

Full Set



Annual Report to the Board of Trustees and
Congregation

June, 2019

Faith In Action Council Report to the Board of Trustees: June, 2019

In the past year, FIAC has worked diligently to clarify distinctions between its role and the role of the SJ Project Team. To that end, we held an October "All-Circles" breakfast meeting. Each SJ Circle leader gave a report on what their Circle is doing, how it fits in with our overall SJ Ministry, and if it addresses the theme of dismantling systemic racism. It was a successful endeavor in many ways, and the plan is to repeat it in the 2019-2020 church year.

We clarified roles: the Project Team took charge of exploring options for a Congregational Project (to be voted on in June, 2019) and providing educational opportunities for the congregation throughout the year. FIAC maintains an administrative role for all of the congregation's Social Justice Ministry; it manages budget items for FIAC and the SJ Circles, and is responsible for communication about all things Social Justice Ministry. FIAC is also the "eyes and ears" of the congregation with regard to connecting with other organizations and churches to collaborate on projects. We are still in the process of developing regular communications with outside groups, including our sister congregations on Winton Road and in Canandaigua.

We worked with the Communications Committee to clarify some of that process: it's a work in progress, especially vis a vis bulletin boards! We wrote articles for the Outlook; we gave testimonials about our individual "Journey to Justice" as part of our faith journey, and we collaborated with Rev. Lane and Rev. Michelle on Second Sundays: a Sunday devoted to Social Justice themes. We also added many books to the new FIAC/SJ section of our library.

We made a very concerted effort to support the SJ Project Team once they had selected SPARC (Spiritus Christi Anti-Racism Coalition) as the Congregational Project to recommend to the congregation at the June annual meeting. We participated in Listening Circles, SPARC meetings, and distributed materials throughout coffee hour for six weeks prior to the June meeting. We collaborated with the Project Team on getting the word out about SPARC, so that people would have multiple opportunities to become informed in time to vote on June 2nd.

We are grateful to Dolores Da Lomba for her dedication and hard work on developing and leading the Project Team. She will turn over her role as PT Leader to co-Leaders Elizabeth Osta and Theo Munson effective in June. FIAC members Becky Elwell, Heather Jones and Joy Leccese will remain on the Council for one more year. We are looking to add two more people to the team so that next year there is continuity when the current FIAC team turns over leadership to other team members. Anyone who is interested in helping with these richly rewarding roles should speak with any member of the current Council.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of FIAC'S Becky Elwell and Heather Jones,
Joy Leccese, Chair

Project Team Annual Report (June, 2019)

The Project Team continued to focus its efforts to find and recommend a partnership with a community organization whose goal is to eliminate racism and to provide opportunities for the congregation to engage in discussions about racism and its effects on our society.

- We established a virtual and on-line Suggestion Box to encourage congregational input.
- Led a well attended 2 session discussion of "When They Call You a Terrorist: A Black Lives Matter Memoir". Presented a service on 9/30/18, "The First Americans: In Their Own Voices" and recommended several books that dealt with the Native American experience.
- Held a discussion of the movie, Black Klansman. Led discussions of books, "White Fragility" and "So You Want to Talk about Race."
- Prepared and circulated a survey to determine congregational top concerns/interests in racism issues. Received 72 responses.
- Using the responses as criteria, investigated opportunities for involvement with community organizations working against racism. These included but were not limited to the following: Sisters of St. Joseph's structural racism initiative, RUnite Rochester Campaign, The UCLM Ministries, Pathstone, the Ghandi Institute, the Movement for Anti-Racist ministry (MAMA), ROC Acts activities around children and schools, Teen Empowerment. Common Ground Playwalk and housing activists were also contacted.
- Held a Listening Circle to discuss pros and cons of exhibiting a Black Lives Matter banner at the church. Over 20 people participated.
- Attended a National Coalition Building Workshop to develop better skills for teamwork.
- In February, sponsored Rev. Myra Brown, Melissa Parrish and Davis Craig from Spiritus Anti-Racism Coalition (SPARC) at a Cozy Night Supper. The meeting was well attended. Rev. Brown did a power point presentation about the proposed Heritage Park and answered questions afterwards.



Social Justice Circle Report

Period Ending: June 2019

Circle Name: ROC / ACT 51

Leader: Bord

In order to create a report that reflects what the particular Circle has accomplished to date, we suggest that you complete this form according to the Application / Worksheet that was submitted to FIAC for approval as a SJ Circle.

Item 3 from the worksheet: overall goal of your Circle: "SMART" GOALS:

Specific: what you are working on? Has this changed? CITF - Education for the Poor Board of Directors*

Measurable: For example, how many meals, or how many activities has your circle engaged in during this time frame?

92 700 meals to the poor

Attainable: Have the people in this Circle been able to provide the service effectively? Challenges?

Yes

Relevant: What aspects of the topic of facing systemic racism are addressed in the actions taken by your Circle? (eg poverty, wage or housing discrimination, etc.)

