

Social Action and Justice Committee Charter
Unitarian Universalist Church of the Shenandoah Valley

Approved by the Board on _____

Revised by the Board on _____

I. Mission

The mission of the Social Action and Justice Committee of the UUCSV is to help create a more socially just and responsible world by providing opportunities for members and friends of the congregation to support, take action and become involved in social action and justice activities that reflect the Unitarian Universalist faith's seven principles.

Furthermore, through this Committee's work it is hoped that a large proportion of our congregants will participate in social action projects locally, nationally, or globally and that the UUCSV will be known in the Shenandoah Valley as a congregation that puts its social action and justice principles into action.

II. Responsibilities

To support the mission statement above, the Social Action & Justice Committee assumes the following responsibilities:

- Sets measurable objectives for the SA&J Committee to meet;
- Polls the congregation to identify members'/friends' SA&J interests and preferred means of participation;
- Identifies opportunities for critical masses of congregants to support SA&J issues which reflect the congregation's concerns/interests;
- Establishes criteria and processes for selecting SA&J activities to be supported by the church;
- Applies those criteria and processes in deciding which activities will be sponsored by the SA&J Committee;
- Supports those activities by encouraging and directing the involvement of interested congregants;
- Organizes an annual SA&J service in conjunction with the Sunday Services Committee;
- Organizes an annual event and/or activity which reflects/confirms our church as a welcoming congregation that promotes/supports justice, freedom and equality for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people.
- Keeps congregation members informed of SA&J activities;
- Coordinates with other committee chairs to create synergies between our work and theirs, in particular RE Committee for child and youth SA&J activities;
- Monitors and evaluates the SA&J work of the congregation and reports on this to the Board of Directors each year by April 15th and in the Annual Report.

III. Terms and Conditions

As the sole policy-making body for the Church (by its constitution) the Board will establish standing and *ad hoc* committees to carry out the activities of the Church. Also, the Board shall appoint committee chairpersons and may delegate to the chairpersons the authority to appoint members.

As a standing committee of the Church, the Social Action and Justice Committee will have a Board-appointed chairperson and work within the following terms:

- The term for the chairperson of this Committee is 2 years and a chairperson can serve no more than two consecutive terms.
- The Committee chairperson(s) will have regular interface and communication with the Board liaison to discuss relevant issues and subjects that require Board action.
- Committee members should be chosen from those church members/friends who are committed to putting SA&J on the front burner at UUCSV and available to meet regularly to further the work of the committee
- To truly contribute to the betterment of the world, the work of the congregation needs to be sustained and focused. To this end, a select number of SA&J activities will be chosen by the Committee (with input from the congregation), and the congregation will be encouraged to continue their support and involvement in these activities over a number of years or until a certain objective has been achieved.

IV. Funding

The Social Action and Justice Committee will have a line item in the operating budget of the Church to support the work of the Committee. An estimate of these expenses (with supporting data) should be submitted to the Finance Committee in February for inclusion in the draft budget for the coming year. Any donations of money, materials, or equipment to the SA&J Committee shall be used expressly for the purposes of furthering Committee projects.

Nov. 17th, 2009