

Social Justice Collaborative Meeting Agenda

Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church
Sunday, May 21, 2023, 12:20 p.m.
Meeting in the Heritage Room

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: Russ Araujo

Self-Introductions

Anyone need to leave early?

Any items to add to the agenda?

Reports on Specific Areas

Promoting Respect for Diversity in General

- **Mt. Washington Presbyterian Church** held a Community Diversity Day on March 25.
- **HUUC and GAPP** held a follow-on Bringing Diversity Home event on May 12 (focus on Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual) and May 19 (focus on Transgender and Queer) (Laci, with help from Erin C. and Rae Jane)

Freedom of Thought and Expression

- **Banned Books Club at Heritage.** <https://huuc.net/category/banned-book-club/> March book was *Lawn Boy*, by Jonathan Evison. April book was *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian*, by Sherman Alexie. May book is *Me and Earl and the Dying Girl*, by Jesse Andrews. (Laci)

Racial Justice

- **HUUC** “Dinner and Uncomfortable Conversations with a Black man,” was held March 18 and April 15. (Antonio and Jen)
- **Anderson Churches for Racial Unity (ACRU) and Greater Anderson Promotes Peace (GAPP)** <https://www.facebook.com/andersonchurches4ru/> and <https://www.gappeace.org/>. (Louise)
 - **Over-the-Rhine People’s Movement Tours** took place on April 18 (virtual tour) and April 29 (in-person tour). Each tour was attended by several Heritage people. Louise helped organize these through GAPP and ACRU.
- **Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ)** <https://www.facebook.com/surjincincy/>. (Rae Jane)

Indigenous Peoples

- **Indigenous Peoples Study Group.** Film *Reclaiming Turtle Island* shown on May 10.
- **Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Development Group.** A team will draft. HUUC Board will need to approve. (Mimi)

Food Security

- **Heritage Healthy Cooking Classes.** <https://huuc.net/heritage-healthy-cooking-classes-are-back/> (Erin C.)
- **Inter Parish Ministry (IPM)** <http://www.interparish.org/>. (All)

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Other Issues

- **Welcoming Congregation Renewal Program.** <https://www.uua.org/lgbtq/welcoming/program/> (Bob)
- **Cincinnati Pride Parade and Festival.** MJ Pierson, of The Gathering at Northern Hills, is again this year organizing the UU involvement in the Cincinnati Pride Parade and Festival. The Heritage article is here: <https://huuc.net/cincinnati-pride-lets-march-and-talk/>. (Russ)

Housing and Homelessness

- **Found House Interfaith Housing Network.** <https://www.foundhouse.org/> HUUC will be a support congregation to St. John’s. (Rae Jane)

Economic Justice

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

Unitarian Universalist Organizations

- **UU Council of Greater Cincinnati** <http://cinciuu.org/>

- **Joint UU Potluck, Worship Service.** All UU church members in greater Cincinnati were invited to a joint potluck on Saturday, April 29, at St. John's UU Church, and a joint worship service on Sunday, April 30, 2023, at 10:30 a.m., at First Unitarian Church. The speaker was Rev. Mary Katherine Morn, President of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. (Rae Jane, Bob)
- **MidAmerica Region of the UUA.** <https://www.uua.org/midamerica>. (Rae Jane)
- **Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).** <https://www.uua.org/>. (All)

Other

- **Any other social justice areas to discuss?**

Next Meeting

- Have the next meeting on a Tuesday evening via Zoom, or Sunday afternoon in-person?
- Set Date and Time.
- Who will lead the meeting?
- Other roles for the next meeting have already been volunteered for:
 - Make arrangements (Calendar, and Zoom if needed): Russ
 - Draft an agenda: Russ
 - Write minutes: Mimi