

Social Action Committee Annual Report 2026



Hannah Mondrach <hannah.mondrach@gmail.com> Sunrise Association
Linda Depew <ldepew@fairpoint.net> Katahdin Association
Kathy Woodside <woodsidekat@gmail.com> At-large, Bar Harbor
Debbie Duval <debbie@highstreet-ucc.org> At-large, High Street Auburn
Ian Lynch <revianlynch@gmail.com> Living Water Association
Beth St John <bstjohn4@outlook.com> York Association
Dianne Morse-Leonard <dmorseleonard@gmail.com> Oxford Union
Oscar Wallace <oscarwallace@gmail.com> Midcoast Association
Stephen Hastings <stephenh11656@gmail.com> At-large, Winthrop

This year, as last year, actions from Washington keep raising questions and concerns. Troubling things start without warning, such as war with Iran and its collateral impacts; clarity of intent and goals are not communicated; disrespect for our Canadian neighbors and others leaves you speechless; an arrest-incarcerate-deport program that is unequivocally inhumane; a philosophy of maximizing profits as the role of government that I believe would even shock Calvin Coolidge; clean energy rebates are rescinded and incentives offered for fossil fuel production; and now “War.gov” is “an official website of the United States Government.” Suffice it to say that “focus” is a challenge for any social action committee when so many things cry out for our attention.

As the Social Action Committee (SAC) of the Maine Conference, we have official “positions” to proclaim on many matters. We are ONA, in the broadest sense. We are Just-Peace. We respect the “integrity of Creation.” We welcome the immigrant. We advocate for Wabanaki Sovereignty. We testified in Augusta this year in support of measures for gun violence prevention. For information on these issues and other matters, please refer to our *Social Action Committee Resource Guide* (available at maineucc.org on the *Social Action* page). The position we currently find ourselves in is one of needing to proactively address all these matters at the same time.

To that end, we do thank the State Street United Church of Christ for *A Resolution Countering Christian Nationalism in Government Action and Policymaking*. This resolution was adopted by the State Street Church at its annual meeting in July and forwarded on to us to consider adopting at the Maine Conference Annual Meeting in October. The SAC reviewed it and declared it “ought to pass,” to coin a common phrase from our advocacy at the Statehouse. After acceptance by the Maine Conference Board in August, it now rests with the voting attendees at Annual Meeting.

In addition, in January the SAC did feel compelled to focus in on the issue of immigration. We saw what happened in Minnesota and made a statement; then came “Operation Catch of the Day” in Maine; and then an ICE agent killed Johan Guerrero in Biddeford and it is as if nothing happened. So we are presenting to Annual Meeting *A Resolution to Resist the Immigration Enforcement Program Currently Being Implemented by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and to Support Efforts for a Humane Immigration System*. This was created by the Social Action Committee over the past several months, drawing almost completely on stories from all our associations concerning immigration and immigration enforcement right here in Maine. Thus the “whereas” portion of the resolution is unusually long because it includes many stories from across Maine. It is the breadth and unity of this, our story, that we find compelling and wanted to share in its entirety. The resolution part itself is fairly straight forward and is consistent with the Maine Conference statement last January about ICE actions in Minnesota. The theological grounding for this resolution is the Good Samaritan.

We hope you will take the time to read these resolutions and consider ways you can help implement them. If they pass, we will host a Zoom workshop in the following month to discuss it. We will also be passing out buttons at our SAC table at Annual Meeting that say: I Am Resolved!

Stephen Hastings, Chair