

From: UUPLAN <admin@uuplan.org>
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August 2016 Newsletter

Marching for Justice at the DNC

The Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia provided many opportunities for UUs to speak truth to power.

Climate Action Now



On Sunday, July 24th as the delegates arrived, nearly 10,000 people participated in the March for a Clean Energy Revolution before the start of the Convention. Present were UUPLAN members from Sunnyhill, Ginger Hill, Harrisburg, Mainline, First U Philadelphia, the Poconos and Wellsprings as well as UUs from NJ, MD and NY who joined climate activists to march with the “faith contingent.”

Prior to the March, a number of UUPLAN members attended the



Clean Energy Summit at Friends Center for updates on the PA Clean Power Plan, health impacts, methane, nuclear energy, TPP, environmental justice, the faith community's role and practical solutions available now to make the transition away from fossil fuels. The bottom-line message: climate change needs immediate action. The world needs to be carbon neutral by 2040; the USA, and notably Pennsylvania, need to move faster than countries who are energy poor. The Summit was remarkable for the sense of urgency and the shared commitment among 300 participants.



From left: Susan Norris, Ralph Detrick, Joyce Stoltzfus, Rachel Mark, Anita Mentzer, Natalie Gehosky

What does faith have to do with it?

Unitarian minister, Rev. Alison Cornish, Executive Director of PA-Interfaith Power and Light said: "Faith communities are unique – we speak to the beauty and integrity of the world, and we speak with moral authority. People of faith are truth seekers and must be truth speakers."

Black Lives Matter



Credit: Adam Zolkover

While the Climate March proceeded, UUPLAN members and others from the Unitarian Society of Germantown and the UU Church of Delaware County staged a rally in support of the Black Lives Matter movement. Altogether, there were 40 USG members, 30 from other UU churches, and about a dozen community members. They gathered in Constitution Park and at Independence Hall – the perfect setting for their message: this

movement is simply demanding the fairness and justice the Black community deserves. Wristbands with the message "Black Lives Matter" were distributed and we engaged with passers-by to share our concerns. As UUs, we believe that our principle stating the inherent worth and dignity of every person must also apply to people of color. Because Black people have been historically marginalized, devalued, oppressed, discriminated against and extinguished, they deserve justice, equity and compassion. We have created a society

where fear is a daily experience for Black people and law enforcement must be trained in de-escalation and bias awareness. We are in this together and we need to do all we can to make a better world. So let us [stay in it](#) and Stand on the Side of Love.

Immigration Justice



From Left: Hiro Nishikawa, Dennis Brunn, Yvonne Marlier, and Tonya Wenger

On Monday, immigrants from around the country were joined by our Berks County, Unitarian Society of Germantown and Mainline UUs as they marched to the Wells Fargo Convention Center to voice their support for immediate immigration reform. “We must stop



separating families with deportations and close down the [Berks County Residential Center](#)” which detains mothers and children who are seeking asylum. The center has been operating without a license from the Commonwealth since February of this year, and immigration advocates are fighting for it to close and for the families to be released. The march was led by Juntos, the #Not1More Campaign, the Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights, Congress of Day Laborers and others. UUSC has called

on all UUs to join the Standing on the Side of Love campaign, [fortify the movement](#) and use the power of love to stop oppression.