



# TXUUJM

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## TXUUJM Accomplishments 2014-2015

### General Good Stuff

- \* Rev Freeman was one of only ten religious leaders invited to the Marriage Equality Celebration with Supreme Court Plaintiff Jim Obergefell on the steps of the Texas Capitol.
- \* Over 100 UU's from 21 congregations across Texas gathered at the Capitol for our first ever TXUUJM Legislative Action Day February 17, 2015. It was a historic and empowering event!
- \* TXUUJM was granted our 501c4 status from the IRS which we now add to our 5013c designation.
- \* TXUUJM currently has 28 congregations in our coalition representing over 5,000 UU's in Texas.
- \* Rev. Freeman serves on the Executive of the Council 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.
- \* 24 UU's from 12 congregations gathered in Austin to chart a 3 year mission and financial plan for TXUUJM.
- \* TXUUJM members from 1<sup>st</sup> UU Austin registered testimony over a dozen times against anti-abortion legislation, assaults on health care, immigrants and LGBTQ issues. They supported bills to increase the minimum wage, Adult Career Education (ACE) funding and health care.

### Reproductive Justice

- \* Rev. Freeman is one of the founders of Texas Faith Voices for Reproductive Justice and serves on its Advisory Board with Rev. Marisol Caballero from 1st UU Austin. This is the first interfaith organization of its kind in our state.
- \* TXUUJM was part of the Texas Woman's Healthcare Coalition that worked for the passage of \$50 million in new funding for women's preventive healthcare.
- \* TXUUJM Board member Peggy Morton testified in favor of 15 year-old parents that have complete medical power over their babies to have the right to request medically safe contraceptives from doctors. This bill didn't make it out of committee.
- \* TXUUJM along with great partners like NARAL Pro-Choice Texas and Planned Parenthood Texas kept more than 20 anti-choice bills from becoming law.
- \* TXUUJM helped defeat a bill to ban abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy in the case of fetal abnormality.

- \* TXUUJM helped defeat a bill that would have prohibited health insurance coverage for abortion.
- \* Rev. Freeman was on the planning and publicity team that held the first interfaith worship service for reproductive justice ever held in Texas. Rev. Marisol Caballero from 1st UU Austin was on the program.
- \* TXUUJM worked to defeat the bill that removed the only option for abused and neglected teens who need an abortion, judicial bypass. Tragically this one passed.
- \* Rev. Freeman joined with UU's and others in Victoria for their first ever rally for reproductive justice.

### **Economic Inequality/Justice**

- \* TXUUJM helped secure \$5 million for the Adult Career Education Fund (ACE). TXUUJM worked in concert with Texas Industrial Foundation groups for long term job training programs that enroll low income adults in community colleges to train for living wage jobs. The programs are in the Valley, El Paso, San Antonio, Dallas and Houston.
- \* Rev. Freeman testified in favor of minimum wage bills of \$10.10 in Texas. None of the bills made it out of committee.

### **LGBT Equality**

- \* TXUUJM joined in a Faith Advocacy Day for LGBTQ equality on the south steps of the Capitol with the Texas Freedom Network and Equality Texas. UU's made up about 40% of the participants.
- \* TXUUJM helped defeat anti LGBT bills that would have withheld salaries from state officials that granted licenses or recognized same sex marriages.
- \* TXUUJM helped defeat a bill aimed at LGBT parents allowing adoption agencies contracted by the state to discriminate with taxpayer funds against prospective parents based on the provider's religious beliefs.
- \* Rev. Freeman testified against and TXUUJM helped defeat a bill that would have allowed entities run by religious institutions to discriminate against LGBT citizens under the guise of "religious freedom."

### **Religious Freedom**

- \* Rev. Freeman testified against and TXUUJM helped defeat a fistful of Anti-Sharia bills.

### **Immigration/ Refugee Rights**

- \* TXUUJM Board member Peggy Morton & Chloe Sikes testified in defense of in-state tuition for Dreamers - undocumented college students. This bill never made it to the floor. They also spent much time asking legislators to support keeping in-state tuition. The bill to deny this never made it for a vote.
- \* More than 20 TXUUJM leaders from 4 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.