

**Social Justice Task Forces**  
**Application for Recognition or Renewal**  
**Unitarian Universalist Church Bloomington (UUCB)**  
**February 18, 2015**

Social Justice Task Forces are recognized groups within the UUCB that are composed of at least three active people, the majority of whom are UUCB members or friends. Task Forces must apply to the Social Justice Steering Committee for initial recognition (any time) and annual renewal (in early summer).

Each Task Force is expected to:

- Educate, advocate, and organize in a specific area of social justice concern
- Hold meetings at least twice a year
- Send one representative to the Social Justice Coordinating Circle meetings (3 per year)
- Each spring, prepare a brief written report to the congregation that will include accomplishments, number of people involved in task force activities, and totals of money or goods collected throughout the year
- In the task force's chosen month(s), offer a Social Justice Moment from the pulpit, display task force materials on the social justice bulletin board, and, if possible, arrange to have photos of task force activities showing in the social justice digital picture frame, people at the SJ Table on Sunday mornings and contribute a feature story to Common Ground in the issue preceding their month.
- Share expertise and information with other task forces and groups

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Name of Task Force: Peace and Justice Task Force (formerly Just Peace)

Initial\_\_\_\_ Renewal \_\_x\_\_

Form submitted by: David Keppel

Phone: (812) 272-0597

E-mail: [Keppel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Keppel@sbcglobal.net)

Task Force chair if different from above:

Phone:

E-mail:

Please list contact persons for the following, with phone and e-mail: D.K. for all the items below.

Common Ground articles

Display table/bulletin board

SJ moment

Pictures for digital picture frame and SJ Website

Website updates

Bookmarks

Please answer these questions:

1. What are the goals of the task force, and how do they reflect UUCB principles and enhance the life of our congregation? The Peace and Justice Task Force would merge the Just Peace Task Force and the Jobs With Justice Task Force. Just Peace has been a nucleus for congregational peace activism--educates, mobilizes, and communicates on issues of war and peace. Jobs with Justice focuses on economic justice – currently the Congregational Study Action Issue of the UUA. We propose the merger not only because each of our task forces is small but also because the synergy of addressing both peace and economic justice would, we believe, make the whole greater than the sum of its parts. Peace and justice are central goals both of our church and our denomination.
2. What are your planned activities this year, including fundraising and educational meetings, and how do you plan to accomplish them? We intend to continue to lead an effort for our Church to become a Peace Advocate Congregation in the UU Peacemakers' program, fulfilling criteria in four categories: International; Domestic and Congregational; Advocacy; and Support for Military Families. As usual, we plan to continue working in coalition – e.g. with other churches in Monroe County Religious Leaders and with Bloomington Peace Action Coalition. At the 2014 UUA General Assembly we proposed a Congregational Study/ Action Issue: "Ending the War on Terror." Although it was not the one selected, we shall continue, transforming the theme into "Shared Security," a program that has been developed by Friends Committee on National Legislation and is being studied not only by Bloomington Friends Meeting but also in Bloomington Peace Action Coalition. We continue to address the dangers of a sweeping "war on terror" and the need to support diplomacy with Iran. Our justice wing works for a living wage, worker rights, and income equality.
3. Who are the members of this task force, and what is the normal schedule of your meetings? Do you have plans to expand within the congregation and to the larger community? We meet at least quarterly. Pat Brantlinger, Chair of Jobs with Justice, will become Co-Chair of our task force along with David Keppel. Among those involved are: Sandy Dolby, Martha Foster, Earon Davis, Judy Witt, Lee Witt, John Summerlot, Jessie Cook, Phil Cooper, and David Keppel. Jennifer Blankenship is also a task force member.
4. What resources (financial and otherwise) will you need to meet your goals and how will these be met? (A modest amount of financial support is available to each task force annually from the social justice budget as seed money or in support of task force activities.) Our funding needs have been modest, but the task force needs to consider how to raise some funds, and we shall discuss that at our next meeting.

5. List at least 3 short-term volunteer opportunities that might be used to invite new members to your task force. It is too early in our planning process to specify these, but we encourage people to attend meetings of Bloomington Peace Action Coalition as well as our task force. The next Just Peace meeting is August 17, 2014 in Room 207 B, and the next BPAC meeting is September 8<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Monroe County Public Library, Room 1a. Jobs with Justice, beyond its presence in our congregation, holds monthly meetings at the MCPL.
6. What other information and resources would you like listed on your task force web page? See current SJ task force web pages for format and ideas. The sentence about an adult RE program this fall should be deleted, please. I suggest the following web links:  
<http://uupeacemakers.org/>,  
<http://www.uua.org/socialjustice/issuesprocess/currentissues/peacemaking/index.shtml>,  
<http://www.bpac.info/>, <http://www.fcni.org>, <http://www.armscontrol.org>,  
<http://www.uua.org/economic/>
- 7.