All of the above and more

Timely: Has the time frame for providing this service been effective? Could it be improved? (eg homeless shelters open only at certain times...)

Since

* have not been
provided

Has

been

How has your budget for this Circle worked for you?

Sufficient: ☒ Not Enough: ☐

Are there any plans for new activities, and how much do you estimate needing?

Pop Support Circle Activities

Funds from FIAC: \$200/year for each Circle.

Circle Leader: Submit receipts to the FIAC Finance person for reimbursement.

The unro Treasurer will cut and send a check as directed to the Circle Leader.

Leader will divide up the check from the Treasurer as needed, within your Circle.

Current members of your Circle: Robert K...

Shirley Ford other act. circle
members called or when needed

State your objectives and goals for this Circle for the next six month period:

have for 5-10 Circle Unit of more youth
leadership - vote reactivation

What other organizations in this Circle's area of concern would you like First Universalist to consider supporting through a SJ Plate Offering? (Name 1-3.)

1. ...
Not ready yet...

Thank you, Leaders, for completing this form. If you need more information on how to work with your particular Circle, or about the work your Circle does, please contact a member of FIAC: names and emails are on your SJ Circles List.

Faithfully,

Your Faith In Action Council (FIAC) Team:

Joy Leccese, Chair; Becky Elwell, Finances; Heather Jones: Communications

Please refer to

Roc/ACTS Annual Report 2018-19

What a wonderful church year Roc/ACTS had!

Starting in **September** we managed to get a head start on the year. We made our presence known at City Council meetings regarding the creation of the Police Accountability Board, and with our determined involvement, a final vote took place in May. Roc/ACTS is one of the many faith organizations that worked diligently with the PABA (Police Accountability Board Alliance).

October brought us work concerning: Raise the Age, Ending Solitary Confinement, and the Green Light N.Y. campaign. The Poverty and Jobs task force worked on a "get out the vote" campaign. They were also vocal and stood with the Home Health care workers at protests. A Family Court Judge Candidates Forum was held at East High; Roc/ACTS was a sponsor along with the main sponsor, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

November brought us the first Action Event of the Criminal Justice Task Force. Attended by many UU's we pledged to work together with organizations to attain our goals. A press conference was held November 14. The purpose was Speak Out Against Injustice, a statewide event.

December was an upsetting month for Roc/ACTS. Jon Greenbaum resigned and left us with a difficult situation, with a lot of hand-wringing and a what-to-do quandary. Also Marvin Mitch died unexpectedly and left us heartsick. We will continue on as he would want us to.

January introduced us to our new organizer, Betty Hancock, who also met with Rev. Lane. She is intelligent, quick and a very able leader. We also hired a part time administrator, Joanne Balliet. Both are knowledgeable and capable leaders—a win for all.

February, besides being cold and snowy, brought us continued work on the Education Task Force, chaired by Cheryl Avery. She works on the "School to Prison" pipeline, which fuels mass incarceration through zero tolerance policies in school, police presence and racial disparities in disciplinary practices. She does necessary and important work.

March brought us a new interim president, Dr. Gayle. A listening circle held February 9, and led by a representative from the Quakers, was discussed in detail in the month of March. March also brought us guest speakers from The Children's Agenda, Metro Justice, and the League of Women Voters. The Criminal Justice Task Force held monthly meetings despite the weather!

April's work centered on the continued work with the Police Accountability Board, as the vote is set for May 21. By the time you read this, the deed will be done, we hope.

Robert Remley is the alternate representative from First Universalist for Roc/ACTS. We both want to thank you for all your support this past church year. We are all members of Roc/ACTS and we want to thank you for your monetary and emotional support as we struggle to make Rochester a model city.

Submitted by Shirley Bond
With editing support by Marcy Klein



Social Justice Circle Report

Period Ending: June 2019

Circle Name: School #7

Leader: Bill Elwell

In order to create a report that reflects what the particular Circle has accomplished to date, we suggest that you complete this form according to the Application / Worksheet that was submitted to FIAC for approval as a SJ Circle.

Item 3 from the worksheet: overall goal of your Circle: "SMART" GOALS:

Specific: what you are working on? Has this changed?

tutoring; mentoring; bookbags (backpacks)

Measurable: For example, how many meals, or how many activities has your circle engaged in during this time frame?

monthly tutoring; annual \$ for backpacks

Attainable: Have the people in this Circle been able to provide the service effectively? Challenges?

We could use more volunteers

Relevant: What aspects of the topic of facing systemic racism are addressed in the actions taken by your Circle? (eg poverty, wage or housing discrimination, etc.)

Poverty, lack of support from parents

Timely: Has the time frame for providing this service been effective? Could it be improved? (eg homeless shelters open only at certain times...)

Possible summer reading programs

How has your budget for this Circle worked for you?

Sufficient: ☒ Not Enough: ☐

Are there any plans for new activities, and how much do you estimate needing?

