

JUSTICE-MAKING AS A SPIRITUAL PATH

Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations Advocacy and Witness Programs



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Connect Spirit with Social Justice

- Have activities at social justice programs that include elements that feed the soul of the group – prayer, song, poetry, and art.
- Use altars for people to place objects that represent hopes, concerns, and spiritual and cultural identities.
- Express gratitude and love for the gifts of existence -- life, people, the earth, the universe.
- Acknowledge despair, hopelessness, and grief.
- Celebrate your achievements.

Develop Visions and Values

- Have a vision of what could be. Don't just identify problems.
- Connect political beliefs with spiritual values.
- Practice developing messages and framing issues with UU theology.

Build Community

- Do the work collectively. Use methods that develop consensus for what to work on and how.
- Listen. Use "one on one" methods of discovery such as those used in community organizing and in Appreciative Inquiry.
- Build community in the course of work for justice through intentional activities and exercises that allow people to share their stories.
- Involve the whole congregation and community through intergenerational activities.
- Work with others in the UUA on regional, district, and national levels.
- Work in interfaith coalitions. Consider joining a congregation-based community organization.

Act with Accountability

- Conduct advocacy efforts in partnership with marginalized communities and others who can speak authentically for what's being advocated.
- Be open to various perspectives especially those of historically marginalized groups.
- Participate in socially responsible investing, recycling programs, use affirmative action hiring guidelines, purchase collectively grown coffee and other fair trade products.

Engage in Action and Reflection

- Take the next step. Action is an antidote to despair and hopelessness.
- Link service activities to advocacy efforts, i.e. sponsor a soup kitchen and advocate for legislation to end hunger and poverty.
- Get educated and talk to others. Starting the conversation is a form of action.
- Have meetings that are one part action and one part reflection. (Don't let meetings be all reporting and planning.)
- Share stories of hope. Share stories of failing and trying again.

Incorporate spiritual justice-making into all components of congregational life!

