

**First Unitarian Universalist Church  
Social Justice Committee Charter  
Spring 2014  
Inspire . . . . . Care . . . . Act . . .**

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Indiana, PA is a religious community grounded in love, support and acceptance. We commit to

- Inspire and nourish the personal spiritual journey
- Apply the values and principles of Unitarian Universalism in our living
- Promote compassionate and responsible thought and action in the world

The Board asks that all committees keep the mission of the church in the forefront of all they do. In order to ensure that our mission is the focus of our work, we ask that the mission is used in all reports to the Board. For instance, since your committee's last report to the Board (month, quarter, annual) how has your committee inspired the congregation, how are our principles guiding your work, how have you cared for each other or the larger community, what actions have you taken.

All non-elected committees are originated by the Board of Trustees and are accountable to the Board. A Committee Chair is appointed bi-annually by the President of the Board. In accordance with church bylaws, Committee Chairs may not serve more than two consecutive two-year terms (although may remain on a committee indefinitely).

As stated in the bylaws, the committee shall:

By two weeks prior to the annual meeting, provide a written summary report (using the above-mentioned reporting format) of all activities of the committee over the past year and major plans for the upcoming year. These reports will be included in the Board's Annual Report to the Congregation.

Annually, provide the Finance Committee with projected budgetary needs for the upcoming year.

- **It is the responsibility of outgoing Committee Chair to give this charter to the new incoming Chairperson along with all files (paper and computer) which may assist them in their responsibilities**
- **Assist the new Chairperson, with help from your Board Liaison with transition**
- **Share all committee activities that may have positive PR news with the Membership Chair.**

**Purpose:** To inform and educate the congregation and the public in areas of social and environmental justice. To find ways and means to rectify injustices, sponsor and support groups organized to address social and environmental problems, to develop informed leaders, and to foster a just and peaceful world.

**Functions and responsibilities:**

- Select a representative to be a member of the Bldg. & Grounds Steering Committee
- This committee includes "environmental justice" within its purpose because social and environmental problems are interdependent and must be addressed together.
- Conduct educational programs to raise the congregation's consciousness about social and environmental issues
- Provide opportunities for members and friends of First UU to participate in social justice and environmental issues.
- Encourage the congregation to organize to change systems of oppression and injustice.
- Promote investigation, analysis, and discussion of social/environmental issues.

- Develop public statements and actions in the name of the committee or where appropriate, in the name of the congregation.
- Publicize what is being done, both to the congregation and in the wider community in order that others be kept involved and encouraged to participate.
- Promote the use of First UU facilities by community groups working on social/environmental issues.
- Work within the budget allocated by the congregation.