

# **Social Justice Council (SJC)**

## **Annual Report 2015-2016**

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### **Mission and Description**

As the administrative umbrella for all social justice groups and ministries, the SJC's mission is to coordinate, nurture, and support the congregation's efforts to advocate, educate, organize, serve, and witness for social action. SJC develops and maintains policies and procedures for formal recognition of social justice groups, and for review and oversight of the initiatives and actions of social justice programs and projects.

### **Meeting Core Values**

The SJC works to realize the Core Values of (1) social justice and environmental action; (2) community, through social justice ministries that work for peace, search for truth in love, and help one another; and (3) culture, where social justice ministries put into action "our core belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every individual."

### **Members**

Carolyn Madden and Julie Voelck, co-chairs, Roberta Allen, Hayley Boyse, Cristy Cardinal, Hannah Hotchkiss, Sally Preston, and Kate Warner.

### **Selected Activities**

- Worked with the Leadership Development Team to plan and provide the second *Make a Difference Weekend*, featuring a workshop and an involvement fair.
- Held a *Justice from the Heart: Challenging Racism* benefit for the Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network, featuring three community speakers: Belinda Dulin from the Dispute Resolution Center of Washtenaw and Livingston Counties, Mark Fancher from the Racial Justice Project of the ACLU of Michigan, and Rev. Charles Williams from the National Action Network of Michigan and Detroit's Historic King Solomon Baptist Church.
- Strengthened connections with social justice ministries through SJC members serving as liaisons to social justice groups.
- Participated in a number of community events and actions, including co-sponsoring the 50th Anniversary Celebration of the Interfaith Council for Peace and Justice (ICPJ), co-sponsoring and participating in the ICPJ community summit on racial and economic justice, and co-signing a letter to the Director of the State Department of Corrections about the need for improved conditions at the Women's Huron Valley Correctional Facility.
- Revised and updated the *Social Justice Involvement Opportunities* brochure.

In addition, the SJC is excited to share that SJC's Cristy Cardinal was selected to participate in the new Social Justice Building Innovator program through the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee.

### **Selected Goals for the Upcoming Year**

- Strengthen communication with the Congregation through the participation of social justice groups in a number of Sunday Services throughout the year called *Social Justice Connections*.
- Continue to build partnerships with organizations in the surrounding community.
- Continue efforts to integrate SGD with social justice programs and events.
- Support Cristy Cardinal as she works to increase the level of social justice strategic planning in our Congregation as part of her new role with the UUSC.
- Based on participant feedback and the expressed needs of congregants, continue to develop the *Make a Difference Weekend* with the Leadership Development Team.
- Revise and update the SJC's policies and procedures manual.