None at this time

Funds from FIAC: \$200/year for each Circle.

Circle Leader: Submit receipts to the FIAC Finance person or member.
The FIAC Treasurer will then send a check as directed to you.

Leader will divide up the check from the Treasurer as needed, within your Circle.

Current members of your Circle: Bill Elwell, Eileen & Jose
Kate McEary; Jeanine Castalls-Osage.

State your objectives and goals for this Circle for the next six month period:

What other organizations in this Circle's area of concern would you like First Universalist to consider supporting through a SJ Plate Offering? (Name 1-5.)

Gates Recovery; located in Gates Town Hall.

Thank you, Leaders, for completing this form. If you need more information on how to work with your particular Circle, or about the work your Circle does, please contact a member of FIAC: names and emails are on your SJ Circles List.

Faithfully,

Your Faith In Action Council (FIAC) Team:

Joy Leccese, Chair; Becky Elwell, Finances; Heather Jones: Communications

We developed a time line beginning 12/11 and ending 6/17 and a list of objectives to be accomplished during that time. Among these was a narrowing of community organizations from which to consider potential involvement. An ongoing objective remains establishing connections with predominantly Black churches in Rochester.

Narrowed the recommendations to SPARC and in March, held the first of three Listening Circles to discuss the Project Team's proposal of working with SPARC on its Heritage Park project. An informational handout was prepared and given to each of the 22 attendees that explained the reasons for the recommendation and gave on line contacts for further information.

Additional Project Team members began regularly attending to SPARC bimonthly meetings.

Displayed information about the proposed project on Bulletin Board. Handed out information about the Project on Sundays after service. Established a Social Justice Table in Clara Barton Lounge with additional information as resource for congregants with questions.

Submitted by: Dolores Da Lomba, Project Team Leader

June, 2019

Project Team Update (June) submitted by Dolores Da Lomba

Sharing the Dream

Just as Martin Luther King had a dream, one of a world where his children would be judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin, a Rochester priest, Rev. Myra Brown of Spiritus Christi, also has a dream. Her dream would confront the racism endemic to our country and society by recognizing Rochester's long struggle for human rights. Rev. Brown has shared her dream with the church she leads, Spiritus Christi.

Inspired by a trip church members took to southern Civil Rights monuments, the members of the church have formed a non-profit organization, Spiritus Christi Anti-Racism Coalition (SPARC) to realize the dream which will confront and ultimately eradicate racism in our Rochester communities. The dream begins with a Heritage Center, an outdoor facility in Baden Park that will honor the many local civil rights heroes and heroines of the past and present.

The Center is intended to be a magnet that will draw families of all colors to see how Rochester has engaged in the struggle for equality. It can be the focus of meaningful discussions between and among our diverse communities. The Center can also be a magnet for families from surrounding areas to educate themselves about the Rochester experience, a history that has often been neglected and needs to be shared.

We can be a part of this dream, if we so choose. By the time you read this, the congregation will have voted on whether or not to become one of the community organizations that support the SPARC vision. If we have chosen to support this effort, we can partake in making the dream become a reality. The work is still in its early stages. While much has already been accomplished, much still remains to be done.

What role might we, as members of the congregation, do to help, you may wonder? Think about this-- What is your area of expertise? Or your area of interest? Maybe you are a historian, or an artist or a gardener, or a landscaper or a researcher. Maybe you are a communicator who likes to meet new people, or are skilled in public relations. Maybe you are a grant writer, or a

musician, or an actor, or a poet. Perhaps you are a builder or a computer whiz or an educator. Maybe you would like to be a tour guide when the park is complete.

Whatever your interest, whatever your passion, whatever your skill, there will be something you can contribute to making the dream of a Rochester Heritage Center a reality. The Project Team feels this is a wonderful opportunity for our church to become more deeply involved with its community. Let the new Project Team Leaders, Elizabeth Osta and Theo Munson, know what your interests are and how you think you can help.

Social Justice Circles List
April 22, 2019

This list was established February 15, 2018, and updated in October, 2018. As it changes, FIAC leaders will send updates to the Project Team Leader and Social Justice Circle Leaders, the Minister, (Rev. Lane Campbell) and the Minister of Lifespan Faith Development, (Rev. Michelle Yates) as well as the SJ Task Force. Copies are available to anyone, from the church office staff person – Emma Barry; office@uuroc.org. 585-546-2826.

