



# Building Bridges for Social Justice

BUUF Social Justice Council



# Social Justice Workshop/Retreat





# BUUF Organization





# BUUF Social Justice Ministry Teams

- Refugee and Immigrant Justice Ministry
  - *Mission:* To support and advocate for refugee and immigrant issues in our community (and beyond) through connection with our community partners.
- Climate Action Team
  - *Mission:* To plan and implement activities to educate and motivate BUUF members and friends to combat the climate crisis. Work with partners, such as Citizens Climate Lobby (CCL) and others, to present solutions, increase awareness and take action in our community and beyond.
- Racial Justice Ministry
  - *Mission:* To raise awareness and understanding of and engagement with racial identity and racism, including our individual and collective opportunities to achieve racial justice.



# Resolutions and Congregational Votes

- Social Justice Resolutions are considered and voted on by the Congregation
  - In person at the Annual Congregational meeting in May
  - By an absentee voting process in the Fall
    - prior to a session of the Idaho Legislature
- Absentee Voting
  - Resolutions are developed in response to timely issues, UUA statements of conscience and discussions at the GA.
  - The Social Justice Council writes a resolution and invites interested congregants to the October meeting for discussion and feedback.
  - The final version of a resolution is given to the Board in November for absentee voting in December.



# UUA Fundraising Opportunities

- Fund for Unitarian Universalism
  - Grants average \$8,000, application deadlines are March 15 & Sept. 15
- Fund for UU Social Responsibility
  - Up to \$1,500, apply any time
  - Intended for Actions of Public Witness
    - Responding to unforeseen needs that require urgent action
- Fund For a Just Society
  - Addressing issues of social and economic justice by non-profits
- Faithify
  - Crowd funding platform



# The Nature of Justice Work

“If you have come here to help me you are wasting your time, but if you have come because your liberation is bound up with mine, then let us work together.”

-- Lillia Watson, Australian activist and academic



# Principles of Spiritual Activism

- Transformation of motivation
  - from anger/fear/despair to compassion/love/purpose
- Non-attachment to outcomes
- Integrity in means and ends
  - Integrity is your protection
- Don't demonize your adversaries
  - love thy enemy or at least have compassion for them
- Your work is for the world, not for you

*-- Abridged from Satyana's Leading with Spirit program.*





# Intersectionality and Oppression

- People have many facets
  - For example: Gender, Race, Nationality, Sexual Orientation, Wealth
- Oppression was thought to focus on only one facet
  - For example: Racism, Sexism, Ageism, Elitism, Poverty
- Intersectionality acknowledges the complexity of reality
  - Rich, White, Norwegian, immigrants vs. Poor, Brown, Guatemalan, immigrants
  - Black Women vs. Black men vs. White Women



# BUUF Social Justice Council

- Our Vision
  - Social justice work is a natural outgrowth of a healthy, nurturing church community
    - We act out our Seven UU Principles in the world.
    - The work must be reciprocal and based on honored and dignified relationships in order that the good work be enduring, sustainable, and transformative for all involved.
- Our Mission, in conjunction with our Minister
  - To nurture our identity as a social justice congregation.
    - We support, guide, and collaborate with existing and emerging groups of congregants who want to address a social justice need using the resources of the Church.



# BUUF Social Justice Council Principles

- Engage the congregation with opportunities to do meaningful justice work (systemic change) and mercy work (service/relief).
- Partner with religious, social service, and advocacy groups to magnify our impact.
- Expand, deliberately and strategically, the range of social justice ministries to which we commit.
- Reflect on and evaluate our efforts so that the Fellowship keeps faith with its stated mission to “practice justice...as a congregation.”



# Social Justice Council Members

- Jim Bigelow
- Rob Ham
- Marni Odermann
- Sue Philley
- Cathy Sherman
- Sue Stadler
- Don Stepich
- Betty Van Gheluwe
- Tessa Veto



# Social Justice Council Activities

- Meet monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month
- Conduct the Plate Partner Nomination Process
  - Nominations are screened against a published nomination criteria
  - We start in January with a nomination form and end with voting in May
- Conduct absentee voting on Social Justice Resolutions
- Develop Social Justice Resolutions that
  - Promote discussion and consensus building by the congregation
  - Supports BUUF acting in the community and the world
- Monitor and inform BUUF on issues taken up by the Idaho Legislature



# Building Bridges for Social Justice

# Gratitude