, you know, if we have to be in two places, I would ask that you give us the grace to have that.

[@1:45:46](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Where are you? Where's your page now on the website?

[@1:45:49](#) - **Cibby**

On the website, where you go at the UUC page, we have actually our own where you go and find your...

[@1:46:04](#) - **Trude Diamond**

We are the second choice where it says, uh, be comfortable. Oh, I see. So you're in the find your place.

[@1:46:10](#) - **Cibby**

Okay.

[@1:46:11](#) - **Trude Diamond**

So, um, so you could be in both places, basically.

[@1:46:17](#) - **Cibby**

I'm hoping that we can do that.

[@1:46:20](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Yeah. I think it's certainly something we should look at considering the, considering the, the, um, unusual circumstances or the different circumstances that, that, um, Thank you.

We'll need to look. We'll certainly need to look at that.

[@1:46:40](#) - **Cibby**

Yeah. Thank you.

[@1:46:42](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Well, I think that we're at a point now where we, where the actual work needs, we need a little subcommittee.

So I'm willing to work on this webpage. Is there anyone else that's willing to work with me?

[@1:46:55](#) - 17272156850

I would be glad to work. This is Margie.

[@1:46:57](#) - **Trude Diamond**

I would be glad to work with you on that. Thanks, Margie. And Sue Hand, I see raised her hand. Okay. And so that would be awesome, and we will get back to the bigger committee with some clarity on this.

Bob, did you want to say something?

[@1:47:15](#) - **bob hedlund**

As much as I hate to volunteer, I think I should probably share a little bit about how the current webpage works and what is functionally possible.

**ACTION ITEM: Email webpage subcommittee (Margie, Sue Hand, Bob) to schedule Zoom meeting for social justice webpage restructuring - [WATCH](#)**

[@1:47:31](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Oh, okay. So you want to be on that committee too?

[@1:47:33](#) - **bob hedlund**

Awesome.

[@1:47:34](#) - **Sue Hand**

Yeah.

[@1:47:39](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Okay. So we have our little webpage group and we will get together. I'll be sending you an email to see if we can get a Zoom meeting going.

Okay. Thank you very much, Margie, for raising that. And thank you so much for putting together that wonderful video.

I hope everyone clicks and has an opportunity to see that video.

[@1:48:02](#) - **Sue Hand**

I just loved it.

[@1:48:03](#) - **Trude Diamond**

So perfect. The next thing that we have, we have to really move quickly because we're running out of time, is the Transforming Hearts Trans Inclusion.

And really, I'm going to sort of change this to, you know, I think you all know that we were able to renew our status as a welcoming congregation for LGBTQ folks in through the UUA.

And this is something that we have to renew annually. And the way that we do that is by, is by meeting certain standards that have been put forth by the Welcoming Community Program at the UUA.

And we have, one of them is to provide a educational program, at least one during the year. And, and to do this, there's a, there's a, there's

Training for an inclusion training for trans folks that was put on, that was developed by this organization that's a UUA-affiliated organization called Transforming Hearts Collective, and some of

you may remember Alex Capitan, who spoke at our, gave a sermon in one of our May worship services.

Do you all remember Alex? Did you all have an opportunity to see him, or a Z? He goes...

[@1:49:39](#) - **Sue Hand**

Yes, he was incredible. Z was incredible.

[@1:49:41](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Was his talk ever put out there on our website? Pardon me?

[@1:49:49](#) - **Sue Hand**

Was his talk ever put out on our website?

[@1:49:52](#) - **Trude Diamond**

No, I don't believe it was recorded.

[@1:49:54](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

Let me look on YouTube.

[@1:49:57](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Yeah, I did not see it when I was on YouTube, but it may have been because that was also when we would be...

We were bombed by those people on Zoom, and the people who, the Zoom host, it was me, and Rich in the box, we were sort of, like, freaking out as these people were Zoom bombing us.

So I'm not sure it was. However, Alex is an amazing person, and he has put this together with others, and it has six parts to it, or six different videos, that the way that this works is that the video, these videos are going to be going out to all UUC members and friends, then they can look at those videos.

There's six of them, they're about an hour long, and they're wonderful. They're just wonderful, really good learning experience. Then there's also going to be three group discussions at UUC after the service on three Sundays, the first Sunday of October, November, and December.