NOTE: The personal emails here are for use by members and friends within the church community. For others outside our community, please refer people to the general-purpose email address: [FIAC@ UUROC. org](mailto:FIAC@UUROC.org)

Animal Ministries of Rochester, NY; Leader: Lois Baum;
kissapawdaily@gmail.com

Crafting Blankets for the Homeless; Leader: Lisa Gwinner:
gwincourt@gmail.com

Eco-Justice; Leader: Sarah Singal, ssingal@rochester.rr.com

Harvesting Justice; Leader: Connie Valk: cvalk@frontiernet.net

Homeless Heartbeats; Leader: Lois Baum: kissapawdaily@gmail.com

Meals for the Homeless; Leader: Carole Hoffman:

Choffman962@gmail.com

RocACTS; Leader: Shirley Bond: bondshirl1@gmail.com

School #7; Leader: Bill Elwell: williambearcat@gmail.com

In addition, **RAIHN** is a previously designated Circle in its own right: the Lead contact person is Marti Eggers: mceggers@gmail.com

Social Justice Plate Offering is not a formal SJC, but may be in the future. The contact person is Shirley Bond: bondshirl1@gmail.com

Questions? Contact FIAC members:

Becky Elwell: elwellbecky@gmail.com

Heather Jones: heathermenziesjones@gmail.com

Joy Leccese: coachingjoy@gmail.com

Or the Project Team Leader: Dolores Da Lomba:

dlrsdlmb2@gmail.com

ANIMAL MINISTRY Of Rochester

Social Justice Circle (SJC)

Annual Report for FIAC: 2018-19

Animal Ministry Of Rochester (AMOR) is a Social Justice Circle of our First Universalist Church. Initially formed in 2010 by Lois Baum, the current leader, our active membership is approximately 10 people. Now referred to as "Animal Ministry" (fka UunAMOR), this SJC is a local Chapter of the national UU Animal Ministry: see UUAM.org.

Animal Ministry focuses on the sentience of all nonhuman animals. Our aim is to heighten awareness of the lives of all animals, and strive to increase sensitivity toward their existence. We seek ways to coexist with animals without being complicit in their exploitation. We examine our own perception of and attitude toward animals through our diet, wardrobe, use of language, and offer guidance to members of our congregation.

The 7th UU Principle is core to *UU Animal Ministry*. We also focus our efforts around the Vegan Ethic: the practice of non-cooperation and non-participation in anything that exploits nonhuman animals, humans, or the environment. It is not required that members of AMOR be vegan, but it is encouraged, for the sake of the animals.

A stack of *Animal Ministry* leaflets continue to be provided in the literature racks found throughout the church. We also post various articles of interest on the bulletin board provided for all FIAC Social Justice Circles, in the Clara Barton Lounge.

In an effort to promote the use and choice of products that are not animal-based, members of *Animal Ministry* often provide vegan creamer (ie: "Silk"), and vegan butter (ie: "Earth Balance") for MOCHA.

This spring, we hosted our 4th annual auction event, called "Vegan Snacks and Games". Once again, our guests enjoyed a fun afternoon with friends from our church, playing various games, while munching snacks that are vegan, all provided by AMOR members. No monies were requested from the \$200-funds offered to all FIAC SJC's this year by First Universalist.

Our *Animal Ministry* had planned to participate in Petition Sunday at the Winton Road Unitarian Church, as our Chapter has done for many years. We would have provided a petition and letters to representatives, focusing on a proposed bill to Ban Wildlife Killing Contests in NYS. On that particular Sunday, none of our interested SJC members were able to attend. However, we do plan to participate again in the future.

A unique opportunity presented itself this year, one in which *Animal Ministry* can become involved. Rev. Lane Campbell offered a first-time class called "Shared Pulpit", teaching lay-leaders how to write and deliver a sermon. Lois Baum took this class and, upon completion, will now be permitted to deliver a sermon focusing on animals, as the church schedule allows (date tbd). As a group, our *Animal Ministry* SJC may suggest input for a Service For the Animals, around Lois' sermon. Many thanks to Rev. Lane for this opportunity.

Future plans for *Animal Ministry* include but are not limited to:

- Field trips to nearby animals sanctuaries. All are welcome.
- Facilitate a Sunday morning discussion group, focusing on animals (tbd)
- Vegan dining in local restaurants. All are welcome.
- Showing specific films as suggested by our national UUAM.

Join *Animal Ministry* by contacting Lois: KissaPawDaily@gmail.com.

*~Lois Baum, Leader
Animal Ministry of Rochester SJC
5/2019*

*ANNUAL REPORT: ANIMAL MINISTRY, 2018-19
FIAC uuroc.org*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lois Baum".



Social Justice Circle Report

Period Ending: April 30 - 2019

Circle Name: Crafting Blankets for the Homeless

Leader: Lisa Gwinner

In order to create a report that reflects what the particular Circle has accomplished to date, we suggest that you complete this form according to the Application / Worksheet that was submitted to FIAC for approval as a SJ Circle.

Item 3 from the worksheet: overall goal of your Circle: "SMART" GOALS:

Specific: what you are working on? Has this changed?

We make blankets that are given to our homeless neighbors. Currently they go to the

Measurable: For example, how many meals, or how many activities has your circle engaged in during this time frame? (What is the time frame?) Office of Homeless

In 2018 we made 1/4 donated 21 blankets. In 2019, so far, we have made 1/4 donated 6 blankets

Attainable: Have the people in this Circle been able to provide the service effectively? Challenges?

