

June 5, 2016

President Obama

1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

On April 12, 2016, our esteemed colleague, the Reverend Christopher Antal resigned in protest his commission as an Officer in the United States Army. His was an explicit act of refusal to support the United States armed drone policy which he, and we, understand to be a deplorable "policy of unaccountable killing."

We express great admiration for the prophetic voice of peace and justice that Reverend Antal has embodied during his ministry in service to our nation as a military chaplain and as a chaplain serving veterans. We are proud that the Unitarian Universalist congregation that Reverend Antal currently serves stands with him and affirms his public stance on these issues.

We share his concerns of the ongoing claim by the Executive Branch of the United States of "extra-constitutional authority," as well as its use of the tools of war that have resulted in unacceptable levels of civilian deaths and injuries. We decry the current armed drone policy, which seems predicated on "the right to kill anyone, anywhere on earth, at any time, based on secret evidence, in a secret process, undertaken by unidentified officials." This does not comport with the democratic ideals of our nation, nor with the democratic values of our Unitarian Universalist faith.

As Unitarian Universalist clergy and seminarians, we, the undersigned, join with Reverend Antal in proclaiming that our Unitarian Universalist values and covenantal commitment to the religious principles of justice, equity and compassion in human relations and the inherent worth and dignity of every person, calls us to protest these past, current and any future similar actions of by the United States military or other representatives of our federal government.

We demand these actions stop. We urge you to follow the recommendations of the Stimson Task Force on US Drone Policy, formed in response to your 2013 call to examine options to address concerns on US drone use, in which you committed to "review proposals to extend oversight of lethal actions outside of warzones that go beyond our reporting to Congress."

In Faith and Hope,

(In alphabetical order)

Rev. Alice Anacheka-Nasemann, Minister, Unitarian Church of Marlborough & Hudson;

Rev. Erica Baron, Minister, UU Congregation of the Catskills

Rev. Sofia Betancourt, Assistant Professor of Unitarian Universalist Theologies and Ethics, Starr King School for the Ministry, Berkeley, CA;

Rev. Karen Brammer, Minister, Fourth Society of Mohegan Lake, NY;

Terri Burnor, Candidate for the Unitarian Universalist Ministry, St. Paul, MN;

Rev. Laurie Bushbaum, First Universalist Unitarian Church of Wausau, WI.;

Rev. Cynthia P. Cain, Interim Minister, UU Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Rev. Barbara Child, Retired Minister and Consultant to Congregations in Transition, Nashville, IN

Rev. Peggy Clarke, Minister, First Unitarian Society of Westchester, Hastings on Hudson, NY;

Rev. Jane Dwinell, Small Congregation Consultant, Burlington VT

Rev. Melissa Carvill Ziemer, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent, Kent, OH;

Rev. Kathleen Ellis, Minister, (Ret.), Austin, TX;

Rev. Meredith Garmon, Minister, Community Unitarian Church, White Plains, NY

Rev. Joanne Giannino, Interim Minister, Beacon UU Congregation, Flagstaff, AZ;

Rev. Dr. Gordon Gibson, Minister Emeritus, UU Fellowship of Elkhart, Elkhart, IN;

Jo Green, Minister in Residence, Unitarian Universalist Church in Cherry Hill (NJ);

Rev. Lori Gorgas Hlaban, Incoming Minister, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Beaufort (SC);

Rev. M. Lara Hoke Unitarian Universalist Congregation in Andover (MA)

Rev. Jill Jarvis, Minister, Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence, KS

Rev. Dr. Beth Johnson, Minister, Palomar Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Vista CA;

Rev. Dr. Mykel Johnson, Minister, Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church, Portland, ME;

Rev. Karen G. Johnston, Incoming Minister, The Unitarian Society, East Brunswick, NJ;

Rev. Kenneth B. Jones, Unitarian Universalist Church of Yakima, WA;

Rev. Andrew C. Kennedy, Minister Emeritus, First Unitarian Society of Milwaukee, WI;

Rev. Dr. Maureen Killoran. Minister, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville, FL;

Robert E. LaVallee, Candidate for Unitarian Universalist Ministry, Buffalo, NY;

Rev. Suzanne M. Marsh, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert, Rancho Mirage, CA;

Diana K. McLean, Ministerial Resident, Unitarian Universalist Church of Greeley, CO;

Rev. Christana Wille McKnight, Minister, First Parish Church in Taunton,

Rev. Patrick McLaughlin, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Church of Manchester, NH;

Rev. Diane M. W. Miller, First Religious Society, Carlisle, MA

Rev. Deb Morra, Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation at White Plains.

Rev. Dr. John T. Morehouse, Unitarian Church in Westport, CT;

Rev. Jennifer Hamlin-Navias, First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse, Syracuse NY;

Sean Neil-Barron, Minister, Boston MA;

Rev. Dr. Susan Newman Moore, Acting Senior Minister, All Souls Church, Unitarian, Washington, DC;

Rev. Craig M. Nowak, Minister, Brookfield Unitarian Universalist Church, Brookfield, MA

Consulting Minister, Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Storrs, Storrs, CT;

Rev. Dr. Rebecca Ann Parker, President Emerita, Starr King School for the Ministry, Sabbatical Minister and Theologian in Residence, All Souls Church, Unitarian, Washington, DC;

Bethany Russell-Lowe, Candidate for Unitarian Universalist Ministry;

Rev. Dawn Sangrey, Minister Emerita, Fourth Universalist Society, Mohegan Lake, NY;

Rev. Stephen M. Shick, Minister Emeritus, Unitarian Church of Marlborough and Hudson, MA;

Rev. Linda Simmons, Unitarian Universalist Meeting House, Nantucket, MA;

Rev. Dr. Frances Sink, Minister, Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Stamford, CT;

Kristina Spaude, Candidate for the Unitarian Universalist Ministry, Stow, OH;

Laurie Stuart, Transition Minister, South Nassau UU Congregation, Freeport, NY;

The Rev. Krista Taves, Minister, Unitarian Church of Quincy, IL;

Rev. Michael Tino, Minister, UU Fellowship of Northern Westchester, Mt. Kisco, NY;

Rev. Lindasusan V. Ulrich, Assistant Minister, First UU Congregation of Ann Arbor, MI;

Liz Weber, Candidate for the Unitarian Universalist Ministry, Boston, MA;\Rev. Dave Weissbard, Minister Emeritus, UU Church, Rockford, IL

Christopher Wulff, Candidate for the Unitarian Universalist Ministry, Toronto, Canada;

Rev. Sharon Wylie, Senior Minister, Chalice Unitarian Universalist Congregation, Escondido, CA;