RI UU Legislative Ministry
Annual Legislative Forum
Briefing Sheet

Date: October 22, 2023 (Sunday)
Time: 1-4PM (Potential for spillover post-meeting discussion)
Location: Westminster Unitarian Church 119 Kenyon Ave #2905, East Greenwich, RI 02818

Purpose: This annual gathering is intended to provide insight and education to the attendees on the key social justice issues impacting Rhode Island with a focus on high priority legislation before the General Assembly.

Desired Meeting Outcomes:

- Education and engagement of the attendees on the core issues, empowering them to be advocates/activists in their communities.
- Prioritization of key legislation for the upcoming session for focus of the Rhode Island UU Community.
- Strengthening the statewide UU Legislative Ministry (UULM-RI) enabling forward joint planning and action.
- Building a broader and deeper coalition and some agency (for the UU's) with the coalition partners such as the RI Council of Churches, and NGO's invited to attend the forum.
- Deepening our relationships with the legislators and allies attending the forum.

Attendees: Target is ~85 attendees including:

- UU Congregation Members and leadership from across Rhode Island.
    - Each Congregation should invite their Pastor and President as well as two representatives from their youth groups.
    - Note: Make the UUA aware of our forum, so that they could choose to participate.
- Representatives from the RI State Council Churches.
- Representatives from NGOs/advocacy groups in focus areas and legislative allies.

Overarching Theme: Improving our democratic processes / "***Democracy Over Party"***

Focus Areas:

- Economic and Racial Justice
- Environment and Climate Crisis
- Gun Safety
- Democratic Process Issues in Rhode Island

RI UU Legislative Ministry
Annual Legislative Forum
Briefing Sheet

Draft Agenda updated as of 9/8/23

12:30-1:00 Registration and refreshments

1:00 Welcome, Invocation, Chalice Lighting – Rev. Eric Cherry, Westminster Unitarian Church

1:05 Overview of Agenda - Rev. Denis Paul, South County Unitarian Church

- Purpose of the event and theme. Recap of legislative gains in 2022-2023. Today's activities include issue presentations and an advocacy workshop. There will be a follow-up e-survey.
- Introduce keynote speaker

1:10 Keynote speaker John Marion - Common Cause

1:30-1:40 Democratic Process Issues in Rhode Island - Kate McGovern & Steve Kloeblen

1:40-1:45 Singing with Rev. Charlie Ortman

1:45-3:00 Issue presentations with limited Q&A

- Economic and Racial Justice - Rep. Jennifer Stewart and Camilo Viveiros
- Environment and Climate Crisis - Amanda Barker (or Exec Dir of Green Energy Alliance)
- Gun Safety - Melissa Carden and Amy Herlihy

3:00-3:10 Break

3:10-3:45 Advocating for your issues Deb Kopech of the South County Huddle

- Using personal stories to get your message across
- Organizing in your district

3:45 Closing and Chalice extinguishing, Adjourn - Rev. Denis Paul

4:00 Meet with issue presenters and advocacy groups at tables, sign-up for activities

4:00-4:30: Additional networking and clean-up by team members