Yes. There are a bunch of folks making squares & 2 of us assembling blankets.

Relevant: What aspects of the topic of facing systemic racism are addressed in the actions taken by your Circle? (eg poverty, wage or housing discrimination, etc.)

A disproportionate number of homeless neighbors are African American.

Timely: Has the time frame for providing this service been effective? Could it be improved? (eg homeless shelters open only at certain times...)

Working just fine.

How has your budget for this Circle worked for you?

Sufficient: X Not Enough: _____

Are there any plans for new activities, and how much do you estimate needing?

We do not need funds. Our members are donated.

Funds from FIAC: \$200/year for each Circle.

Circle Leader: Submit receipts to the FIAC Finance person for reimbursement.
The uroec Treasurer will cut and send a check to the Circle.

Leader will divide up the check from the Treasurer as needed.

Current members of your Circle: Jillian Benson, Laura Fisher, Janet Clarke Hazlett,
MTJ Curry, Ruth Fitzgerald, Nancy Goede, Jane Hickley, Camille Hoffman, Karen
Ruganis, Kelly Scott, Bridget Watts, Charlotte Cooper

State your objectives and goals for this Circle for the next six month period:

Same as previous.

What other organizations in this Circle's area of concern would you like First
Universalist to consider supporting through a SJ Plate Offering? (Name 1-3.)

Thank you, Leaders, for completing this form. If you need more information on
how to work with your particular Circle, or about the work your Circle does, please
contact a member of FIAC: names and emails are on your SJ Circles List.

Faithfully,

Your Faith In Action Council (FIAC) Team:

Joy Leccese, Chair; Becky Elwell, Finances; Heather Jones: Communications

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Social Justice Circle Report

Period Ending: May, 2019

Circle Name: **Eco-Justice Group**

Leader: Sarah Singal

In order to create a report that reflects what the particular Circle has accomplished to date, we suggest that you complete this form according to the Application / Worksheet that was submitted to FIAC for approval as a SJ Circle.

Item 3 from the worksheet: overall goal of your Circle: "SMART" GOALS:

Specific: what you are working on? Has this changed?

This year's theme was water and included issues related to safe drinking water, conservation and use, Lake Ontario, grey water and others.

Measurable: For example, how many meals, or how many activities has your circle engaged in during this time frame?

Monthly submissions to Our Outlook. Two drop-in discussions attended by 5 and 10 people, one cozy supper attended by about 20 people. One Sunday service lead by minister and DRE with ecojustice testimonial and "ask" from the Ecojustice Group members. Three events promoted, one of which was held at church. One member joined interfaith impact trip to Albany to advocate for passing the Climate and Community Protection Act in New York State. We have participated in three organizations: Rochester People's Climate Coalition (RPCC), Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL), and a new organization Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action (RAICA). I wish we could say x number of species have been spared extinction, but climate activism is a long term commitment and so far average temperatures continue to rise.

Attainable: Have the people in this Circle been able to provide the service effectively? Challenges?

Availability of group members has limited some participation, but commitment remains high and meetings are productive. Changes and inconsistencies in recycling requirements has been very frustrating. We would love more bulletin board space.

Relevant: What aspects of the topic of facing systemic racism are addressed in the actions taken by your Circle? (eg poverty, wage or housing discrimination, etc.)

The most marginalized groups are most affected by the stresses of climate change and least able to be active in mitigation due to lack of funds and lack of time and energy. For example, asthma is more prevalent in economically disadvantaged children and is often related to air pollutants. And the poor would not be able to move to a safer area as conditions deteriorate.

Timely: Has the time frame for providing this service been effective? Could it be improved? (eg homeless shelters open only at certain times...)

The time frame is open-ended but the time frame for achieving zero carbon emissions is

How has your budget for this Circle worked for you?

Are there any plans for new activities, and how much do you estimate needing?

Funds from FIAC: \$200/year for each Circle.

Leader will divide up the check from the Treasurer as needed, within your Circle.

State your objectives and goals for this Circle for the next six month period:

What other organizations in this Circle's area of concern would you like First Universalist to consider supporting through a SJ Plate Offering? (Name 1-3.)

Faithfully,

Your Faith In Action Council (FIAC) Team:

Here is the free form version of much of the above information:

EcoJustice annual report, May, 2019

Eco-Justice

Our theme this year has been water. During the year, Kate Fleury has submitted almost monthly articles on issues of water in the Outlook. Titles have included: Our Ironde-Genesee Aquifer, Safe Water, The Lake of Shining Waters and The Sea of Islands, and Grey Water.

We have tried to keep relevant activities up to date on the small bulletin board space we have. Sources of environmental actions are detailed in the newsletters from Rochester People's Climate Coalition (RPCC), Citizen's Climate Lobby (CCL) and Color Brighton Green.

