

UUCB Task Force In-church International Outreach Application for Renewal

Form submitted by: _Claire Robertson Phone: _8123363696_ E-mail: robertson.8@osu.edu__

Task Force Internet Coordinator---different from above:

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Unitarian Universalist Church Bloomington (UUCB)

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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?

The goals are to raise funds for international charitable projects and offer to interested folks hands-on experiences abroad, and educational materials at home, to raise consciousness about poverty and its causes and consequences abroad. This distinguishes UUCB from most UU churches, which conduct social justice projects only in the US.

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 resume holding regular in-person meetings and sales, with 2 big sales scheduled for this fall as well as third Sun of the month bake sales. We can use all the help we can get for these. And, we are planning to call on the congregation for nominations for other projects or short-term needs we might assist. Generally our fundraising has succeeded to the extent that we raise more each year. We also hope for a group visit Nairobi in 2023, especially needed since we missed our 2021 visit.

Note: 2 years ago we tried to coordinate fundraising with another taskforce but got no response to multiple attempts.

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?

I will supply a list of the steering committee members at the end of this; we always hope to recruit more members, have an email list with some 60 interested folks on it, but they normally do not attend meetings or participate in other ways except for a few dedicated volunteers. We have one community leader on our steering committee, Penny Githens, who is not a UUCB member.

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?

We would add it to our account intended to help AIDS orphans at the Spurgeon's School in Nairobi, which has become the only Kenyan project we help, to be more effective in reaching our goals. The other two projects we dropped have been substantially damaged by corruption in management. To make our help more effective for Spurgeon's we will be coordinating with their major funder, UK charity Global Care, and trying to stop the damage to fundraising caused by a scam instituted by an American in coordination with a corrupt Kenyan politician.

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.

Mainly we need help with sales, setup and clean up, especially at the Bazaar, but also donating baked goods to the bake sale. We will email our large list but from experience few respond. And, a successful trip to Kenya involves recruiting enthusiastic travelers—everyone on the steering committee has made that trip—hence their continued participation. It's a truly fascinating and rewarding trip—even many times.

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.

We are working on revamping our electronic profile, being done by Maemie Blankenship, who has already set up a Facebook page and will link it to the Church site. We need to update the existing description of IOTF's activities.

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.

Steering Committee members

Claire Robertson Chair/Convenor robertson.8@osu.edu but highly prefer phone at 812-3363696

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