

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

Social Justice Task Forces are groups within the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington that:

- advocate, educate, organize, and/or inform around a specific area of social justice concern,
- share expertise and information about that specific area of social justice concern with other Task Forces and groups as needed,
- have at least three participants and are led by—and have at least 50% of their membership from—members and friends of the Unitarian-Universalist Church of Bloomington,
- have one representative on the Social Justice Coordinating Circle that meets at least three times a year (these representatives may be chairs or co-chairs of their Task Forces or members, but the Task Forces are to send representative persons who are both involved in and informed about the work of their Task Force AND are able to commit time to responsible involvement in the work of the Circle), and
- prepare a written report to the congregation annually.

The Social Justice Steering Committee receives and acts on (in consultation with the members of the Coordinating Circle) applications for Task Force status. The Social Justice Coordinating Circle provides orientation for the leadership of new Task Forces.

To ~~apply~~/reapply for Task Force status use this form as a guide for electronic submission of the information and answers requested below. Submit to jmhall@indiana.edu. If this is not possible, fill in the blanks below and, using this as a cover sheet, submit answers to the applicable numbered questions on attached page(s). Turn in at the Social Justice Steering Committee box in the church office. Please note that this information will be used by the Steering Committee to describe your Task Force on the church web-site, on a “book mark” displayed on the Social Justice table, and in other publications.

Name of Task Force: Task Force on a Just Peace Initial Application Renewal

Form submitted by: Jack King Date: 6/23/2006

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

To serve as a nucleus for peace activism within the congregation, to give us visibility and voice in peace activism in the community, to take positions (e.g. on the Iraq war or possible attack on Iran), and to nurture and develop a vision of peace with justice.

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?

Peace is central to the UU vision of justice. War is the greatest injustice and is the tool of those who would maintain injustice.

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

Ongoing.

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

Conducted a June 18 Sunday morning Forum. David Keppel presented background information, a current status report, and opportunities for action related to the possibility of U.S. military action against Iran.

Provided regular e-mail news items, local calendar items, and essays to a list of over 100 “subscribers.” Thirteen such e-mails have been prepared and sent since the Task Force’s founding in March, 2006.

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

The forum on Iran attracted about twenty participants, all of whom were positive about its worth. The e-mail service continues to be seen as useful by most of its recipients.

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

A comprehensive course has been proposed as an Adult RE offering for this fall. Beyond that the Task Force will continue to use some or all of the following methods to respond to the world situation: education (Sunday morning forums), witnessing (vigils), petition, community organizing, often in conjunction with other groups such as Bloomington Peace Action Coalition. E-mailing of peace-centered updates to a list of congregation members and friends will continue.

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

Our financial needs are modest and we are thus self-supporting.

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

Continued access to the larger UU Social Justice network through the Coordinating Circle and to regular channels of congregational publicity and information (Common Ground, the Social Justice table, moments for Social Justice, etc.).

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.)

Jack King (Contact Person), Kate Cruikshank, David Keppel, all church members. The Rev. Bill Breeden is the Ministerial liaison.