

**APPLICATION TO CONTINUE AS/BECOME A SOCIAL JUSTICE
TASK FORCE
OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BLOOMINGTON**

Name of Task Force: __Economic Justice__ Initial Application Renewal

Form submitted by: __Mary Embry__ Date: **July 11, 2006**

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1. What are the purpose(s) and goal(s) of the Task Force?

An Economic Justice Task Force will strive for equity through education and support of distributive economic justice projects, both local and global. The task force's primary method of effecting change will be through education and community organizing. Effecting change in the economic realm begins with awareness of the problem and how we individually participate in systems which either promote economic justice or not. The task force will participate in activities that cause positive change for those in economic need, with the goal of building awareness while effecting change in debilitating economic structures.

2. In what ways do these purposes and goals fulfill the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Church and /or enhance the life of this congregation?

The Task Force is important for UU Bloomington, and the community, because economic issues are enmeshed with almost every aspect of life. The Task Force invites members to come up with creative ideas and resources to spend on supporting a more economically just society. The Task Force recognizes the need for a more diverse representation of the population at UU Bloomington, and could be a welcoming force for different socio-economic classes.

3. Is this Task Force on-going or created to accomplish specific, time-limited goals? (If the latter, explain.)

The Task Force is on-going.

4. What programs and/or events have been conducted during the past year?

This task force was formed in September 2005 in response to interest articulated during the Social Justice Empowerment Workshop. Meetings began with seven participants who expressed interest at the workshop. Some time was spent delineating the purpose of the task force as compared to other social justice efforts within the church. Time was also spent agreeing to the best and most practical ways to educate about economic justice concerns as well as effect unjust economic structures.

The task force has established a monthly meeting date, regularly attended by five participants. Activities have included the hosting of a movie, "Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Prices" in November attended by 120 people. We participated

at the clothing swap organized by the Green Sanctuary Task Force by setting up a poster and information sources on ethical consumption. Currently, the task force writes articles for Common Ground about simple, ethical ways to spend money that support people worldwide.

We also are in discussions with the Bazaar Committee about including ethical shopping alternatives at the Holiday. The group involves members with experience in building community economic justice initiatives that are looking to build on that success with others within the church who also find energy in organizing around this cause. Claire Robertson, founder of the Kyeni project, has been successful at supporting economic initiatives in Kenya through micro-lending and jewelry sales. Mary Embry has organized fair trade sales in the community, raising thousands for international artisans.

5. How effective does the Task Force judge these programs to have been?

The Wal-Mart movie was well attended. It is difficult to gauge the effect of articles written about ethical shopping, we have yet to hear of any cases where congregants have changed their shopping behavior.

Sales of economically/socially just items through Kenyi or fair trade have received strong community support.

6. What programs and/or events have been planned or are projected for coming months?

We look to continue education through hosting films. We also envision an event that would help non-profits that support ethical consumption. We are meeting with the Bazaar Committee to this end.

7. What are the funding needs of the Task Force? How are they to be met?

The Task Force currently has not developed a budget, or looked into funding sources but plans to address these issues as the group becomes more refined and informed.

8. What other resources and support does the Task Force need to be effective?

9. Who are the persons primarily responsible for decision making and policy setting for this Task Force? (Indicate which are members or friends [financial supporters] of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington.)

Currently, participants in the Task Force are: Mark Day, Mark's Wife Mary Embry, Claire and Ed Robertson, Martha Sattinger (Member), and Kimberly Wagner.