

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of the Peninsula

**Charter for Social Justice Committee**

March 09, 2011

**Name:**

Social Justice Committee

**General Purpose:**

The Social Justice Committee serves to facilitate the important social actions that take place within the congregation, as well as to raise awareness of issues in the interest of securing human rights, an equitable distribution of resources, a healthy planet, democracy, and a space for the human spirit to thrive. We are committed to active involvement with social issues following the UUA's Seven Principles.

**Leadership and Membership:**

This is a standing committee with a chair elected by the congregation, who may serve no more than four consecutive years in that position. Members are those who show interest by attending meetings and participating in social action projects.

**Meetings:** Fourth Sunday after 2<sup>nd</sup> Service

**Specific Duties:**

1. To coordinate the congregation's support of the Living Interfaith Network (LINK) and its winter shelter program, PORT.
2. To monitor, report, and recommend organizations for the Share the Basket program.
3. To keep the congregation informed on the social justice issues and efforts of the Thomas Jefferson District (TJD) and the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).
4. To be aware of community needs and bring concerns to the congregation for awareness and or action.
5. To conduct Justice Sunday, the annual UUA effort to recognize a denomination-wide social justice effort. The committee will bring this issue to the congregation by taking responsibility for a Sunday service.
6. To conduct Sunday morning adult RE classes to educate the Fellowship.
7. The Social Justice Committee shall coordinate with other committees to coordinate social justice issues and efforts.
8. The Social Justice Committee shall advise the Policy Board on the need for new or revised policies in regard to social justice issues and efforts.

**Outcome measurements:**

1. Attend to all of the specific duties listed above on a continuing basis.
2. The Committee will assess its activities on an annual basis and will review this charter annually to reassess its adequacy and to recommend any proposed changes to the Policy Board.

**Budget and Spending Authority:**

As a standing committee the chairperson of the Social Justice committee may authorize payment of Fellowship funds within its budget.

**Reporting Requirements:**

1. Yearly report to Policy Board for annual report
2. Monthly report in Flame about Share the Basket proceeds.
3. Attendance at Council of Committees and Policy Board meetings on an occasional basis or when requested.
4. Report as needed to Policy Board and minister
5. Use regular church publications to keep UU membership apprised of committee work.

**Authorities Reserved to the Board:**

1. The Policy Board approves the Committee's charter and working budget.
2. The Policy Board may remove any person from the Committee at its discretion.

**Relationship to Staff:**

1. The Minister is an ex-officio member of the Committee.
2. The Social Justice Committee shall work with the Director of Religious Education, Sunday Services Committee and Minister to keep the congregation informed on the social justice issues and efforts for the Sunday programming schedule.