We formally continued our membership in RPCC, under a new understanding of the rules and regulations which include a financial contribution, which is not new for First Universalist—it just had not been formalized. We talked with RPCC members about our plans for the year and were pleased with the support they gave us, which included a presentation of Sustainable Homes Rochester, a program given in conjunction with the City of Rochester detailing carbon neutral ways of heating and cooling through heat pumps. RPCC and CCL both provided materials and personnel for a coffee hour Ecojustice second Sunday, which was successful in generating conversation, pamphlet sharing, and postcards to Mayor Warren to push ahead with a city-based Community Choice Aggregation to provide a default sustainable electricity to citizens of Rochester.

Our biggest actions of the year center on Earth Day, April 22, and Earth month, April. We provided two drop-in discussions, a cozy supper that featured a quiz about environmental issues related to water; the previously mentioned coffee hour ecojustice second Sunday, and on the last Sunday service in April Reverends Lane and Michelle enacted a story about water during the service, and we provided an Ecojustice testimonial and an "ask" for the congregation.

As a result of our connection to RPCC we promoted and hosted a performance by climate and LGBTQ activist Peterson Toscano in March, we promoted a bipartisan forum given by the Rochester Chamber and the Sierra Club on Carbon Fee and Dividend in April, and promoted an Interfaith Climate Summit held in May, the first annual event of a new organization Rochester Area Interfaith Climate Action (RAICA).

One of our biggest frustrations has been changing and conflicting practices in recycling. We hope to get an accurate understanding of what is now acceptable and communicate it to the congregation next year.

EcoJustice Group request to FIAC for uuroc to join RPCC under new membership guidelines

The EcoJustice Group recommends continuing as a member of Rochester Peoples Climate Coalition (RPCC. Membership guidelines/expectations have changed and encourage active participation in the work of RPCC.

1. Financial obligation: dues for all member organizations.
Based on our annual budget, our dues will be \$100 per year.

2. Participation may represent use of church to host RPCC events.

May we offer space free or for price of Brandon's security services? Connie says the fee can be waived and FIAC can decide about Brandon's security cost.

We anticipate several events in a year. EX: Clean Heating and Cooling Campaign

3. Benefits to us would include free educational offerings such as composting as drop in discussion or explanation of Community Choice Aggregation and Carbon Fee and Dividend in DID.

We also would get a yearly assessment of how we're doing, coaching along the way.

4. We need one person to be the RPCC contact: Sarah

5. We'd like to invite someone from RPCC to come to an EJG meeting and discuss our participation.

"HOMELESS HEARTBEATS"

Social Justice Circle (SJC)

Annual Report for FIAC: 2018-19

Homeless Heartbeats is a Social Justice Circle of First Universalist Church, focusing on the "chronically homeless" population of Rochester NY. Fka the Homelessness Task Force, initially formed in May, 2015, current membership is approximately 20 people, and is led by Lois Baum.

Homeless Heartbeats strives to gain a better understanding of chronic homelessness. This hard-to-serve population often involves issues such as mental health, addiction, poverty, being sanctioned, systemic injustice, etc. In studying nationwide approaches, and with guidance from area Social Workers, *Homeless Heartbeats* discovers how we can be of help specifically to the local community. Our SJC members work together and individually, and lead our congregation in assisting groups who work daily, directly with this population. Serving our community, local advocacy organizations and shelters we have connected with include: *REACH (Rochester Engaging in Action for the Chronically Homeless)*, *MC Collaborative*, *House of Mercy*, *St. Joe's House of Hospitality*, *PCHO (Person Centered Housing Options)*, *Rochester Homeless Union*, *Rochester's downtown library program*, and other area groups whose focus is on poverty, as well as chronic homelessness.

Many members of *Homeless Heartbeats* have joined REACH ... a local civic, volunteer advocacy group that has, over the past four winters, provided emergency shelters, each at a different address. Social Workers from area advocacy organizations oversee every REACH Home. They work to place individuals in "housing first", where they can then work with them to get the help they need (addiction, mental, health, financial, etc). A good number of our *Homeless Heartbeats SJC* attend the weekly REACH meetings, give financial support, and/or assist in other ways.

Over the past year, *Homeless Heartbeats* requested that our church donate toilet paper, as it is not covered by the SNAP program (food stamps). Various SJC members took turns delivering the rather large accumulation of collected toilet paper directly to the House of Mercy. And a Sunday collection plate was taken for REACH in March, 2019.

One "Second Sunday Forum" (new program to introduce approved SJC's) was hosted by *Homeless Heartbeats*. This was our annual seminar, organized and led by Lois Baum. It was held in the sanctuary, and approximately 50 of our congregants attended. Our guest speakers were Social Worker, Andy Carey of MC Collaborative, and Michael Gill, supervisory resident of the new Peace Village Homeless Encampment on Industrial Street. Lois joined them in addressing the current state of chronic homelessness in Rochester NY. A question and answer session followed the seminar.

