

**APPLICATION TO CONTINUE AS/BECOME A SOCIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE
OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BLOOMINGTON**

- Social Justice Task Forces are groups within the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington that:
- advocate, educate, organize and/or inform around a specific area of social justice concern,
 - share expertise and information about that specific area of social justice concern with other Task Forces and groups as needed,
 - have at least three participants and are led by—and have at least 50% of their membership from—members and friends of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Bloomington,
 - have one representative on the Social Justice Coordinating Circle that meets at least three times a year (these representatives may be chairs or co-chairs of their Task Forces or members, but the Task Forces are to send representative persons who are both involved in and informed about the work of their Task Force AND are able to commit time to responsible involvement in the work of the Circle), and
 - prepare a written report to the congregation annually.

The Social Justice Steering Committee receives and acts on (in consultation with the members of the Coordinating Circle) applications for Task Force status. The Social Justice Coordinating Circle provides orientation for the leadership of new Task Forces.

To apply/reapply for Task Force status use this form as a guide for electronic submission of the information and answers requested below. Submit to jmhall@indiana.edu. If this is not possible, fill in the blanks below and, using this as a cover sheet, submit answers to the applicable numbered questions on attached page(s). Turn in at the Social Justice Steering Committee box in the church office. Please note that this information will be used by the Steering Committee to describe your Task Force on the church web-site, on a “book mark” displayed on the Social Justice table, and in other publications.

Name of Task Force: Habitat for Humanity Task Force

Renewal X

Form submitted by: Dorothy Sowell and Barb Berggoetz

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1. What are the purpose(s) and goal(s) of the Task Force?

Social Justice Problem: Lack of decent, affordable housing

Goal: Support Habitat for Humanity’s efforts to provide decent, affordable housing locally and globally

Objectives:

1. educate the congregation
2. expand UU volunteerism
3. support Habitat financially

2. In what ways do these purposes and goals fulfill the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Church and /or enhance the life of this congregation?

Our congregation is committed to Social Justice causes.

UUA Principles:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

3. Is this Task Force on-going or created to accomplish specific, time-limited goals? (If the latter, explain.)

On-going to promote congregational awareness of the community housing issue and participation in the Habitat Task Force.

4. What programs and/or events have been conducted during the past year?

- Prologue/Common Ground articles.
- Forum about the UU Habitat for Humanity Task Force on Sunday, Sept. 25, to inform the congregation about the activities of the task force and to recruit members for the task force.
- Task Force Action Plan for July 1, 2005 – June 30, 2006 drafted based on UUA guidelines from the Social Justice Empowerment Program workshop.
- Mark and Iris Esch-Williams presented a Social Justice Moment to the congregation during both services on February 6.
- Maintain a list of potential UU volunteers who are willing to provide food for workers or participate on construction crews for Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County. UU volunteers have helped with the construction of eight houses this past year.
- The task force co-hosted two tables at Habitat's Annual More Than Houses Breakfast fundraiser in November. Barb Berggoetz was one of the table captains. Over 16 UUs attended.
- The task force recruited 23 UU women to participate in Habitat's 5th Annual Women's Build in May 2006. Barb Berggoetz is our team leader.
- The task force hosted a bake sale fundraiser on April 9 to help sponsor some of these UU Women's Build volunteers. Thanks to the generosity of church members and friends, we raised \$867.
- Joan Caulton made a presentation to the Women's Alliance and received \$250 for food for the Women's Build.
- Emily Tenney represents the Task Force on the Social Justice Coordinating Circle. Emily organized the Habitat display on the Social Justice bulletin board in April.
- Annual Report

5. How effective does the Task Force judge these programs to have been?

Very effective in involving a significant part of the congregation and for directly supporting Habitat for Humanity of Monroe County.

6. What programs and/or events have been planned or are projected for coming months?

NEW:

- Long range plans for a UU co-sponsorship of another Habitat house in a few years.
- Friends of Habitat Church Potluck
- Family Activity as lunch providers for construction site

CONTINUED:

- Prologue/Common Ground articles
- SJ Bulletin Board and on-going photographs
- Social Justice Moment
- Forum
- Construction volunteers and food providers
- More Than Houses Breakfast donors
- Women's Build

7. What are the funding needs of the Task Force? How are they to be met?

Funding for co-sponsorship of another house could cost roughly \$25,000. Our T account now has money from previous fundraisers that exceeded our need for Women's Build team members. We are gathering information on how best to proceed, brainstorming potential fund-raising ideas and thinking of other co-sponsors.

Annual fundraiser to support women on our Women's Build team.

8. What other resources and support does the Task Force need to be effective?

Communication with the treasurer about establishing a House Sponsorship Fund

Continued support of ministers, continued support from Social Justice Coordinating Circle

More members taking on specific tasks

Plans to include families, children and youth

9. Who are the persons primarily responsible for decision making and policy setting for this Task Force?

Barb Berggoetz, co-chair, second co-chair to be announced

Dorothy Sowell, past- co-chair

Pat Aungst, Joan Caulton, Connie Nelson Laird, Lois Saxton, Emily Tenney, Iris Esch-Williams, Mark Esch-Williams