

Standing on the Side of Love!

Our Social Justice Committee promotes and coordinates social justice, action, and community outreach projects of the congregation. They are responsible for:

Publicizing events to the congregation and community

Informing and educating the congregation about issues of social concern

Coordinating with the larger UU and Interfaith communities on social justice issues

Enabling and participating in witness about social issues via written means, spoken testimony and demonstrations

Encouraging members and friends of the congregation to organize to change systems of oppression and injustice employing nonviolent approaches

Researching and analyzing social justice issues in depth, and developing strategies for action

Making the building available to facilitate social justice

Insuring congregational resources are used for ethical ends

Creating alliances with community organizations working towards justice (NAACP, NOW, other faith organizations, etc.)

Monthly Activities

ALUUC Focus: the Social Justice Committee publicizes events and actions to the congregation and community both before and after the fact, and also informs and educates the congregation on issues of social concern via our monthly newsletter (and also in the weekly announcements and website)

Change 4 Change: the committee chooses a charitable recipient for the monthly "Change for Change" program (1st Sunday)

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee: the committee provides monthly updates about UUSC programs and membership, and provides leadership for two annual events: Guest at Your Table and Justice Sunday

Other Activities

UUSC Advocacy Campaigns: the SJC leads the congregation on participation in concerted efforts with UUs across the globe to bring attention and education to justice efforts including workers' rights, ethical eating, water rights, anti-racism, etc. Current efforts include joining in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement, immigration rights, and reproductive justice.

UU Advocacy Network of Illinois: A partnership of IL Unitarian Universalists who gather, often at the Springfield State Capital, to lobby for progressive social causes that align with the seven UU Principles.

Eco-Camp: a week-long *free* summer camp to educate youth on ecology

Faith Coalition For the Common Good: including participation in the annual Prayer for Peace

Other Activities (cont.)

Mitten Tree: the SJC solicits donations of hats, mittens, gloves and scarves to be distributed by Contact Ministries to those in need during the winter holiday season.

Springfield Alliance for Marriage Equality: a group active in the successful fight for marriage equality in Illinois

A Place at the Table: in collaboration with other faith and community groups the SJC brought the film *A Place at the Table* to Springfield to illustrate the issue of hunger among working Americans and measures to end it.

Standing on the Side of Love: A UU based initiative that promotes non-violent participation in social causes.

UU Common Reads: the SAC hosts discussion groups for the UU Common Read books, an educational program uplifting timely topics of social justice

Food Justice: the SAC worked with Slow Food Springfield to host their annual film festival to highlight justice and ecological concerns of farmers and food workers

CYFS Holiday Party: the SAC coordinates efforts to throw a party and provide presents for foster children and their families during the holiday season

Conversations on Race: ALUUC teams with Calvary Baptist Church to discuss and work towards issues of racial justice, particularly pertaining to Springfield. The "Let Freedom Ring" march was the brainchild of this group.

Who Gets Supported by SJC?

Who doesn't? Past and present beneficiaries of ALUUC include:

Ronald Mc Donald House
Mary Bryant Home for the Blind
Springfield Alliance for Marriage Equality
UUANI
Central Illinois Food Bank
Center for Youth and Family Solutions
COMPASS
Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery
Animal Protective League
Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault
The Parent's Place Diaper Pantry
ALUUC Eco-Camp
Illinois Assistive Technology Program
Springfield Overflow Shelter (SOS)
St. John's Breadline
PORA
Kumler Food Pantry
Springfield Race Unity Rally
UUSC
Sojourn Women's Shelter
MERCY Community
Jacksonville Prison Project
Computer Banc
Youth Services Bureau
Family Service Center of Sangamon County
Equality Illinois
Boys & Girls Club
Senior Services of Central Illinois

In addition, ALUUC has played a visible role in community demonstrations over the years, including the Springfield March for (marriage) Equality, "Project Lemonade" to raise funds for anti-discrimination organizations, protest demonstrations to counter the KKK and Westboro Baptist Church, and marches in support of organized labor.

How Can I Get Involved?

We're so glad you asked! The Social Action Committee meets once a month, usually on the third Sunday after services (generally around noon).

For more information, please contact the Social Justice chair at: SAC@aluuc.org

Committee members receive periodic emails highlighting opportunities to get involved in social justice activities both at ALUUC and in the larger Springfield community.

Links!

UUA Social Justice: the UUA's home page for social action. <http://www.uua.org/justice>

Standing on the Side of Love: <http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/>

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC): <http://www.uusc.org>

Mid-America Region of the UUA: the Mid-America region's home page for justice: <https://www.midamericauua.org/resources/justice>

Social Justice at ALUUC



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