

Policy 5.1: Justice Council

Mission/Goals:

To provide support, guidance, coordination, decision making, enhancement and evaluation of ongoing and proposed social service, charity-related, and other justice programs sponsored by the UUFC, as well as to coordinate emergent justice-related responses.

Membership:

The 7-9 council members will reflect the diversity of active justice and service committees, as well as include UUFC members who want to maximize the UUFC's impacts in justice in the world. The Board will make the initial appointments to the Council using recommendations from the committees.

Currently active justice and service committees may include, but not be limited to:

- The Peace Action Council (currently inactive)
- The Environmental Action Council
- The Climate Justice Committee
- Living the Welcoming Congregation
- Health Care for All
- Move to Amend (currently applying committee)
- Social Concerns Committee
- Partner Church Committee
- Microcredit Committee
- (SJAG responsibilities become those of JC)

JC Leadership:

- Council members will elect a leadership group consisting of a Chair, Co-Chair, and Secretary at the beginning of each Fellowship year. A council member will also represent it on the Coordinating Council

JC Responsibilities:

Meetings and communication:

- Use principles of right relations and agreed-upon democratic decision-making processes during all committee meetings.
- All meetings shall be open and posted to the UUFC calendar.
- Develop democratically-sourced meeting agendas ahead of time and revise as needed at the beginning of the meeting.
- Meet at least quarterly, with minutes sent to UUFC Justice Committees, Minister, and Board of Trustees (BoT).
- Develop guidelines for active justice committees.
- Be accountable for all monies used for JC budget.
- Conduct self-assessment at least annually. Help justice committees develop appropriate self-assessment strategies.
- Develop criteria for assessing new justice committee formation, passing on recommendations to BoT. Consider retiring certain committees due to inactivity.
- Provide approval/disapproval of non-UU-sponsored short-term justice and charity-related events, using a previously-defined process.

- Encourage involvement of congregants in justice work, and encourage justice committees to publicize a number of ways for congregants to become involved.
- Coordinate emergent justice-related responses as they arise.

Personal Well-Being

- Survey Council and Committee members regarding emotional/spiritual needs and interest in receiving support and which kinds of support.
- Make available needed supports as identified.

We strongly support the Fellowship's efforts in offering trainings.

We also strongly support guidelines for justice committees:

Meetings (if the committee has regular meetings):

- Use principles of right relations and agreed-upon democratic decision-making processes for all committee work (including cultivating new and next-generation leaders).
- Use meeting agendas, minutes, and up-to-date accounting of all monies spent.
- Set committee goals and conduct self-assessments at least annually.

Communications:

- Provide brief, pithy description of committee for distribution to congregants, including simple goals and objectives, as well as opportunities for involvement.
- Write annual reports to BoT (about strategies and accomplishments, etc.)
- Inform congregants (about occasional updates, news, educational blurbs, etc.)

Adopted by the UUFC Board August 31, 2015

Kyle Jansson, President

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