Social Justice Collaborative Meeting Agenda

Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church
Sunday, December 4, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
via Zoom

MISSION STATEMENT

Love is the spirit of our church and it is that love that guides us to seek justice for all. In that spirit the Heritage Social Justice Collaborative brings together individuals who have passion around various areas of social justice. We gather to share information and support each other around these passions. We meet to generate ideas using the power of group interaction. Individuals or teams take the lead in a specific area of justice work. They communicate their activities to the greater congregation. With congregational involvement, more impact can occur as we work together to change injustices in our world. We also meet to vote on the use of monies from the church's Social Justice balance sheet account. Any Heritage UU Church member or friend is welcome to join the Social Justice Collaborative and lead the congregation in their passion.

AGENDA

Meeting Start-Up

Meeting leader: Louise Lawarre

Note taker: Mimi Sinclair

Self-Introductions

Anyone need to leave early?

Any items to add to the agenda?

Heritage Church Organization

Activity Celebration. This event involved many church Heritage groups and committees, and was held on October 30, after church. (Mimi, Rebecca, Russ)

Reports on Specific Areas

Democracy

- **US Election Results**. Open discussion from a social justice perspective. (All)

Large-Group Church Project

Possible social justice projects that could involve whole families. (Erin C.)

- **Taking Root** https://takingroot.info/ Mission is to improve human health and environmental effects through tree planting in Cincinnati, especially in neighborhoods such as Avondale, Bond Hill, Camp Washington, East End, and Lower Price Hill.

- **Crayons to Computers** https://www.crayons2computers.org/ is a possible large-group church project if Taking Root doesn't work out.

Promoting Respect for Diversity in General

- **HUUC's "Bringing Diversity Home" event** (former tentative names: "Why Diversity Matters" or "How to Raise an Open-Minded Child"). Scheduled for March 4, 9:30-11:00 a.m. Speakers are Dan Davidson (aka Sparkle Leigh) with PFLAG and Treehouse Cincinnati, and Amy Bottomley, Director of Educational Initiatives, with the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center (also President of the Board at First Unitarian). Needed: marketing, childcare, tech support, refreshments, maybe security, and other support. Will require help and funding. $699 currently available in Social Justice fund. (Rebecca)

Racial Justice

- **Anderson Churches for Racial Unity (ACRU) and Greater Anderson Promotes Peace (GAPP)** https://www.facebook.com/andersonchurches4ru/ and https://www.gappeace.org/. (Louise)

- **Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ)** https://www.facebook.com/surjcincy/. (Rae Jane)

Indigenous Peoples

- **Indigenous Peoples Study Group.** The film *Home from School: The Children of Carlisle*, was shown October 25th at HUUC. (Mimi and Louise)

Housing Security and Homelessness

- **Assisting in combating homelessness.** Found House Interfaith Housing Network says that no support congregations are needed in our area. One idea was that Comboni Missionaries might be housing homeless people, but that has turned out to be incorrect. Open to other ideas. (Rae Jane)

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Other Issues

- **Welcoming Congregation Renewal Program** https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program/five-practices-welcome-renewal . Bob will talk with "The Gang of Us" to see if a worship service can be about LGBTQ. (Bob)

Economic Justice

- **UUs for a Just Economic Community (UUJEC)** https://uujec.org/ (Rebecca)

    - A webinar on mutual aid for congregations was held on October 27.

- **Lecture by Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II**, "We Are Called to be a Movement," occurred on October 24, 7 p.m., at Cintas Center. https://tinyurl.com/Barber-Cinti (Rebecca, Rae Jane, others)

Reproductive Rights

- **Abortion-related bills**. (Russ)

Freedom of Thought and Expression

- **Banned Books Club at Heritage.** (Laci)

Unitarian Universalist Organizations

- **UU Council of Greater Cincinnati** http://cinciuu.org/ (Rae Jane)
    - Meeting on November 12 had topic of how we handle social justice in our congregations.
    - MARCC Shared Planning Conference on November 15 picked two areas of focus: Community Violence Intervention; Displacement/ Affordable Housing/ Homelessness
    - UU Council's Anti-Racism Circle, 12 meetings January through April 2023. Registration Required by January 4 at https://tinyurl.com/UUBuildTheWorld2023. There is no course fee.
- **UU Justice Ohio (UUJO)** https://uujo.org/ (Rae Jane)
- **MidAmerica Region of the UUA**. https://www.uua.org/midamerica. (Rae Jane)
    - MidAmerica Board of Trustees held a retreat in Louisville the weekend of November 18. Topic: Developing a covenant with the UUA.
- **Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA)**. https://www.uua.org/. (Any)

Other

- **Other topics?**

Next Meeting

- To continue alternating venues of in-person and Zoom, next venue should be in-person.
- Set Date and Time.
- Who will:
    - Make church arrangements (Put on calendar, and schedule Zoom if needed)?
    - Create an agenda?
    - Lead the meeting? Write minutes?