

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Gainesville, FL
Social Justice Council
Description and Accomplishments 2014

The Social Justice Council educates the congregation and facilitates involvement of members in direct action social justice projects and outreach to the community. We partner with community groups to serve and promote social justice understanding. The Council is made up of representatives from Project Teams.

Social Justice Circle meets monthly as an advisory group and for support for our work.

EDUCATION:

Speakers at the church on Sundays at Social Justice Forum: Marriage Equality, Gun Control, Move to Amend, Wage Recovery, In-State College Tuition for Foreign-born Florida students, Natural Gas Pipeline, Understanding Climate Change, Climate Solutions, Center for Peacebuilding, Water Issues, Medical Marijuana, ACTION Network, Habitat for Humanity, GRACE Marketplace

Films with Discussion: "Standing Your Sacred Ground" 2013 Ware Lecture; "The Harvest" on immigration

Sunday services: on Peace, with ceremony around Peace Pole; potluck and discussion of social justice work following a service about social justice work

Monthly column and other articles: in Gazette newsletter given out with Order of Service each Sunday; posts on e-mail lists

Table Display and Bulletin Board: poster about projects; "information exchange" basket; brochures

Advocacy Circle: provides roster of suggested organizations; meets rarely to encourage and facilitate advocacy by UUFG members

Multigenerational: making signs to carry in Pride Parade and MLK March; created chalices to use at home to "keep the fires of justice burning"

ACTION FOR JUSTICE:

Pineridge Community center: provided tutoring and enrichment for 12 elementary children in poverty 2 afternoons per week for all of school year

Food4Kids Hunger Backpack Program: packed non-perishable food weekly for weekend take-home at a local middle school. Affiliated with Food4Kids and funded by grants from the City plus donations. Also provided holiday gifts for the children.

Migrant Worker Support: collected clothing, shoes and toiletries for migrant workers

Foreign-born Florida students: sent pre-printed postcards to State legislators about In-State Tuition for Foreign-born Florida students; visited Santa Fe College president to discuss; visited State legislators

OUTREACH:

Pride Parade: Church marches annually with a banner and float, and has a booth at the event where we asked passersby to write affirmations on brightly colored paper, which we posted around the booth. We wear "Standing on the Side of Love" tees.

MLK March: Church marches annually with a banner, wearing our "Standing on the Side of Love" tees

Interweave: support group for LGBT community meets at UUFG monthly

Habitat for Humanity: 10+ members volunteer 3 times a year for a Build Day; congregation provides lunch for volunteers at build site 2 times per year; attend monthly interfaith meetings

PARTNERING TO SERVE and PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING:

Interfaith Hospitality Network: hosted and fed homeless families at the church for one week at a time four times during year, as part of a group of 12 churches

GRACE Marketplace for the homeless: donated clothing, tents, etc; at a special holiday breakfast, gave out 50 holiday stockings stuffed with toiletries and gifts, and a stocking cap for each knitted by one of our members

UU Justice Florida Legislative Day: 6 members participated and talked with legislators

Vets for Peace: host Winter Solstice Concert and Peace Poetry Contest reading and awards ceremony

United Nations Association: co-sponsor annual program and table there

Move to Amend: voted in a congregational meeting to support; active in County-wide campaign which won county-wide support for Move to Amend on Nov. 4 ballot; hosted celebration potluck

UUSC: pay annual congregational dues; annual Guest At Your Table collection; received award for up to 40% members

Dismantling Racism Team affiliated with Gainesville Office of Equal Opportunity: several church members are on this Team or facilitators for Study Circles on Prejudice and Bias; invite congregation to participate in Study Circles

Neighborhood Resource Center, part of Library Partnership: donate funds annually

Susan B. Anthony Luncheon: co-sponsor annually with donation