



## **TXUUJM Accomplishments 2016-2017**

### **General Good Stuff**

- \* TXUUJM organized a Legislative action day February 15, 2017 that drew 240 UUs from across Texas. This number is more than double our first Legislative action day in 2015!
- \* TXUUJM currently has 34 congregations in our coalition representing over 5,000 UUs in Texas.
- \* Rev. Freeman serves on the Executive Board of the Coalition of UU State Action Networks (CUUSAN).
- \* Rev. Freeman serves as the only UU on the Texas Impact Board. He helped chart and implement their legislative agenda.
- \* Rev. Freeman represented TXUUJM at least 16 times at the Capitol in 2017 for testimony, rallies, and other justice actions.
- \* TXUUJM issued over 25 calls to action during the 2017 Legislature and Special session. This afforded UU members and congregations opportunities to express our faith values on a myriad of bills.
- \* Rev. Freeman was invited to offer the invocation at an Austin City Council meeting in March of 2017.
- \* Rev. Freeman preaches/teaches in at least 15 UU congregations and settings every year demonstrating TXUUJM's commitment to relational justice ministry.

### **Reproductive Justice**

- \* Rev. Freeman is one of the founders of Texas Faith Voices for Reproductive Justice and serves on its Advisory Board with fellow UU minister, Rev. Marisol Caballero. This is the first interfaith organization of its kind in our state.
- \* Rev. Freeman is one of the founders of "Reproductive Justice Congregations." TXUUJM is encouraging our congregations sign on. We have 8 UU congregations with this designation more than any other faith group in Texas.
- \* Working with our allies TXUUJM helped defeat over 30 war on women bills. Despite our best efforts some very cruel bills did pass.

## **Economic Inequality/Justice**

\* TXUUJM helped secure \$5 million for the Adult Career Education Fund (ACE). TXUUJM worked in concert with Texas Network of Organizations to find state funding for long term job training programs to enroll more low income adults in community colleges to train for living wage jobs. The programs that will benefit are in the Valley, Austin, El Paso, San Antonio, Dallas and Houston.

## **LGBT Equality**

\* TXUUJM working with our partners defeated 23 out of 24 anti LGBTQ bills during both the 2017 regular and Special session.

\* TXUUJM organized, testified, rallied at least 5 times with our allies to flush the bathroom bill out of Texas!

## **Immigration/Refugee Rights**

\* TXUUJM received a \$15 thousand dollar grant from the UUSC in recognition of and to continue our work in developing Immigration and refugee sanctuary networks in our major metro cities in Texas. We are working in coalition with 8 other UU state justice ministries.

\* Rev. Freeman was among a group of faith leaders suing Texas over the SB4 Anti-Sanctuary cities law taking effect.

\* Rev. Freeman and TXUUJM Board member Jenny Hixon were arrested after an 8 hour sit in at Governor Abbott's office in resistance to SB4 the anti-sanctuary city law.

\* More than 20 TXUUJM leaders from four congregations stood with 40 interfaith allies at the San Antonio Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) field office demanding an end to detention of refugee children and mothers in private prisons at Dilley and Karnes City, Texas. Rev. Freeman moderated the press conference that featured UUSC Associate Director for Justice Building, Pam Sparr.

\* In 2016 TXUUJM signed the amicus brief that caused Texas to drop a lawsuit to deny resettling Syrian Refugees.

\* Rev. Freeman and TXUUJM Board member Peggy Morton drove 2 1/2 hours to Karnes City, TX to testify for the third time against licensing their refugee prison as a "child care" facility.

\* TXUUJM has collaborated with the UUSC to oppose placing immigrant women and children in for-profit prisons, and we've helped the Austin Sanctuary Network win three Stays of Deportation for two Guatemalan women and one child.

\* TXUUJM testified a 4th time over a two-year period to defeat a bill that sought to license for-profit prisons as child care facilities.