

Social Justice Task Forces
Process and requirements for Recognition or Renewal
Unitarian Universalist Church Bloomington (UUCB)
September 2022

Social Justice Task Forces are recognized groups within the UUCB that are composed of at least three active people, the majority of whom are UUCB members or friends. Task Forces must apply to the Social Justice Chair/Minister for initial recognition (any time) and for annual renewal (in summer).

Each Task Force is expected to:

- Serve, Educate, Advocate, Witness and/or Organize in a specific area of social justice concern. These are the five approaches (pillars) for social justice work. See <http://www.uubloomington.org/five-main-approaches-to-taking-action/> on our UUCB SJ page for more information; we will use these categories as a primary way of organizing our SJ Coordinating Circle meetings this year (2022-3).
- Hold meetings at least quarterly
- Use the group function via our church database for your email list; and, add Jackie Hall to them. Jackie can help with this.
- Send one representative to meetings of the Social Justice Coordinating Circle (meetings to be determined)
- Each spring; prepare a brief written report to the congregation that will include accomplishments, number of people involved in task force activities, and totals of money or goods collected throughout the year
- In the task force's chosen month(s), offer a Social Justice Moment from the pulpit (coordinated with the ministers), display task force materials on the social justice bulletin board (and, if possible, arrange to have photos of task force activities showing in the social justice digital picture frame), have people at the SJ Table on Sunday mornings, and contribute a feature story to Prologue in the issue preceding their month
- Work with Religious Education program to incorporate SJ opportunities for families and children for SJ information and activities
- Share expertise and information with other task forces and groups

Social Justice Task Forces
Application for Recognition or Renewal
Unitarian Universalist Church Bloomington (UUCB)
Sept 2022

Name of Task Force: _____ Rainbow Rights _____ Initial _____ Renewal

Form submitted by: __ Jason Michálek__ Phone: __989.287.0915__ E-mail: RainbowRights@uubloomington.org

Please answer these questions:

1. What are the **goals** of the task force, and how do they reflect UUCB principles and enhance the life of our congregation?

RRTF seeks to revive, document, and advance the knowledge, concerns, and rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, communities, and causes. Building upon our congregations commitment to the 8th principle's journeying to dismantle racism and other oppressions, this task force acknowledges the spectrum of identities that reside beneath the systematic injustices experienced by marginalized persons, and we commit ourselves to journey in advocating for spiritual wholeness in relation to gender and sexuality

2. What are your planned **activities** this year (**especially thinking of families, children, chalice circles, and connections**), including fundraising and educational meetings, and how do you plan to accomplish them?

We will open discussions in through events we host, presentations during worship services, and content that we create to display in our church building. This will advance the ability of our congregation and broader community to share knowledge, questions, and information about a variety of topics. We also plan to communicate the importance of LGBTQ+ advocacy through dramatizations and recorded stories. Eventually, we would like to establish asynchronous community connections and synchronous circles that create a space for people to advance their sense of belonging while exploring the social justice issues to which we are devoted.

3. Who are the **members** of this task force, and what is the normal schedule of your meetings? Do you have plans to expand within the congregation and to the larger community?

Current members include Jason Michálek, Jackie Hall, Marlin Howard, Sally McGuire, Allison Tomusk, and Marshall Lynn. We plan to at least double this number over the course of the next year by holding events and recruiting at churchwide events.

4. If a \$300 budget were available, How would your task force use it this year? Be specific. What other **resources (financial and otherwise)** will you need to meet your goals and how will these be met?

At this time, we have no pressing monetary costs. However, as we re-integrate into social gatherings, we would still like to purchase materials for engaging a collective timeline of historical advocacy and a vision board for where our congregation imagines us heading (~\$50-100). We'll also need to restock supplies for tabling at events, but the stock and cost needs are unknown as of this time.

5. **List at least 3 small bites - short-term or one-time volunteer opportunities (especially thinking of families, children, chalice circles, college students) that might be used to invite new members to your task force.**

1. Coming Out [to/at] Festivals - We will actively represent our welcoming community and task force mission at events and other tabling opportunities through our congregation

2. The Arc of Justice - We will work to document and record our historical involvements in LGBTQ+ advocacy, collecting stories, photos and other content from our congregation

3. Dramatizing Trans Experiences - In a Sunday service and/or through a digital presentation, we will offer a dramatization of some struggles faced by trans individuals.

6. What other information and resources would you like listed on your task force web page? See current SJ task force web pages for format and ideas.

The Social Justice Steering Committee and the entire congregation have been historically supportive of this task force. We have list of church members who have historically been involved and are in the process of generating further interest. At this time, we have no specific requirements for resources other than continued periodic use of time during services to educate the congregation about key actions that can be taken to help promote our mission. Our three core values are:

1. **Creating** safe spaces to explore and listen about querying identities
2. **Sharing** alliances that connect us to other spaces
3. **Branching** into the community to promote collective action

Submit this application electronically to Jackie Hall at jmhall@indiana.edu. Please be specific and accurate. Your information will be used in creating social justice web pages and other church documents.