

UUC Social Justice Team Annual Report – May 2023

Chair and members: Sara Dalton (team leader), Lucas Machi, Mark Benson, Bob Stimson, Anna Toulou, Pam Phillips (ex-officio). Other attendees include Anita Puckett (Environmental Justice/Climate Change) and Barbara Taylor (Racial Justice).

Purpose of the team: The purpose of the Social Justice Team is to facilitate coordination of the various social justice groups/activities within the congregation and with other social justice groups/activities in the wider community, state and/or national level. The team is to serve as a spark/incubator for the formation of new social justice groups within our congregation based on interests expressed by congregants.

Achievements: The team participated in the formulation of a social justice interest survey for our congregation which was completed in November 2022. From this effort 4 social justice teams emerged that had respondent(s) willing to serve as team leaders: environmental justice/climate change, racial justice, reproductive justice and voting rights. The racial justice team was incorporated into the existing anti-racism group. The other 3 teams held their first meetings in January 2023 and have remained active. The team leader remains our UUC liaison with Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy. Some of the team members are also members of other social justice groups in the area such as Justice Advocates, MRF NAACP and Montgomery County League of Women Voters.

Expenses for the year to date: None

How does the team work to further our mission and vision: The work of this team is an effort to live our 2nd and 6th UU principles.

Goals for the coming year and how do they further our mission and vision: The team is committed to supporting/encouraging the ongoing functioning of the 4 newly formed social justice teams as some of us are members and team leaders of the new teams. The team will continue to look at ways our congregation can coordinate with other social justice groups in the larger community.