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January 2016: Get on the Map! Growing the Movement for Black Lives Matter, Racial Justice & Voting Rights

Dear Friends,

The UUA now has a map of congregations displaying Black Lives Matter signs and banners. [You can add yours here](#) and find resources for how to take your witness into deeper engagement through community partnerships, multi-faith organizing, and advocacy. As we begin 2016 we are hearing from UUs around the country who are growing the movement for racial justice, Black Lives Matter, and defending voting rights.



Standing on the Side of Love launched [30 Days of Love 2016: Toward Racial Justice](#) on Martin Luther King, Jr. Sunday. Many UUs were part of #ReclaimMLKDay. Members of the Unitarian Church in Charleston, SC marched in the largest Martin Luther King, Jr. march ever held there, following the massacre at Mother Emanuel AME Church last June. Columbia, SC area UUs turned out for the MLK celebration on the grounds of the State House celebrating the removal of the Confederate flag. At the

Democratic debate held in Charleston on the same weekend, UUs were among the activists that brought Black Lives Matter, the Fight for \$15 and immigrant rights to the debate.

Photo: Outside the Jan. 17th Democratic presidential debate in Charleston, SC, more than 1,000 low-wage workers shut down city streets to press the "Fight for \$15 Agenda" that includes higher wages and better benefits, as well as broader demands for police accountability and immigration reform. (Photo by Kerry Taylor.)

On February 13th UUs from all around North Carolina will be gathering in Raleigh for the [Mass Moral March to Get Out the Vote](#) and challenge the NC voter suppression law. Buses of UUs from All Souls Washington, DC and other DC-area congregations are headed down to join them and to stay for a weekend of voter registration with the

UU Fellowships of Raleigh and Eno River. They will continue the partnership into the fall election by calling voters in NC from phone banks in Washington, DC and by travelling to NC in the fall for a last push voter registration drive and to Get-Out-the-Vote.

The UUA has resources to help your congregation organize for [racial justice](#) and [voter engagement](#). The UU Funding Program also has funds for [Public Witness Actions](#), Multi-faith [Congregation-Based Community Organizing](#), [UU Statewide Action Networks](#), and [Get Out the Vote 2016](#).

Stay tuned for more actions we can take locally and campaigns where we can pull together collectively. And mark your calendars for this year's [General Assembly](#) in Columbus, OH, June 22-26. We will be joined by Rev. William Barber, II, and many other faith leaders working together to build a fusion coalition with racial justice at the center. National and local Black Lives Matter activists will be there. Tracks on racial justice organizing, a special track from Black Lives UU, and workshops on developing multi-racial and multicultural competency will be offered. Registration opens March 1st. Apply for financial aid between March 1st and March 31st.

Let us know what your congregation is doing, how we can help, and get your congregation on the map!

In faith, on behalf of the UUA Multicultural Growth & Witness Staff Team,



Susan Leslie
UUA Congregational Advocacy & Witness Director

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