And each discussion is going to be like, the first one is October 5th, and we'll be discussing videos one and two.

November 2nd will be videos three and four. And December 7th will be videos five and six. So we'll be having, so people can reflect on what they've learned.

I'll be facilitating the discussions. And that will be the whole training session. You can look at the videos and never go to a discussion, but I am asking people who come to the discussion if they have seen the videos.

So everyone will have an opportunity to do this training on their own or in discussion in the patio room.

So it's interesting. UUC purchased this for our congregation a couple of years ago. These videos were done a number of years ago, and then they have been updated since then.

But we found out that we had these purchased. And Alex did say that these videos were to be used for UUC members and friends only.

So it's not something that is really appropriate. something that had to be for. The community at large, but it's certainly a good training for us, and it does really talk about how we can be a more inclusive congregation, and not just for trans people, but, you know, these things are all intersectionals, and they talk about this.



So I think it's going to be an exciting learning for our congregation in general. So this is something that is going to be counted, so to speak, for our renewing, our welcoming congregation status in the UUA.

**ACTION ITEM: Draft email to Lauren Logan re sending Transforming Hearts Trans Inclusion video links to members/friends only (not Octagram) - [WATCH](#)**

And so I'm really excited about that and wanted to let you know that that was happening. And we will be putting out, as I spoke with Lauren Logan, to find out if she can put out something through. That doesn't go, it can't be in the octagram because that goes out to the bigger community, so I needed something that would go just to members and friends, and she said that she could do that, a separate one, just for members and friends, that would not be in the octagram, so she'll be talking with you, Reverend Amy, about that, and I'll be sending her out something to do that with.

Are there any questions about this? Okay, so part two of this presentation is that one of the other requirements that we need to meet to be a welcoming congregation is to do some fundraising for a local organization that supports the LGBTQ community.

Last year, as you remember, we had a dramatic bingo, and I certainly hope that we'll be able to do that again.

Again, this year, but we've also been approached with another, another option or another opportunity to do a little fundraising for a local organization that supports LGBTQ people, and that is the Navigator Scouts.

The Navigator Scouts is an organization that has, it's a national organization that is like, is like Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, but it's, it's been, it's set up to be more inclusive, to meet the needs of, of kids that may be not, non-binary or trans or just needing to have a more inclusive environment, to be sensitive to that and to be welcoming, to be just an extraordinarily welcoming program for youth that is like Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, but welcoming.

And, basically. basically. And Dan, who's the scout leader, this group meets up at the UU in Tarpon, and Dan, who is the scout master for this, for our local Pinellas, has asked us to participate in a fundraiser that they do, which is collecting lightly used and new shoes.

And so I met with Dan at the PFLAG meeting on Thursday, delightfully enthusiastic, wonderful guy. I actually had met him earlier and he was super.

And so I said that I would, you know, bring it to this group that I'm sure that they would support us co-hosting this fundraiser, which basically, from our side, we just put out a box.

It's going to be out for two months. We publicize in our octagram. for people to bring in their new or lightly used shoes, and then Dan will come by and monitor the box, know, take the shoes when it fills up, and so that he'll be responsible for all of this.

And this is the fundraiser, all the money that they raise, they work with this organization, I never heard of it, but that they raise money for the navigators that way.

So we, by supporting this, we are supporting the navigators fundraising effort. So, any questions about that? Can I have a, I'd like to make a motion that we support the shoes.

[@1:57:46](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Second.

**ACTION ITEM: Set up shoe collection box for Navigator Scouts fundraiser; get logo from Dan for Octagram announcement - [WATCH](#)**

[@1:57:49](#) - **Trude Diamond**

And, Trude, did you make them, is that, and second? Second. All in favor? Next. Next. Next. Next. Next. Next.

Thank you. And so I have the box ready. I'll get it all set up and I will do the, Dan said he'll send me some logo stuff and so that we can put something in the octagram and we'll get it started. Of course, not, you know, tomorrow, but maybe next Sunday people can start bringing their shoes in. Okay. Thank you very much.

And that will be, so two things that we're doing to renew our welcoming congregation. All right. I think that takes care of everything.

Did I miss anything? Reverend Amy?

