

# Social Justice Collaborative Meeting Agenda

Heritage Universalist Unitarian Church  
Sunday, November 19, 2023, 12:15 p.m.  
Meeting in person

## 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

Anyone need to leave early?

Any topics to add to the agenda?

### Organizational Issue: How to Spend Our Budgeted Funds

The HUUC 2023-2024 budget allocates \$250 for the Social Justice Collaborative. How do we want to use this money? Martha Viehmann raised this question. She suggests that we decide by the spring. Should we use it for:

- Paying dues for continuing the HUUC membership in UUs for a Just Economic Community?
- Something else?

(Note: Payment of HUUC dues to UU Justice Ohio comes from a different budget line item.)

## Reports on Specific Areas

### 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)
  - **Responding to Hate with Acts of Love** occurred on Wednesday, October 11 at Anderson Center. Guest Speakers were Rabbi Ari Jun, director of Cincinnati's JCRC, and Taylor Curtis, director of Racial Justice and Equity for the YWCA of Greater Cincinnati. The discussion was about what to do about the hate literature recently disseminated.
  - **America's Truth: Cincinnati**, documentary about systemic racism in Cincinnati, was shown on October 18, at 7 p.m., at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church.
- **Showing up for Racial Justice (SURJ)** <https://www.facebook.com/surjcincy/>. (Rae Jane)
- **"Deeper than the Skin" performance.** Cincinnati church ministers have been in contact with Reggie Harris and Greg Greenway, the persons who created this performance. The idea that Reggie and Greg could hold a performance on Saturday at St. John's UU Church, and lead a joint worship service on Sunday. (Anyone with information.)
- **Congregational Trips related to historical racism.** At the last meeting, the idea was raised that the Heritage Church congregation might take some trips to increase general awareness of historical racism. One trip could be to Ripley, Ohio, where there are two house museums. (SURJ made this trip in August 2023.) The other trip could be to the South, with stops in Selma, Alabama, and at the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery, Alabama. (Louise)

### Indigenous Peoples

- **Indigenous Peoples Study Group.** (Louise)
- **Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Development Group.** The group has shared proposed wording and plans with the HUUC Board of Trustees, and Rebecca gave background information to the Board. Plans are for Mimi to request attendance at the November 13 Board meeting. (Mimi, Tracy Jo, and Louise) (Board feedback from Rebecca)

### 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. This bill has passed the House and is now in the Senate Government Oversight Committee. Bill status: <https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/hb68> . During the summer, the HUUC website and *Heirloom* provided tools to help write to statehouse representatives. The

website and the November *Heirloom* now provide tools to write state senators.  
<https://huuc.net/speak-out-to-support-the-rights-of-trans-teens/>. (Russ)

### Housing and Homelessness

- **Found House Interfaith Housing Network.** <https://www.foundhouse.org/> . St. John's UU Church hosted four families the week of October 15. Heritage is a support church in this effort. (Rae Jane)

### Economic Justice

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

### Governmental Reform

**"Citizens Not Politicians"** <https://www.citizensnotpoliticians.org/> 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. The organization Fair Districts <https://www.fairdistrictsohio.org/> is helping to organize the petition effort to get the amendment on the ballot. There was a November *Heirloom* article about this. <https://huuc.net/working-to-fix-the-ohio-redistricting-process/> . (Russ)

### Unitarian Universalist Organizations

- **UU Council of Greater Cincinnati** <http://cinciuu.org/>. (Rae Jane)
- **MidAmerica Region of the UUA.** <https://www.uua.org/midamerica>. Board Retreat was November 10-12 in St. Louis. (Rae Jane)
- **Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).** <https://www.uua.org/>.
  - The UUA Article II Study Commission has now provided its updated proposed revision of UUA Bylaws Article II. It is at: <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/final-proposed-revision-article-ii> . (Anyone)

### Other

### Next Meeting

- Decide regarding the next meeting: In Person or by Zoom?
- Pick meeting date and time.
- Need volunteers for the following:
  - Make arrangements:
  - Draft an agenda:
  - Lead the meeting:
  - Write minutes: