

Overview of Social Justice Action Teams

I. Organizing a Social Justice Action Team

- A. The Social Justice Task Force will act as the umbrella group to provide support and encouragement to congregants who are interested in inviting others in the congregation to join with them in offering hands-on action for specific local social justice concerns.
- B. The Social Justice Task Force, in consultation with the minister, will meet with the congregant(s) wanting to begin a Social Justice Action Team in order to explore the possibilities of such an initiative.
- C. Once such a team is approved by the SJTF it will be named appropriately.

II. Questions to be asked of the congregant(s) bringing a request to form a Social Justice Action Team:

- A. What is a description of the problem that needs to be resolved?
 - 1. A write-up drafted by the congregant(s) bringing the request would be most helpful.
- B. What services will likely be needed (driving, feeding, housing, financial assistance, legal assistance, etc)?
- C. What is the ultimate goal or success to be achieved?
- D. Who else in the congregation is aware or involved with this matter thus far?
- E. What has been tried thus far?
 - 1. What has been the resultant outcome?
- F. What needs to be done next?
- G. What is the urgency and resultant time frame?
 - 1. How long will we likely need to be involved in this matter?
- H. What potential liability might there be for the congregation, or any individual congregants that become involved, if we take on this Action Team:
 - 1. Legal - monetary?
 - 2. In terms of any potential danger to the parties in need or to our congregants involved?
- I. What barriers might we face?
- J. To what extent will funds be essential to resolving the problem?
 - 1. Is there an estimate of the magnitude of possible funding?
 - 2. Any thoughts as to where and how this might be obtained?
- K. What other resources would be especially helpful?
- L. What individuals in the community or community organization(s) might be also helpful in responding to this particular issue(s)?
- M. How does this Action Team request relate to our U.U. Principles?
- N. How do you, the congregant(s) bringing this request intend to participate in helping create this specific Social Justice Action Team? How do you see your role with this Team?

- III. Questions/suggestions for early development of Social Justice Action Teams:
- A. Which members or friends in our congregation might be especially helpful, resourceful to this entity? In terms of skill sets.
 - 1. Owing to their job, profession, experience, or general knowledge of the community and its various organizations?
 - B. What FUCL organizations or committees could be helpful or related to this specific Action Team"?
 - 1. Membership Committee
 - a) Where we could better track a member's (or friend's) work/job, profession, interests, community involvement
 - 2. nUUsletter - to help improve communications to the congregation, raise awareness of the particular social justice issue/concern and invite participation
 - 3. Sunday Services Committee – services focused on the specific issue
 - 4. Generosity Sunday Committee – potential for a share-the-plate Sunday for the new Social Justice Action Team
 - 5. Other “entry points”:
 - a) Discussion Group (awareness of various community organizations that have made presentations)
 - b) BookwUUrms – focus on a book related to the issue
 - c) MUUvies That Matter – show a documentary related to the topic
 - C. Collaboration with others:
 - 1. What community organizations should we get to know better insofar as their ability to help with a specific Action Team?
 - 2. Who else in our community may already be addressing problems such as we are contemplating?
 - 3. What might other churches already be doing--or thinking about doing--in this regard such as:
 - a) First Christian Church
 - b) Church of the Covenant
 - c) Agudath Sholom Synagogue
 - d) Others?
 - D. What financial resources might be available within the congregation--or beyond--whenever there may be such a need?
 - 1. Need to create a Social Justice Action Fund line in our budget so that contributions from congregants will pass through the church non-profit structures to benefit specific Social Justice Action teams' work.

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