

# 2011 Social Justice Report

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## Report of the Social Justice Task Force:

At the request of the Board, the Social Justice Task Force has been formed to (1) develop a method of communicating about our members' social justice and community service activities to new and continuing members of the congregation; and (2) examine how the UUA might assist the congregation in developing effective social justice programs that support our principles. Elaine Kresse has been appointed to lead this Task Force.

Considerable time was spent to (1) develop a method of communicating about our members' social justice and community service activities to new and continuing members of the congregation. The Task Force has developed a description of the activities now identified as active within the congregation. This information will be shared with the congregation by newsletter in September after presentation to the board in August.

It also developed a list of non-profit interests of Members/Friends. This list will be available to the Welcome Team and Social Justice Team. This list will need to be expanded and administered as new information is submitted to the participating teams. This list will help members connect with each other based on common concerns.

Additionally, the task force learned the following.

There is an existing description of a social justice liaison on file but it is not an active position.

Elaine Kresse is the social justice representative from the board on the building use panel

There is no social justice committee.

Considering (2) The committee examined how the UUA could assist the congregation in developing effective social justice programs that support our principles.

UUA offers a program called **Social Justice Empowerment Workshop**. Rev. Tom Capo at the Peoples Church UU in Cedar Rapids has used this program. They spoke very highly of it and the churches focus on social justice is evident in their current structure. They shared with us several copies of the UUA Social Justice Handbook. A preliminary request was submitted to the endowment committee for UUA social justice workshop funds. It was the feeling of the task force on July 6<sup>th</sup> that we did not need to enlist the UUA, but we did need to move forward to achieve those same ends and should be able to do that without a consultant.

It is our recommendation that we involve the congregation in establishing a social justice committee or team. We further recommend that this committee develop a policy that among other things coordinates with the Group and Fundraising policies approved by the board in 2011. Of particular concern is the establishment of a "social justice table" policy. This table might be available each Sunday at coffee hour and be the place for information, sign up, or sales. We suggest permission to display at this table would be administered by the social justice team. This table could encompass RE approved causes and individual sales needs like Girl Scout Cookies or school fundraisers. It is suggested that other UU churches be contacted to gather some diversity in ways this is handled.

On August 3rd Sandra Evers, Wayne and Dee Oberle, Kriss Wells, Regina Clewell, Christine Powers, Sue Witte, Judy Kasper, Emily Smith, Lloyd Kilmer, Rev. Jay Wolin, and Elaine Kresse came to the final

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task force meeting, reviewed the report and discussed a way to proceed. Rev. Jay Wolin will lead 5 meetings beginning Sept. 7th to discern and develop the future of social justice at the UUCQC. Jay will put information about this in the newsletter and announcements.