Also this year, representing *Homeless Heartbeats*, Lois facilitated a Sunday morning Discussion group, inviting as our guest speaker, Social Worker, Andy Carey, who is also co-Chair of REACH. He spoke about "Tiny Homes Village", a new program being launched by REACH. Still in its early stages, Andy shared what information he had, and answered the many questions of our interested audience of approximately 20 people.

Our Social Justice Circle had also scheduled a tour of Rochester's downtown library. Libraries are where many homeless folks spend their days, especially during the winter when most shelters close their doors (until evening/overnight). Rochester developed a special program at the downtown library aimed at working directly with homeless people who are present. On the day we'd scheduled our tour, none of our interested SJC members were able to attend, but we do hope to schedule another visit in the future.

A few examples of volunteer actions in which *Homeless Heartbeats* members have assisted include:

- Transportation ... for residents of area shelters, driving them to-and/or-from appointments (medical, financial, etc.), provided as needed, in volunteer's personal vehicle
- Foot washing ... a service provided at House of Mercy, with area Nurses. The feet of the homeless are often in dire need of medical attention due to exposure to the cold, lack of regular bathing, and because footwear is often inadequate, etc.
- Food ... provided/prepared/delivered ready-to-eat food to residents of the new Peace Village homeless encampment on Industrial Street, where they have no cooking equipment, no tables, living only in tents, so food must be ready to eat.
- Soup Kitchens ... some of our members offer this service on a regular basis around the Rochester area.
- List of Soup Kitchens and Shelters ... Lois Baum prepared a lengthy list of all homeless shelters and soup kitchens in close proximity to UURoc. The list is placed in bags provided by our church's Brown Bag Lunch program, and is handed to homeless folks who knock on our church door. The list also includes contact information regarding Housing First. Copies of the list are made by our church office.
- Donations offered individually, of clothing and misc. other items, delivered directly to the homeless shelters.

No monies were requested from the \$200-funds offered this year by First Universalist.

Homeless Heartbeats will continue its advocacy in the myriad of ways already underway. We are guided in our efforts by working alongside organizations already engaged in the daily lives of the chronically homeless population.

Join *Homeless Heartbeats* by contacting Lois: KissaPawDaily@gmail.com.

*~Lois Baum, Leader
Homeless Heartbeats SJC
5/2019*





Social Justice Circle Report

Period Ending: June 2019

Circle Name: Harvesting Justice

Leader: Connie Valk

In order to create a report that reflects what the particular Circle has accomplished to date, we suggest that you complete this form according to the Application / Worksheet that was submitted to FIAC for approval as a SJ Circle.

Item 3 from the worksheet: overall goal of your Circle: "SMART" GOALS:

: what you are working on? Has this changed?

Goal--Advocating for those who toil in the fields and orchards to feed us remains as our goal. However, we turned our attention sometimes to the decision of the present administration to separate families at the border this past year. Included in the separation policy were the families of many of our farmworkers.

: For example, how many meals, or how many activities has your circle engaged in during this time frame?

- During the summer four UUs joined a "Flash Mob" on the Ontario Beach to spread the word of family separation to the general public.
- Information, provided by Rural & Migrant Ministry, was distributed regarding agencies on the border needing support to deal with an overwhelming influx of families needing shelter, clothing, and food.
- On June 30, 2018, after the last report was submitted and approved by the congregation, more than 15 First Universalists UUs attended a rally "Families Belong Together" at Washington Square.
- 19 UUs, including UUs from other churches who were invited, attended the annual fundraiser of Rural & Migrant Ministry at Temple B'rith Kodesh. Rev. Lane participated in the clergy workshop. As well as the dinner. An additional four UUs sent donations in lieu of attendance.
- On February 10, our SJ Circle sponsored the Farmworkers' Rights Town Hall. Rev. Lane participated in the program. Approximately, 100 from our church and the community were in attendance. There was much media attention.
- On May 6, which is "Albany Day", the day set aside to speak to legislators, four UUs have signed up from our church. Interfaith Impact NY and our Social Justice Circle are traveling together on the bus organized by Rural & Migrant Ministry.
- Other activities: One member of our SJ Circle paid a farmworker to make tamales for an event. Another provided rides to a farmworker youth group to further leadership development. Service on Rural & Migrant Ministry Board: Connie Valk serves as on the Western Council Fundraising Committee.

: Have the people in this Circle been able to provide the service effectively? Challenges?

There is a chance, because of combined efforts and the change in the legislature in Albany, that farmworkers may actually obtain more rights this year. The challenge is that, if farmworkers get due benefits that other workers already have, the price of food may rise.

Relevant What aspects of the topic of facing systemic racism are addressed in the actions taken by your Circle? (eg poverty, wage or housing discrimination, etc.) Farmworkers are almost all people of color. They have been excluded from labor laws, and are subject to wage theft and other abuses.

Timer Has the time frame for providing this service been effective? Could it be improved? (eg homeless shelters open only at certain times...)

