

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

Name of Task Force: *Racial Justice Task Force* Initial____ Renewal __X__

Form submitted by: *Ruth Aydt (217)979-2721 aydt@icloud.com*

And

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Task Force Chair if different than above:

Name _____ Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

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 goal of the task force is to offer leadership and support as we strive to “walk the walk” of the 8th principle in our church and our local community.

... journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.

We have identified four major themes that will guide our activities during this phase of our journey:

- *We will deepen our understanding of racial injustice and its historical context.*
- *We will raise our awareness of current racial justice issues in our communities – issues that may be invisible to many of us in our day-to-day lives.*
- *We will build and strengthen relationships with Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) in our communities.*
- *We will engage in service activities led by BIPOC groups.*

As we journey, we will ask ourselves:

- *What have we failed to see that has allowed racism and other oppressions to continue?*
- *What needs to change on personal and institutional levels to dismantle racism and other oppressions?*

How can the task force advance these changes?

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 plan to offer TF members opportunities to engage in learning and service activities that we become aware of by sharing information via the TF mailing list.*
 - *We plan to raise funds by participating in Football Parking.*
 - *We may use funds to pay local BIPOC to make presentations at UUCB about racial justice issues at IU and in Monroe County.*
 - *We plan to push TF and UUCB members into the “learning zone” through conversations at meetings, adult RE offerings, and possibly films. For example, the “Widening the Circle of Concern” ARE class this fall that is a continuation of the spring offering, but structured in a way that new people can also participate. This is taking a majority of the “cycles” Ruth and Martha currently have available.*
 - *As COVID gathering restrictions ease, we plan to invite members of the community to attend UUCB events and to re-visit the field trip that was put on hold.*
 - *We plan to speak up when we notice areas where the church is not fulfilling its 8th principle commitment, possibly facilitating a Racial Equity Impact Assessment.*
 - *We plan to continue to support activities of Resilience Productions.*
 - *We plan to financially support the NAACP and other BIPOC-led community organizations to the extent allowed by our funds.*
 - *At this point, not ready to commit to anything else w.r.t. families, chalice circles, connections to other TF.*
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?

TF members consist of those on the mailing list (still to be migrated to Church Center). We do not have a normal meeting schedule.

Ruth has been participating on the community-wide Bloomington Multi-Faith Alliance sub-group Faith for Racial Equity (F4RE) and has shared that invitation with the task force members. There are ongoing opportunities to engage here.

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?

The TF has not decided how it would use such funds this year. Last year we agreed to put them into the trust account for use by church member Phillip Stroud, who is incarcerated. Phillip, a Black man, uses some of the funds for his own needs, and shares many with others who do not have family or friends with resources to support them. We did this through partnership with Hope for Prisoner’s TF. We would likely propose a similar use this year.

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.**

There will be an opportunity to volunteer to help with football parking. When we hear from Resilience Productions that they can use help, we will offer that option. Our focus is not on this recruitment of new members at this time.

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.

Ruth updates the webpage for our task force so no further support is needed there unless someone has problems with the content that is posted.

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.