

Boulder Valley UU Fellowship 2021 Justice Initiatives

Confirmed by the congregation on Sunday, December 6, 2020

As a Unitarian Universalist congregation, we are dedicated to the principles of human dignity and the interconnection of all creation. Our faith asks that we bring our heads, hearts, and hands to the work of creating a more just and compassionate world. These justice initiatives serve to chart our course for the coming year so that we may be more effective.

Congregational Focus:

“Bound Together” Racial Justice:

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe in the inherent worth and dignity of all people.

We acknowledge we live in a time when Black, Indigenous, other People of Color (BIPoC), and Latino/a/x/e//Hispanic people are devalued, violated, and killed because of systemic racism.

We commit ourselves to becoming anti-racist in ourselves and our institutions:
taking actions to dismantle racism in society,
taking guidance from and while honoring the lived experience of those who identify as BIPoC and
developing personal relationships between cultures.

Our vision is to help build a diverse multicultural beloved community.

Contact: Chris Yoshinaga-Itano, Sheri Price, or Pat Bulthaup (Social Justice Council)

Areas of Active Engagement:

Each area of engagement will include the following components: education, including a racial justice analysis; justice/systemic change; connection with communities; direct service with affected individuals; and a contact person within the congregation.

Immigration

As Unitarian Universalists, we understand that our lives are profoundly interconnected with all people, and that when one of us suffers, we are all affected.

We recognize that unjust immigration policy has been dehumanizing and cruel to whole populations of people.

We commit ourselves to immigrant advocacy and policy reform.

Our vision is to help create a more compassionate society for all.

Contact: Jean Nuttall

Climate Justice

As Unitarian Universalists, we respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

We recognize the systemic degradation of the planet, which jeopardizes the future of life on the planet, and disproportionately affects communities of color.

Therefore, we commit ourselves to combating the causes of, and to embracing the multiple solutions to, the climate crisis.

Our vision is to help create a sustainable planet for future generations.

Contact: Sheri Price

Mental Health

As Unitarian Universalists, we believe that all people deserve to feel acceptance and belonging.

We recognize that stigma around mental illness and lack of access to mental health services leads to isolation, and even death.

We commit ourselves to reducing systemic oppression, and becoming a supportive anti-oppressive community for those with mental health challenges.

Our vision is to create a safer and more understanding society for everyone across the mental health spectrum.

Contact: Kathy Partridge, Rosemary Arp, Marc Esenwein

These congregational commitments represent the results of our 2019 social justice one-to-one conversations, as well as areas of current active engagement in justice-making. We anticipate that other social justice issues may become primary in subsequent years, and also recognize the intersectionality of issues. In each of these justice areas, we commit to educating ourselves, realigning our resources, engaging in direct service, and working for systemic change along with those most affected by these issues.

What would confirming these justice initiatives mean?

- These initiatives will guide the social justice initiatives, without excluding other direct service and justice activities in which the congregation is already engaged.
- Congregational leadership will prioritize community connections, education, direct service, Sunday services, resources and systemic change efforts in these areas.
- These affirmations will be prominently communicated on our website, as well as in other publications.
- The goal is to make our work in these areas visible to the community and to ensure that anyone who joins us in Fellowship can easily put their faith into action in these justice initiatives.
- All groups working on behalf of these issues must ensure that there are relationships partnered and led by those most affected .
- Our ministers and leadership on a Board, Committee, Council or Task Force can speak on behalf of the congregation in ways that are aligned to these justice initiatives such as signing letters of support, advocating for the cause etc. Any such advocacy will require informing the group to which they are accountable (e.g. Board, COSM, Councils).
- Any congregational advocacy does not take away from individual opinions or advocacy on these issues. Congregational leadership will continue to welcome discussion and diversity of opinion.
- These initiatives will be voted on annually at a midyear congregational meeting and may remain the same or change at that time.