

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

Name of Task Force: Just Peace Taskforce Renewal x

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1. *What are the **goals** of the task force, and how do they reflect UUCB principles and enhance the life of our congregation?*
We work to promote peace and justice in the world, recognizing the essential role of grassroots organizing in creating a consensus for a new foreign and military policy. Our most immediate goals are to stop the nuclear arms race and work for nuclear disarmament, first through cancellation of new, “usable,” nuclear weapons; and to work for a just peace in the Middle East, in the first instance ending U.S. complicity in Saudi Arabia’s war in Yemen.

2. *What are your planned **activities** this year (**especially thinking of families, children, and connections**), including fundraising and educational meetings, and how do you plan to accomplish them?* Because we work on an issue of national policy, meetings with U.S. Senators are vital. In the past year, we met by Zoom with Senator Todd Young. We requested that he support a policy of No (Nuclear) First Use, which he declined to do. We also met with Senator Mike Braun. To our surprise, that meeting was much more cordial, and Senator Braun invited us to visit him in person when the pandemic permits. We are part of the national Back from the Brink campaign. At our urging, the Bloomington City Council in September 2020 unanimously passed a resolution in support of Back from the Brink, and Bloomington is now one of the cities around the nation on the list of its endorsers.

Our largest activity of the year just took place: a vigil to mark the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We have therefore not yet had the opportunity to meet afterward (which we plan to do on September 9th) to make further plans.

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?* Judy Witt, Erin Hollinden, Jessie Cook and Steve Dillon, Lee Strickholm, David Keppel. Pat Slabach recently joined the task force with a special interest in combatting gun violence; we will be working with the local group Moms Demand Action. We meet in conjunction with Bloomington Peace Action Coalition, the first Monday of every month on Zoom for the duration of the Corona Virus emergency (7 p.m.) Members of the Peace and Social Concerns Committee of Bloomington Friends Meeting and other members of the Bloomington peace community also participate.

4. *A \$300 budget is available to each task force this year – 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 greatly appreciate the \$300 grant. We would apply it to offer honoraria to nationally prominent experts to speak about the nuclear threat, especially as we prepare for the critical City Council resolution (see above).

5. *List at least 3 small bites - short-term or one-time volunteer opportunities (**especially thinking of families, children, college students**) that might be used to invite new members to your task force.* Please check the BPAC Facebook page for updates or contact David Keppel. We usually need people to contact Congress about current legislation. In addition, task force events involve multiple volunteer opportunities, including greeting and refreshments. Please attend one of our monthly meetings, get on our mailing list, and follow BPAC on Facebook.

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.* https://www.facebook.com/BloomingtonPeaceActionCoalition/?tn-str=k*F;
<https://www.fcni.org/search?q=nuclear>;

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, bookmarks, and other church documents.