[@1:58:46](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

You didn't miss anything, but I have a couple of items, um, to bring up. Oh, okay. So, uh, Bill and Pam Hyde, Bill Hyde is not going to do open issues, uh, again this year.

He is doing part-time teaching at a university.-time university. So he doesn't want to commit to organizing open issues. So I have at one time a thought came up that maybe social justice could sponsor once a month a discussion of a social issue nature.

Is that something you all would promote or would like to agree that you would like to do that? I am. We really don't have anybody facilitating. I know Caroline Kaufman kept it going through the summer. And so I'm going to see if I can get a meeting with Caroline and ask her if we could, if she could set it up maybe for the year.

And so I would myself am going to do once a month, open issues, UU and UU, just as a UU identity, kind of helping people understand what being a UU is.

We haven't done much of that, so I don't mind doing it, so From 915 to 10. And so that's, I'm asking if you all would like to take a discussion once a month.

[@2:00:16](#) - **Trude Diamond**

What do people think? I think we could do it. And that's always my, that's always my.

[@2:00:28](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

Yeah, think we could find something for 45 minutes before service, right?

[@2:00:33](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Yeah, I mean, I definitely think that, especially with what we're talking about, with the democracy advocacy team, we could do open issues on an issue and then have people write letters afterwards. I mean, we could do that every month.

[@2:00:51](#) - **Trude Diamond**

I mean, that's not a bad idea. I mean, Christina and I have done an open issues once a year during Black History Month.

Yeah. I think we.

[@2:01:05](#) - **Trude Diamond**

And I think also one of our things that's required for our wealth living congregation is LGBTQ History Month, which is coming up in October.

And I've already thought that we should probably do something. We have a trivia thing that we used last year for at our conference that we did that we could do it, you know, a trivia thing at all.

During Open Issues.

[@2:01:35](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

So I don't think we're going to have any trouble, Reverend Amy. Okay. So I will see if I can get assistance to set up the calendar for the year, and then it's not one or two people having to keep it going all the year.

We'll just know that this person's going to be responsible for that day. Thank you. And then anytime you all have a suggestion for Community Sunday workshop, I am, I'm getting ready to work on this September.

Last Sunday of the month, in case you're wondering because somebody said, is it the fourth Sunday or the last?

It's the last Sunday. That way, we know it doesn't matter if there's four Sundays or five. It's always the last Sunday.

So if any of you would like to do a workshop, that would be awesome.

[@2:02:20](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Got a question. For the open issues, I was making some notes and I may have just said about this. Is someone going to handle the technology of doing it via Zoom?

[@2:02:34](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

I can't promise that. That is the difference between having Lori Ergel or Bill Hyde or if somebody wants to do that part.

[@2:02:46](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Otherwise, it will just be impersonal.

[@2:02:48](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

Yeah. I mean, unless somebody steps up or we have it set up the whole year and each person who's responsible that day finds somebody to do the Zoom, that would be great.

[@2:02:59](#) - **Trude Diamond**

But with different people responsible, you know. We all have a techie in our, even if we have a techie in our hip pocket, they don't know that's set up in that room.

[@2:03:13](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

Right. And it could be that when, you know, I know David Fyke used to do it. Maybe when he comes back, he would step up, but I don't think we can promise that until somebody says, can do that.

[@2:03:29](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Okay.

[@2:03:33](#) - **Sue Hand**

Sue? Maybe we can put a request in the octagram that we're looking for someone who can commit most of the time, not every single Sunday, but most of the time.

And then we would only have to get someone for the times when that person can't be there. Just, just a request for someone to step up.

[@2:03:58](#) - **Trude Diamond**

I know that Lori did like a little, a little explanation for. Dr. Dr. Dr. Dr. And I'm sure she would be happy to train anyone that might step up to that kind of request so that, you know, she can't, I mean, she's already does that for NAMI, so, I mean, she, it's too much for her to do, but certainly.

[@2:04:25](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

And that's the challenge we're having. So many, there's very few people volunteering and the few people who are volunteering are doing more than one.

[@2:04:36](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Yeah, yeah.

[@2:04:37](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

But it's still not a bad idea to put it out there, Sue.

[@2:04:41](#) - **Sue Hand**

Well, maybe, maybe we have another teenager. Maybe. Because it's no big deal for them. They'll figure it out.

