Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network

The Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network is governed by a Steering Committee of members from several Maine Unitarian Universalist congregations. MUUSAN is run by volunteers with support from a part-time administrative coordinator. Among our volunteer leaders are five former legislators and city councilors.

Regular MUUSAN meetings are held on the second Saturday of alternate months, 10:00-noon at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta, 69 Winthrop St., Augusta 04330.

Invite MUUSAN to visit your Unitarian Universalist congregation and lead a service about legislative ministry!

Our work is funded by donations from individuals and congregations and by grants from Unitarian Universalist organizations and others. Please donate to MUUSAN and subscribe to our mailing list at www.muusan.org. Checks payable to MUUSAN, PO Box 8, Augusta, ME 04330.

On the cover: Rev. Carie Johnsen (Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta) speaks out for immigrant justice at the Maine State House, with immigrants and clergy of many faiths.
MUUSAN: What’s it all about?

Nationally, Unitarian Universalists have been organizing State Advocacy Networks to amplify Unitarian Universalist voices for social justice in state legislatures and in the public square. Founded in 2012, Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN), Maine’s legislative ministry, links the state’s 25 Unitarian Universalist congregations to support statewide laws and policies in harmony with our Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles and to magnify our voices for strength.

Throughout movements for abolition, women’s suffrage, African-American civil rights and marriage equality, central to our Unitarian Universalist identity has been a passion for social justice and a theology of engagement with the world. Like our Unitarian Universalist forebears John Adams, Susan B. Anthony, Jane Addams and Rev. James Reeb, we are called to promote our values in the public arena—with our legislators, in policy development, and through public witness—in pursuit of a more just, compassionate and equitable society.

MUUSAN is a statewide advocacy and public policy network anchored in our faith and animated by its principles. We welcome as partners and collaborators all those who share our values.

Spiritual Grounding

Social action is rooted in the cry of people suffering and “the haunting silence of the disappeared, the disheartened and the disinherited”—but also in gratitude for the love, courage, and steadfastness of those who have gone before us, and for the Spirit of Life moving in our hands “giving life the shape of justice.” The foundation for social justice work can be praise for the gift of life and delight in the blessings of Earth. When we are attuned to both the cries and the beauty, to a spiritual source that impels our striving, we can live a life devoted to liberation and reverence.

—paraphrased from Rebecca Ann Parker, “Resisting Evil, Reverencing Life”

Strengths of Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Networks

Across the nation, State Advocacy Networks spur congregational growth and deepen purpose. They add value to being a Unitarian Universalist and strengthen denominational identity through shared commitment to influence legislation and public policy. Discovering power in collaboration, State Advocacy Networks meld Unitarian Universalists and kindred spirits statewide into an effective force for love and justice.

MUUSAN’s Primary Issues

Aware of the need to focus for effectiveness, MUUSAN has chosen four areas of public policy for our primary efforts. A team of volunteers works on each of these Issue Groups:

- **Democracy in Action**, including efforts to strengthen our democracy by informing and engaging voters, protecting voting rights, promoting civil discourse, instituting Ranked Choice Voting, supporting Clean Election laws and reducing the importance of money in campaigns.

- **Health Care for All**, including advocacy for universal health care, monitoring legislation that affects our healthcare system, and promoting public health interventions.

- **Climate Change**, including fossil energy conservation, development of solar and other renewable sources, and educating legislators and the public about the urgent call to slow climate change (with special attention to our own precious Gulf of Maine).

- **Racial Justice**, addressing systemic oppression by advocating with and on behalf of racial, ethnic and indigenous populations and responding to the need to interrupt disparities in Maine’s legal and economic systems.

In short, our faith calls us to change oppressive policies and structures to those that promote human dignity and well-being, protect the interdependent web of life, and support communities.

Please join us! And if you are not a Unitarian Universalist, please know that you, too, are warmly welcome.

Let us know of your interest at admin@muusan.org