

# Social Justice Collaborative Meeting Agenda draft

Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church  
Sunday, October 8, 2023, 12 noon  
Meeting in person during potluck lunch

## 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

Introductions

Does anyone need to leave early?

Are there any topics to add to the agenda?

### Organizational Updates

- **Contact person for the Social Justice Collaborative:** Mimi has volunteered to be the new contact person for social justice information. Thank you Mimi!
- **Interfacing with the "Sharing Our Abundance" program.** Discussion with Erin C. and Erin W.

## Reports on Specific Areas

### Racial Justice

- **Outreach Offerings to Support Young Black Musicians.** The Social Justice Collaborative has recommendation that periodic Sharing Our Abundance donations go to nonprofits supporting Black musicians, in recognition of past appropriation of royalty-free use of Black music. With this in mind, Erin Walczewski chose Castle of Our Skins (<https://www.castleskins.org/>) as the Sharing Our Abundance recipient for September 17. (Russ)
- **Anderson Churches for Racial Unity (ACRU) and Greater Anderson Promotes Peace (GAPP)** <https://www.facebook.com/andersonchurches4ru/> and <https://www.gappeace.org/>. (Louise)
- **Mourning the Creation of Racial Categories (MCRC)** event took place on Tuesday, September 12, at Anderson Hills Church. This involved the display of 10 Sculptures created by MCRC artist Monica Naymar, along with interpretive remarks by Dr. Joan Ferrante. <https://www.mourningthecreationofracialcategoriesproject.org/recent-exhibitions> (Louise)
- **Midwest Black Family Reunion in Cincinnati** took place on Saturday, August 19. (Louise)
- **Greater new Life Baptist Church commemoration program for the March on Washington** took place on August 27. (Louise)
- **Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ)** <https://www.facebook.com/surjcincy/>. (Rae Jane)
  - **Trip to Ripley, Ohio**, to visit two house-museums, took place on August 25. The two house-museums were the Parker House (home to former slave and inventor John P. Parker from 1853 to his death in 1900) and The Rankin House (a stop on the Underground Railroad for escaped slaves). (Rae Jane)
- **First Unitarian Church** four-part discussion of *Mistakes and Miracles: Congregations on the Road to Multiculturalism*, took place via Zoom on August 15, 22, 29, and September 5. (Russ)

### Indigenous Peoples

- **Indigenous Peoples Study Group.** (Louise)
- **Gathering of Original Nations People** was scheduled to occur on August 19. <https://mailchi.mp/7b693434098c/uus-have-been-supporting-original-nations?e=c77f5d812b> (Louise and/or Mimi)
- **Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Development Group** drafted a statement and planned on presenting it to the HUUC Board (Mimi, Tracy Jo, and Louise)

- **Urban Native Collective**, formerly Greater Cincinnati Native American Coalition, was the focus of discussions at the past Social Justice Collaborative meeting, which considered the idea of partnering with them or of donating money to them, perhaps collected through an Outreach Offering. Tracy Jo has been in contact with. (Mimi)

### Immigration

- **UUs for Social Justice** has now made it easy to contact elected officials to urge a pathway to permanent residence for Dreamers. An article on this—with links to a General Assembly Action of Immediate Witness as well as to the site for communicating with elected officials—appeared in the August *Heirloom*. (Rebecca) On August 20, an announcement was made at church and people could use a computer in the Great Hall to contact elected officials. (Louise).

### Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Other Issues

- **Writing Letters to Statehouse Officials**. The letters are to stop Ohio HB68, which bans gender-affirming care for minors. HUUC had an online letter-writing campaign. Bill status: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/hb68> . This bill has passed the House and is now in the Senate Government Oversight Committee (which has four Republicans and one Democrat). Plans are to update the letter-writing campaign to send letters to senators. (Russ)

### Housing and Homelessness

- **Found House Interfaith Housing Network**. <https://www.foundhouse.org/> . St. John's UU Church will host families the week of October 15. Rae Jane is a co-coordinator as host. Sign-up genius has been created for people to volunteer for jobs. People can sign up to help anytime, not just on a specific congregation's night. At Heritage Church, people donated stuffed animals and an outreach offering was used to buy stuffed animals and other items to donate to children staying at St. John's. (Rae Jane)

### Economic Justice

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

### Suicide Prevention

- **Out of Darkness Walk** took place on October 1. (Rebecca)

### Governmental Reform

**"Citizens Not Politicians"** is a group that is collecting signatures to put an Ohio Constitutional Amendment on the ballot in November 2024. The amendment would establish a citizens' group to do election redistricting. Current/former politicians, lobbyist, and large donors would be prohibited from participating. The proposal is similar to the approach now used in Michigan and Colorado. (Russ)

## Unitarian Universalist Organizations

- **UU Council of Greater Cincinnati** <http://cinciuu.org/>.
  - **Festival of Faiths.** The UU Council had a booth at the Cincinnati Festival of Faiths, which ran from August 27 through 31. Rebecca was in the choir for this, with performance on Sunday at 3pm. Jen Ciolino lead a meditation segment during the week. Rae Jane worked the UU table. (Rae Jane)
- **MidAmerica Region of the UUA.** <https://www.uua.org/midamerica>. (Rae Jane)
- **Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).** <https://www.uua.org/>. (All)

## Other

### Next Meeting

- The next meeting: In-person or via Zoom?
- What date and time?
- Need volunteers for the following:
  - Make arrangements (Contact Martha regarding church calendar, Zoom if needed)
  - Draft an agenda
  - Lead the meeting
  - Write minutes