

## Social Justice Council (SJC)

### MISSION:

To build and maintain a social justice organization with a distinctly moral voice based on our UU values and principles that will provide the UU Church of Rochester a means to fulfill five social justice imperatives:

- Service (meeting people's immediate needs through donations and service)
- Education (understanding what, why and how, dialogue and consensus building)
- Witness (expressing convictions publicly by word or deed)
- Advocacy (working with the legislative process to impact public policy)
- Community Organization (developing coalitions that empower people to participate in decision-making)

### DUTIES:

1. Establish task groups to plan, organize, and execute educational opportunities and social justice projects; review and approve task group action plans and budget requests.
2. Provide a forum where task groups can coordinate schedules and activities and share ideas; encourage task groups to balance their social justice activities in each of the five social justice imperatives.
3. Identify and provide education, workshops, and skills training that will enable all task groups to be more effective in their efforts.
4. Engage the congregation in dialogue regarding the social justice imperatives.
5. Recommend recipients of Contribution Sunday donations. (see *Finance Policies: Sharing the Offering*)
6. Encourage task groups to maintain active relationships with UU social justice organizations such as the Minnesota Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA), the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), and UUA MidAmerica organizations.
7. Encourage task groups to establish and maintain linkages with groups in the community dealing with related issues.
8. Speak in the name of the Social Justice Council on any social justice issue, and authorize statements by task groups on behalf of those task groups.
9. Inform the congregation about Unitarian Universalist Association social justice resolutions.
10. Administer, as indicated by Church policy, congregational resolutions on matters of social justice (see *Policies: Congregational Resolutions on Matters of Social Justice*).

### ORGANIZATION:

1. The Council elects the chair or co-chairs from among the members of the church and approved by the Board for a term of one (1) year, with up to three (3) consecutive terms.
2. In the event of a vacancy, a chair will be elected by the Council, subject to approval by the Board.

3. The SJC will consist of up to five (5) members of the congregation at large, as well as a representative of each task group.
4. The chair or a designee represents the SJC at Program Council meetings and updates the Program Council on SJC activities.

**MEETINGS, REPORTS AND COMMUNICATION:**

1. The chair submits a list of SJC members and task group chairs to the Board and the church office each September and updates it as changes occur.
2. The Council meets at least four times a year.
3. Task groups meet as often as needed, with a representative attending Social Justice Council meetings.
4. Task Forces and the Social Justice Council shall record minutes of all meetings and distribute them to all the SJC members, the Board liaison, and the church office.
5. The SJC shall communicate regularly with the congregation through established communication channels (Venture, announcements, web site, e-mail, etc.)
6. The SJC will submit a one- to three-year budget to the Finance Committee in the month of January, unless otherwise directed by the Board of Directors.
7. The SJC will submit an annual report as directed by the church office.
8. Each task group will submit an annual report as directed by the church office.