



Natalie Briscoe

Congregational Life Field Staff
for the Southern Region of our UUA
Serving Texas, Mexico, and The Philippines



Our First 5 Minutes:

Who are you?

And

Why are you talking to us?



Takeaway #1:
I'm Sick.

Takeaway #2:
I'm usually funnier than this.



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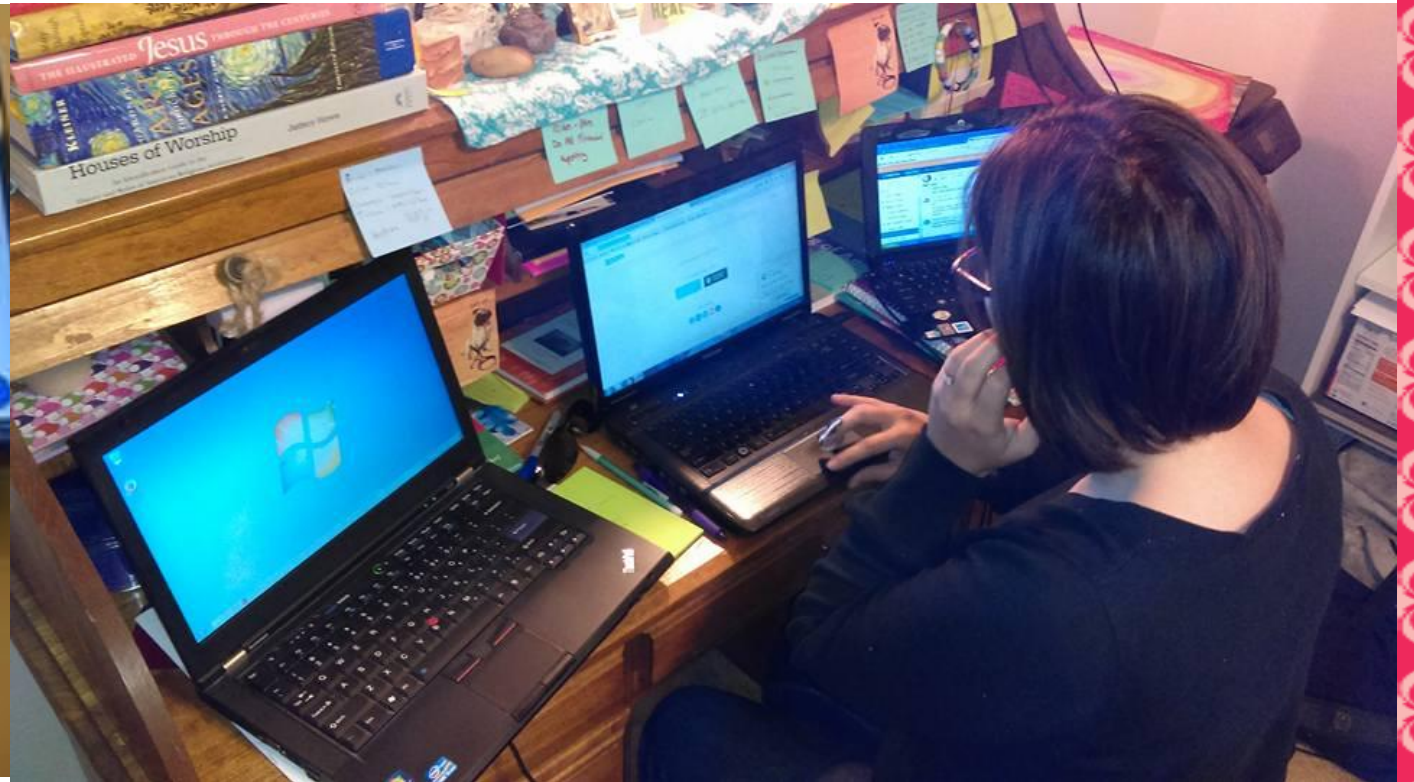


What people think I do:





What I actually do:





And WHY are you talking right now?





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I'm YOUR Primary Contact!



You can count on your field staff for help with:

Governance: nuts & bolts, bylaws & policies

Planning: mission & vision, strategic planning

Growth: better practices for membership

Communications: within & outside of your walls

Stewardship: creating a culture of generosity



You can count on your field staff for help with:

Lay Leadership: equipping your members to lead

Staffing: support for professional transitions

Faith Development: all ages spiritual formation

Faith Witness: support for organizers and partnerships

Organization Support: volunteer

management, clusters, emerging/multisite congregations



Natalie's Portfolios:

Shared Ministry Teams (Peer Consultants)
Curriculum Mapping for the SR
Lifespan and Multigenerational Ministries
Youth and Young Adult Ministries
Cluster Development



Natalie's Events:
Fall Conference
Spring Conference
The Point
DBLE
ExLE

President's Convocation/Monthly Gatherings



Natalie's National Teams/Middle Integration Efforts:

Youth Ministry Round Table

Young Adult Round Table

UUA International Office Mentor Initiative

UU Partner Church Council Youth Initiative



Natalie's Special Projects:
Braveheart
Building a New Way



And other duties as assigned.....

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Or add me on Facebook (with fair warning)



**Open Office Hours: 5PM to 7PM First and Third
Wednesdays of each Month on Zoom**

Stay connected through the SR Newsletter

“Like” The SR Facebook Page

Visit the SR Website: UUASouthernRegion.org



Our mission is to bring more hope, love, justice, courage, and joy into the world.

Let us know how we can serve your congregation as it fulfills its mission.



Part Two: The Movement as Justice-Making





The Congregation does not have a Mission.

The Mission has a Congregation.



The UUA is an association of congregations who align their missions to create the Beloved Community – centered in Justice – and amplify our values and work.



Commission on Social Witness:

5 Members: 3 Elected/2 Appointed

Help shepherd the national social justice efforts of UUs and evaluate our effectiveness.

Hears the Congregational Study/Action Statements and decides which ones will move forward.



Commission on Social Witness:

Mr. Richard Bock, term expires 2019

Ms. Jyaphia Christos-Rodgers, term expires 2019

Rev. Caitlin S. Cotter, term expires 2017

Dr. Susan Goekler, chair, term expires 2019

Rev. Christina Sillari, term expires 2017



What are the priorities set forth by the congregations?

Economic Justice

Environmental Justice

Immigrant Justice

Racial Justice

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer Justice

Reproductive Justice

Voting Rights



How do we participate in the process of alignment?

1. Congregations draft and submit a four-year “Congregational Study/Action Issue.” Each year, the congregation submits comments on their progress.
2. In the third year, Congregations can draft a Statement of Conscience to be proposed at GA.
3. Proposals are sent to the floor of plenary, where they are voted on by the Delegates. There are also ways to vote remotely.
4. If accepted, the Statements of Conscience are implemented in the fourth year of the cycle.



Current Statements of Conscience (Voted 2016):

Thanksgiving Day Reconsidered: Education and Action on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples of America (2021)

Reaffirmation of Commitment to Racial Justice: Targeted Association-Wide support for Racial Justice, and in particular the Black Lives Matter Movement (BLUU Resolution, BLM AIW 2015)(2019)



Actions of Immediate Witness:

An AIW expresses the conscience and carries the authority of the delegates at the GA at which it is passed.

AIWs are initiated by individual delegates and move through their entire creation and adoption process during a single GA.

However, in 2016, the delegates voted that there shall be no Actions of Immediate Witness in 2017.



2016 Actions of Immediate Witness:

Some Guns, All Guns: Legislating Appropriate Restrictions

Stop the Hate: Protect and Support our Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Family

Build Solidarity with our Muslim Neighbors



The Role of Field Staff in Justice Work:

1. Help congregations be aware of the Social Justice Statements
2. Aid congregations to participate in the Social Witness Process
3. Help UU Ministry Centers in setting their social justice priorities



The Role of Field Staff in Justice Work:

4. Encourage and facilitate partnership toward social justice work both inside and outside of the UUA
5. Further the work of the Association by making sure the Statements of Conscience and the Actions of Immediate Witness are present and moving through our work in congregations and at our events.



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Questions?





Thank You!

All of our work is made possible by your
generous GIFT to your Association.

(Please do remember that I'm funnier than
this.)