



OREGON  
Unitarian Universalist  
**VOICES**  
for JUSTICE



Congregations doing justice together

Newsletter – February 2023

## Health Care for All Oregon

Oregon UU Voices for Justice supports Health Care for All Oregon (HCAO). The mission of HCAO is to create a comprehensive, equitable, affordable, publicly funded, high-quality, universal health care system serving everyone in Oregon. People in Oregon are suffering, dying, and facing bankruptcy because our health care system is failing them. It especially fails communities facing cultural and ethnic inequities.

Senate Bill 770 (2019) established the Joint Task Force on Universal Health Care. Senate Bill 428 (2021) extended the time for the task force to complete its work, with the report due September 2022. The members of the task force have completed their work and submitted their [final report](#) and [recommendation for the Universal Healthcare Plan Governance Board](#). Read the materials at those links to see what the task force accomplished and learn about what comes next.

To get involved, or just to learn more, find an HCAO chapter near you [here](#). Information about the Eugene chapter appears further along in this newsletter.

### Oregon UU Voices Mission

Oregon UU Voices is a statewide liberal religious advocacy network that seeks to educate, organize, and mobilize UUs and their congregations to advocate for policies designed to build an Oregon that:

- Affirms the worth and dignity of every person.
- Promotes justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
- Supports religious freedom.
- Upholds the right of conscience and the democratic process.
- Recognizes and respects the interdependent web of all existence.

### Oregon Legislature 2023

#### Bills to Support, a Few of Many

To learn more, see: [Oregon Legislative Information System \(oregonlegislature.gov\)](https://oregonlegislature.gov)

[HB2004](#) – Establishes ranked choice voting as voting method for selecting winner of nomination for and election to offices of President of the U.S., U.S. Senator, Representative in Congress, Governor, Secretary of State, State Treasurer, and Attorney General.

[HB2718](#) - Establishes grant program within State Department of Energy to provide grants to fund replacement of generators that use diesel or fossil fuels with renewable hydrogen generators.

[HB2763](#) – Establishes State Public Banking Task Force and directs it to study and make recommendations regarding establishment of state public bank. Requires task force to submit report to Committee of Legislative

## Members of the Board

Kathleen McKinney, UU Fellowship of McMinnville (chair)

Barbara Dow, Wy'East UU Fellowship, Portland (co-chair)

Susan Christie, UU Fellowship of Corvallis (secretary)

David Delk, First Unitarian Church, Portland and Wy'East UU Fellowship, Portland (treasurer)

Sue Craig, UU Church in Eugene

John Raymonda, Florence UU Fellowship

Max Merrill, UU Fellowship of Central Oregon, Bend

## Current Board Activities

Planning a 2023 Annual Meeting

Rebuilding personal congregational relationships, post-pandemic

Preparing for the 2023 Oregon legislative session

Endorsing a proposal for an Oregon public bank

## 2023 Oregon Legislative Information

Check out this page for information on the 2023 Oregon legislative session and committees:

<https://www.uuvoicesoregon.org/2023-legislative-info.html>

## To Get Newsletters and Action Updates

[Sign Up for our "Action of the Week" \(uuvoicesoregon.org\)](https://www.uuvoicesoregon.org)

Assembly by January 31, 2024. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

[SB543](#) – Among other provisions, prohibits food vendors from using polystyrene foam containers in sales of prepared food.

[SB544](#) – Directs Environmental Quality Commission to establish program for source reduction of single-use plastic food ware and single-use packaging and achieve 25% reductions compared to 2023 levels by 2030. Establishes civil penalty for violation of program.

## Highlighting the Work of Our Congregations

### Toward Net Zero: UU Fellowship of Corvallis

The UUFC Board of Directors has declared a climate and environmental emergency and has committed to addressing the resulting moral and ethical issues. The Toward Net Zero project is a crucial component of the work. Members and friends of UUFC:

- Advocate for national, state, and local climate legislation by partnering with larger organizations such as Citizens Climate Lobby, Renew Oregon, and UU Ministry for Earth.
- Reduce and take responsibility for the carbon emissions of the UUFC facility and in congregants' homes. With a climate action loan from the City of Corvallis, UUFC has made many emissions reduction improvements to its facility. Many UUFC households are tracking and reducing their home carbon emissions.

### Health Care for All Oregon Eugene Chapter

Eugene UUs participate in the HCAO Eugene Chapter, which meets the first Tuesday each month via Zoom and also in person at the First United Methodist Church Eugene, 1376 Olive Street, 7-8 pm. Please join us. We need volunteers to get the word out. We follow local and state guidance on safe gatherings recommended during the pandemic.