NA

How has your budget for this Circle worked for you?

This past year, the only fund expended were to support the Farmworker Rights Town Hall held at our church. Rent was waived and FIAC paid \$60 for security. Are there any plans for new activities, and how much do you estimate needing? One of our SJ Circle members suggests we do a service project for people released from the Batavia Detention Center. It is customary for ICE staff to release the detainees with no change of clothing, personal care articles, etc. The suggested project would be to purchase back packs and fill them with personal care articles and a change of clothing. It is likely we will spend \$100+

Funds from FIAC: \$200/year for each Circle.

Circle Leader: Submit receipts to the FIAC Finance person for reimbursement. The FIAC Treasurer will cut and send a check as directed to the Circle Leader. Leader will divide up the check from the Treasurer as needed. \$1000-\$2000

Current members of your Circle:

Martha Welch
Karen Ruganis
Carole Hoffman
Bridget Watts
Lyle Jenks
Janine Cosillo Osagie
Beth Ares
MJ Curry

State your objectives and goals for this Circle for the next six month period

- To continue to provide direct support and public witness for agricultural workers by our physical presence at events including rallies, vigils, and deportation proceedings.
- To support the efforts of farm workers to improve their living and working conditions, through advocacy such as contacting elected officials, pressing forward with the Farmworkers Rights Bill.
- To continue to educate ourselves and the congregation about issues affecting farm workers.

What other organizations in this Circle's area of concern would you like to see Universalist consider supporting through a SJ Plate Offering? (Name & Address)

1. Rural & Migrant Ministry www.ruralmigrantministry.org

2. Worker Justice Center www.wjcnj.org

Thank you, Leaders, for completing this form. If you need more information on how to work with your particular Circle, or about the work your Circle does, please contact a member of FIAC: names and emails are on your SJ Circles List.

Faithfully,

Your Faith In Action Council (FIAC) Team:



Social Justice Circle Report

Period Ending: June 2019

Circle Name: Meals for the Homeless (REACH)

Leader: Carole Hoffman

In order to create a report that reflects what the particular Circle has accomplished to date, we suggest that you complete this form according to the Application / Worksheet that was submitted to FIAC for approval as a SJ Circle.

Item 3 from the worksheet: overall goal of your Circle: "SMART" GOALS:

Specific : what you are working on? Has this changed?

Serving wholesome meals.

Measurable : For example, how many meals, or how many activities has your circle engaged in during this time frame?

35-40 meals

Attainable: Have the people in this Circle been able to provide the service effectively? Challenges?

Yes - challenge: more consistency of volunteers

Relevant: What aspects of the topic of facing systemic racism are addressed in the actions taken by your Circle? (eg poverty, wage or housing discrimination, etc.)

poverty; adequate affordable housing

Timely: Has the time frame for providing this service been effective? Could it be improved? (eg homeless shelters open only at certain times...)

We serve meals Nov. - April only, when shelter is open.

How has your budget for this Circle worked for you?

Sufficient: _____ Not Enough: ✓

Are there any plans for new activities, and how much do you estimate needing?

I would like to increase reimbursements for meal preparers.

Funds from FIAC: \$200/year for each Circle.

Circle Leader: Submit receipts to the FIAC Finance person for reimbursement.
The Circle Treasurer will mail and send a check addressed to the Circle Leader.

Leader will divide up the check from the Treasurer as needed, within your Circle.

Current members of your Circle: See second sheet (attached)

State your objectives and goals for this Circle for the next six month period:

None, until November 2019. Increase funding
to \$330./year.

What other organizations in this Circle's area of concern would you like First Universalist to consider supporting through a SJ Plate Offering? (Name 1-3.)

None

Thank you, Leaders, for completing this form. If you need more information on how to work with your particular Circle, or about the work your Circle does, please contact a member of FIAC: names and emails are on your SJ Circles List.

Faithfully,

Your Faith In Action Council (FIAC) Team:

Joy Leccese, Chair; Becky Elwell, Finances; Heather Jones: Communications

Meals for the Homeless : Carole Hoffman

Review of REACH (Homeless Emergency Shelter)

1. Team Members
2. Total Months Served
3. Number of guests served
4. General Menu
5. Approx cost of each meal

1. Members (varies~~~ Always use 5 each meal)

Tom Williams
Carole Hoffman
Janet Clarke-Hazlett
Patty Jamele
Bill Elwell —
Connie Valk
Dave VanArsdale
Joyce/Dick Gilbert
Gail Wilder (from Winton Rd UU church)
Lyle Jenks
Steve Searls

2. Meals served from Nov thru April, once a month

3. Number of guests served each month~~ approx 35-40 guests

4. Menu: Goulash

Frozen corn
Coleslaw
Italian bread/butter
Dessert
Lemonade

5. Approx cost of each meal ~~~ \$55.00 (includes purchase of rubber gloves)

Total cost range of \$330.00/ year

