

Social Justice Committee

Annual Report - 2018

During this fiscal year, the Social Justice Committee (SJC) has undertaken radical transformation. Revised policy and procedures are being implemented to not only support and expand the vital social work and social justice actions of the UUCGT congregation supporting Grand Traverse, Benzie, Leelanau and Antrim Counties, the state and the nation. The Social Justice Committee also **aspires to build and grow a dialogic culture at UUCGT, and in the community at large, modeling the six sources of the UU tradition and to nurture compassionate social witness in the UUCGT and beyond.** Inviting all members of the UU congregation and friends, the Social Justice Committee is ramping up to meet our avowed mission: **To inspire awareness of, and stimulate and coordinate action in, social justice issues in compliance with UUCGT Bylaws.**

Through FY 2018, the Social Justice Action Committee, chaired by Emmy Lou Cholak, has educated and informed the UUCGT community through regular posting of issues and perspectives in the Beacon and has provided notice of specific actions underway, such as the Women's Marches in Washington, DC and throughout Michigan, as well as actions in response to the mass shooting in Florida and elsewhere. Dr. Cholak has been a key contact for UUCGT with the Michigan UU Social Justice Network and has been recognized for her leadership on local, state and national levels.

Carrying on with and expanding on the work of Emmy Lou Cholak through the Social Justice Action Subcommittee (SJAS), the Committee will be convening at least quarterly to foster dialogue on social justice issues brought forward by the membership. These discussions will be structured to present multiple sides of complex issues in order to educate and inspire individual and collective action, not only in our issue-focused action, but through witness in our daily lives. It is a critical objective of the Social Justice Committee to become a social witness incubator, fostering intersectionality of shared values within the UUCGT community and throughout the community at large.

We know that many or most of the members of UUCGT are directly involved in Social Justice action with our time, treasure and talents. Our members support charitable organizations and institutional entities such as Safe Harbor. They also participate with action-focused organizations such as Indivisible TC, Indivisible Grand Traverse, partisan organizations and others, though the Social Justice Committee works on a partisan-neutral basis. It is the Social Justice Committee's purpose to engage and educate members and friends on the what, where, when and why of critical issues and activities and to provide support to those who are engaged in social justice endeavors.

All members or friends of UUCGT interested in participating in expanding UUCGT's reach and role in social justice work, witness and action are invited to join us.

Barbara Conley and Kim Sibilsky, SJC and Emmy Lou Cholak, SJAS