

# **UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ROCKVILLE**

## **SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE**

### **ADVOCACY POLICY AND PROCEDURES**

Since the members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Rockville (UUCR) are committed to the principles of the inherent worth and dignity of every person and justice, equity and compassion in human relations, advocacy on social justice issues is a vital part of the mission of our church. Because the members of UUCR are also committed to the use of the democratic process within our congregations, it is important that such decisions will be developed using democratic procedures. The purpose of the Social Justice Committee Advocacy Policy is to define the procedures by which the Committee may take public positions on social justice issues.

The Social Justice Committee accepts the authority and responsibility for taking, on its own behalf, public positions on matters of social justice in connection with non-partisan public policy and current events. The Committee will arrive at such positions following full and open discussion within the Committee and in consultation with the minister, guided by UU Principles and Purposes, and the UUCR Mission and Vision Statement. A 2/3 vote of the Committee members voting is required to adopt a public position. The following is the process by which the Committee shall act:

1. Individuals or task groups seeking Social Justice Committee endorsement of a position must submit a written proposal to the Committee Chair for action at a regularly scheduled or special meeting.
2. The proposal must be submitted at least 14 days in advance of the meeting so that it may be distributed along with the agenda for the meeting. The proposal will address: Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes; existing UUA resolutions including statements of immediate witness and study/action issues; UUCR mission and vision statement and Covenant of Right Relations; costs and other relevant considerations.
3. Prior to voting on the proposal, the Committee will meet with the minister and inform the Church Council and Board of Trustees. The proposed position may also be the subject of a Quest article and forum to discuss the issues.
4. The Committee will vote at its next regular meeting or a specially called meeting. Under normal circumstances, the proposal will be discussed at one Committee meeting and voted on at the next Committee meeting. Resolutions that call for immediate action or witness may be voted on sooner.
5. Social Justice Committee positions represent the view of the Committee only and may not be ascribed to the Congregation at large.
6. No commitment of human or financial resources beyond the control of the Committee may be made.
7. After adopting a position or statement, the Social Justice Committee will publicize it in the church newsletter, and may submit it to other organizations or media.

Adopted by the Social Justice Committee 3-7-06  
Endorsed by the Church Council 3-13-06  
Approved by the Board of Trustees 4-24-06