

## **Report to General Assembly 2004 from the Office for Congregational Advocacy and Witness**

### **Congregational Implementation of Economic Globalization Statement of Conscience**

The 2003 Statement of Conscience on Economic Globalization has moved many congregations to get educated and do what they can to disengage from the harmful effects of globalization. Many report hosting showings of the video *Trading Democracy*, a PBS documentary by Bill Moyers. More and more congregations are buying free trade coffee and using socially responsible shopping guides and websites. The UUA Committee on Socially Responsible Investing has receiving a steady increase of inquiries from congregations seeking ways to put their investments to work for social justice. (Congregational stories are on their website at [www.uua.org/finance/sri/](http://www.uua.org/finance/sri/).)

**First Unitarian Portland OR and UU Congregation of Miami FL** took the lead on public witness to combat the harmful effects of globalization. First Unitarian Portland hosted a major Town Hall Meeting in July on the World Trade Organization, NAFTA (North America Free Trade Act) called Free or Fair Trade moderated by the producer and host of Oregon Public Broadcasting Radio's regional news show "Oregon Considered." Members from seventy-one environmental, labor, and social justice organizations from Oregon and Washington were at the event as well as several elected officials. A "Trade Yardstick," a set of criteria for fair trade, was introduced to measure future trade agreements. Contact Kate Lore, Social Justice Director, at [klore@firstunitarianportland.org](mailto:klore@firstunitarianportland.org).

UU Congregation of Miami hosted a forum on fair trade and housed participants who had come to protest the FTAA (Free Trade Area of the Americas) meeting in Miami in November. UUs from around the country organized by UUJEC (Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community), and a contingent from First Portland participated in the events. Participants, including UU ministers, publicized their experiences including their encounters with police repression at the FTAA protests. Contact: Rev. Lucy Hitchcock Seck at [RevLucyMiami@aol.com](mailto:RevLucyMiami@aol.com).

For the Statement of Conscience, Study Action Guide and resources and information on economic globalization see [www.uua.org/csw/soc/2003.html](http://www.uua.org/csw/soc/2003.html)