

The Six Pillars of a Balanced Social Justice Program

The Social Justice Committee at SFUU, aspires to a justice ministry that is woven throughout our congregational life, and includes opportunities for education, service, advocacy, witness, community organizing, and leadership development. These are the 'pillars' that support a balanced social justice program.

Education

Provide opportunities to educate ourselves, our congregation and the community.

Service

Many in our congregation are called to work for justice through direct service. These efforts connect us to frontline communities – those directly impacted

Advocacy

Advocacy is the act or process of supporting a cause or proposal. Advocating for people or other species, for practices, for laws, and for policies that create systemic change is a really important circle in a balanced social justice ministry.

Witness

In terms of social change, witness means to publicly affirm, by word or action/event, and is central to our work as Unitarian Universalists. As people of faith, we bring a voice and – in many cases – a particular kind of credibility in terms of both the general public as well as public policy and decision-makers.

Community Organizing

Faith-based organizations engage in community organizing to bring about changes to policies, regulations, and laws in order to promote justice locally and globally.

Community organizing:

- develops grassroots leaders: building transformative one-to-one relationships to increase social capital and civic power.
- encourages civic engagement: collaborating with a broad range of community stakeholders and organizations, grassroots leaders, public administrators, and elected officials.
- broadens public awareness about relevant issues, and brings about changes and solutions to address the underlying causes of injustice.

Community organizing often overlaps with advocacy and education for relevant legislation and initiatives.

Leadership Development

Opportunities for many people to learn and develop skills need to be provided in order to help our collective and collaborative work be more effective and transformative. This will also create more leadership opportunities for our shared ministry and expand our circle of influence.