

## Reproductive Justice Team Annual Report – May 2023

**Chair and members:** Sara Dalton (team leader), Cynthia Luke, Becca White, Jill Kiecolt, Lisa Evanylo, Susan Baker, Helen Renqvist, Nancy Bodenhorn, Rachel Craine

**Purpose of team:** The purpose of this team which was formed in January 2023, is to promote reproductive justice defined by SisterSong as “the human right to maintain personal bodily autonomy, have children, not have children, and parent the children we have in safe and sustainable communities.”

**Achievements:** We tracked legislation dealing with reproductive health in the January/February session of the Virginia General Assembly and advocated via emails for bills conducive to reproductive justice and opposed those bills designed to harm reproductive justice. We promoted and lead discussion following April 14 social justice film, *The Janes*, at UUC. Invited and present at the film discussion were representatives from New River Abortion Access Fund and Planned Parenthood of the South Atlantic. In addition to educating ourselves and advocating for reproductive justice, a couple of our team are becoming volunteers with the New River Abortion Access Fund.

**Expenses for the year:** None

**How does the team work to further our missions and vision:** Our first UU principle, the inherent worth and dignity of every person, according to UUA, “includes a belief in the sacredness of all bodies, and the importance of self-determination and human agency. As part of a liberatory Reproductive Justice movement, we affirm our commitment to building a world in which all people are able to make choices about their bodies, their health, and their families within safe, thriving communities.”

**Goals for the coming year and how do they further our mission and vision:** We plan to facilitate a Sunday service, Sunday Circle and social justice film night regarding reproductive justice. We will meet with our Virginia Senators and Delegates in this region to encourage support of legislation favorable to reproductive rights. During the 2024 General Assembly session, we will again track bills being introduced and contact our representatives to encourage their support of legislation favorable to reproductive justice. We plan to explore more fully maternal mortality issues and advocate for programs that aim to reduce maternal mortality. These actions support our first principle as outlined above.