

## **Environmental Justice Task Force: Report for 2016-2017**

1. **Goals:** We strive to raise awareness in our congregation about the devastating impacts of our human activities on the earth's ecosystems. Already, climate change has created millions of refugees, war, famine, and death due to floods, droughts, and rising sea levels. We acknowledge that climate change is impacting disproportionately those who are least responsible and have the fewest resources to handle the consequences. We will continue to educate FPC members and friends and provide many opportunities to advocate for a just and sustainable world in concert with other UUs, other climate active organizations and faith communities.

### **2. Task Force strategies:**

- Collaborate with other faith communities through UU Mass Action (the state UU legislative network) and Massachusetts Interfaith Coalition for Climate Change (MAICCA, with 50 faith groups) to advocate **for** renewable energy and against pipeline expansion as well as advocate and support other faith communities, schools and our state government to divest from fossil fuels. The goal of these strategies is to reduce the human carbon emission footprint.
- Collaborate with Mothers Out Front and 350 MA to encourage members of FP to join **and participate** in campaigns **for** renewable energies away from fossil fuels such as opposing the Spectra Pipeline Expansion, **The Dakota Access Pipeline** and gas line tariffs. We provide opportunities **and encouragement** for members of First Parish to participate in these campaigns through letter writing at coffee hour, letters to the editor, direct lobbying of public officials, and public witness. We maintain an “ alert list” of members of FP who are interested in action events but who do not attend meetings,
- **Members of the TF and others have and will continue to participate in demonstrations at TD Bank branches organized by Lynette Fast Horse for bank divestment from The Dakota Access Pipeline.**
- **Suggest and support** initiatives for sustainable practices at First Parish and support the Green Team in engaging more of the

congregation in this work. **It is our hope that this can advance with the presence of a settled minister.**

- Learn about soil sequestration of carbon, water cycle restoration and other practices that have the potential to mitigate climate change **and share this information with FP during coffee hour tables.**
- Collaborate with others in bringing the urgency of soil and water restoration practices to greater awareness in the public square.
- Provide educational forums on strategies related to climate change and its disproportionate impact on vulnerable communities.

This year the EJTF has put on the following programs for the First Parish community and encouraged members to join our committee in taking part in climate change action.

### **Support for Legislative Renewable Energy Agenda**

**A. UU Mass Action Lobby Day April 11, 2017; Divestment lobby day; organized letter writing campaigns for congregation at coffee hour; attended DPU hearings on proposed pipelines, and lobbied individual legislators in person.**

**B. Attended several demonstrations at the MA State House organized by 350MA.org focused specifically on Governor Baker's apparent reluctance to take action on gas pipelines.**

**C. Participated in Boston based Climate Rally April 29 2017 with other faith groups, organizing sign making before.**

**D. Participated with Mother Out front Members in a rally at Cambridge City Hall in advance of Earth Day.**

## **Educational Events:**

- A. Members attended a Teach In and CD Training on April 23, 2016 at FP Bedford.**
  
  - B. With Reverend Clyde Grubbs, hosted Chief Arvol Looking Horse to preach and talk about the struggle against the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) October 2016**
  
  - C. Attended a meeting called by the Boston Native American Community in October 2016 to build bridges with climate change activists.**
  
  - D. With GBIO Task Force hosted Evan Seitz from UUMA after services April on April 5.**
- 3. Earth Day Worship Service, April 23, 2017** Members of participated in service by Reading selections and worked with RE on their project at Walden Pond.
- 4. Participated in Green Team's Fall and Spring --April 22, 2017--work days** (to plant, weed and repair our own property)

***Organizers:*** Peggy Lynch and Ginger Ryan (Co-chairs), Rosalie Anders, Grace Hall, Linda Clark, Claryce Evans, Sharon DeVos, Alison Altman , David Pap, Adam Wise.

***Supporters:*** Michele Sprengnether, Gloria Korsman, Marcia Hams, Paul Anders