[@2:04:52](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Where is the rest of us on a Sunday morning?

[@2:04:54](#) - **Trude Diamond**

We'll be pulling out our hair. a little early on a Sunday morning, that's all.

[@2:04:59](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

Good point.

[@2:05:00](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Yeah.

[@2:05:02](#) - **Trude Diamond**

But, yeah. Was there anything else, Reverend Amy? Pardon? Was there anything else? No, that was it. Thank you. So when do you want to start that?

[@2:05:16](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

I am committing to the first Sunday of every month myself for open issues. And I don't know what open issues the time normally, but I know for me, when I'm in the pulpit on a Sunday morning, I really need a little time before 1030.

So 915 to 10 is kind of what I'm designating.

[@2:05:38](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Is there a week that you think we should do it for social justice? Does it matter? Are we the second group that's jumping in?

[@2:05:50](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

Yep. You're the one that I thought about because one time this kind of came up and I thought...

[@2:05:56](#) - **Trude Diamond**

and we do do them. We've done them in the past, so I mean...

[@2:06:00](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

Well, you do a report on...

[@2:06:03](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Is it the... first... The first is the report first is the report. So I'd rather not do it on the 1st, because if I'm doing it, I have to be back in the sanctuary for the report.

**ACTION ITEM: Check with Dr. Susan re consistent week choir doesn't sing; report back for Open Issues scheduling - [WATCH](#)**

Does anybody on the team have any preference? Sue, when does the choir have a certain week that it doesn't sing?

[@2:06:26](#) - **Sue Hand**

Sue, I'll have to figure out what that is. It, it, it may not be completely consistent, but it should be mostly.

There are, there are times when, um, Dr. Susan has to, um, her, her weeknights are full with other rehearsals for other things.

So I'll, I'll find out.

[@2:06:54](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

Yeah. I think the second Sunday, Sue, um, um, No, no, you're singing the second Sunday, and it might be maybe the last Sunday, maybe.

Anyway, Sue will find out.

[@2:07:12](#) - **Sue Hand**

Okay. I'll find out.

[@2:07:15](#) - **Trude Diamond**

All right, so should we just leave that open right now, or should we try and commit something for September?

[@2:07:23](#) - **Sue Hand**

I think we should, and then that gives us another month to come up with a month. More of a plan. I mean, if we can just, I don't see why we couldn't expand each one of the report areas at some point during the year, so.

[@2:07:48](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

The choir is singing every Sunday in September to pick up, yeah, to pick up what they didn't do in August.

So, so maybe, I don't know, maybe September, maybe it starts in. wanted

[@2:08:07](#) - **Sue Hand**

Yeah. My daughter's getting married the first weekend in October. So maybe the third weekend in October, you can put me in and that gives me time to figure out what the heck I'm going to do.

**ACTION ITEM: Prepare letter writing activity on gerrymandering for Sept 14 Open Issues session 9:15-10am; arrange Zoom hosting - [WATCH](#)**

[@2:08:22](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

Okay.

[@2:08:28](#) - **Trude Diamond**

I can do something. I can do letter writing around gerrymandering for September.

[@2:08:36](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

Awesome.

[@2:08:37](#) - **Sue Hand**

Great.

[@2:08:39](#) - **Trude Diamond**

So what week? Just not the first week. Let me just see what, let me just try the third week.

All right. Let me just check and just make sure. Cause I think I already signed up for. Okay. uh, and my RE obligations, but this is before, so it doesn't matter.

[@2:09:03](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

see Right.

[@2:09:05](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Third week of September.

[@2:09:08](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Third week. I'd like to do it maybe second week in September.

[@2:09:12](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Okay. Looking at the 14th.

[@2:09:19](#) - **Amy (she/her)**

Okay.

[@2:09:26](#) - **Trude Diamond**

Yeah, the 14th. That's a, that's a good week for me. Okay. I'll do a letter writing thing.

[@2:09:38](#) - **Trude Diamond**

When we decide which week, you know, two or three or four, whatever, we're going to keep doing it consistently, be able to volunteer for something because I have to, then I can coordinate with when I'm doing welcome table and when I'm doing Zoom.

**ACTION ITEM: Ask Dr. Robinson about consistent choir schedule for Open Issues planning; report back to group - [WATCH](#)**