

**UUA CONGREGATIONAL SOCIAL JUSTICE EVALUATION FORM**  
(Adapted by Richard S. Gilbert)

Please fill out this survey as best you can to give me an overview and a feeling for the congregation(s). To ensure that the information is as complete as possible, data can be gathered from a variety of resources including the minister, the members of the social justice committee, and the board of the congregation.

**1. GENERAL INFORMATION**

NAME OF CONGREGATION:

CITY:

ADDRESS:

PHONE

FAX

E-MAIL

LEADERSHIP

Name

Address

Phone Number

E-mail

Board Chair

Social Justice Chair

Minister

Minister

ADULT MEMBERS THIS YEAR:

AVERAGE SUNDAY SERVICE ATTENDANCE:

NUMBER OF PEOPLE INVOLVED IN THE CONGREGATION'S SOCIAL JUSTICE PROGRAMS:

APPROXIMATE AGE RANGE OF MEMBERS (Expressed in percentages)

Under 20 --- 21 – 25 --- 26-34 --- 35-44 --- 45-54 --- 55-64 --- 65 and over

How would you describe the racial/ethnic/economic composition of the congregation?

LOCATION OF MEETING PLACE (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

Rural  Small Town  Suburban  Urban Neighborhood  Large Downtown

What percentage of your congregation works in the social service/advocacy fields?

**2. HISTORY**

A. Is there a written history of the congregation and/or of the social justice program? If so, please reference or attach.

B. If there is a written history of the congregation's social justice ministry, how is it used?

C. Who carries the institutional history of your congregation's involvement in social justice? How is that information transferred to congregation members and newcomers?

### **3. ROLE OF THE CONGREGATION**

A. This congregation is: (Please circle the number beside the one that most closely applies.)

1. Inwardly oriented: Invests a majority of its time, energy and resources in serving its members needs, but also invests some resources in caring for others outside the congregation.

2. Outwardly oriented: Invests a majority of its resources in caring for others, but also invests some resources in meeting the needs of its members.

3. Balanced: Strives toward a relatively equal allocation of resources among members and non-members.

4. Other: Please describe:

B. Do the members of your congregation, as a whole, have a role in deciding which social justice issues to support in any given year. If so, what is the method used?

C. In what ways does your congregation relate its public ministry to UU values, identity, and history?

D. Has your congregation adopted a vision statement, a mission statement, or a statement of purpose? If so, please attach.

E. Who in your congregation holds responsibility for the congregation's identity within the larger community?

### **4. ROLE OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES (OR ITS EQUIVALENT)**

A. How does the Board work to make the congregation a socially responsible institution (e.g. by being conscious of its hiring policies, investment of endowment funds, and impact on the environment)?

B. How does the Board provide leadership to ensure that the congregation is anti-racist as well as inclusive of people of color, lesbians and gays, physically challenged people, and others?

### **5. SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE OR COORDINATING GROUP**

What structure manages the social justice efforts of your congregation? Do you have a social justice committee, social justice coordinating group, task groups? Include an organizational chart if available. Describe in detail how someone becomes a part of this structure.

### **6. TASK (OR PROJECT) GROUPS**

A. Provide a brief description of the role, number of members, and types of current activities of these groups.

B. In the past three years, what major social justice or public ministry programs has your congregation undertaken? If you have any written materials which describe these programs, please attach. The types of involvement provide one kind of model to help you.

**Advocacy:** Working through the legislative process to add power to those who have been systematically disempowered. e.g.: visit and write letters to public officials, including legislators, go to court with or in behalf of other people or a particular issue. What kinds of advocacy work with local and national legislators?

**Service:** Hands-on projects to help individuals. e.g.: rehabilitate low-income homes; serve in a food kitchen; staff a Help Line; raise money. In what kinds of service projects are the members of the congregation involved?

**Community Organizing:** Addressing issues at a societal level. e.g.: organize a voter registration drive; start and facilitate an interfaith organization to address social issues; establish a neighborhood block organization. Is the congregation involved in community organizing projects, coalitions, or ecumenical or interfaith groups in its community?

**Education:** Informing others about an issue and its importance. e.g.: find speakers and create a forum for discussion and/or debate; provide expertise in a particular field; write pamphlets, brochures, or flyers. kinds of education programs, worship services, or forums target public issues?

**Witness:** Taking a public stand. e.g.: attend a demonstration, write a letter to the editor. In what ways have members of the congregation given public witness on issues that are important?

F. What denominational social justice programs is the congregation involved with? (For example: District, UU Service Committee, UU-UN Office, Green Sanctuary, Welcoming Congregation, etc.)

## **8. FUNDING**

A. What is the annual budget of the congregation? Please attach.

B. What is the line item amount allocated in the congregation's budget for social justice programs?

C. Does the congregation have any additional ways of raising money for social justice projects? If so please describe:

Please attach a copy of your social justice program budget.

## **9. GETTING PEOPLE INVOLVED**

How do you get members of the congregation involved in your social justice ministry?

## **10. PUBLICITY**

A. What type of image does your social justice program have in the church? And what type of image does it have in the community at large?

B. How do social justice people communicate with the members of the congregation? (e.g. Regular articles in the newsletter; Announcements in the Sunday service; Brochures and other written materials, a Social Justice Table Sunday morning, etc.)

C. How do social justice people communicate with the wider community? (e.g. Articles in local newspapers; Radio or TV; Interfaith Networks; etc.)

## **XI. PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP**

A. How much of the professional minister's time is going into the congregation's social justice program?

B. What kinds of local projects, ecumenical groups, or community boards is/are the minister(s) serving on?

## **11. BUILDING USE**

In what way is the congregation's building being used by groups or organizations in the community? (Even when groups pay a rental fee they seldom cover the whole costs of upkeep. So the congregation is making a valuable contribution to the community when groups make use of its facilities.)

## **12. DEALING WITH CONTROVERSIAL ISSUES**

A. Are there major conflicts in the congregation about doing social justice ministry?

B. Are there "painful episodes" in the history of the congregation when members were deeply divided over controversial issues?

C. What methods does the congregation use to deal with controversial social justice issues?

## **13. PROCESSES OF EVALUATION**

A. Do you have a way of evaluating your social justice programs on a regular basis?

B. What accomplishments have you made in your social justice program during the past three years?

C. Where have you fallen short in your social justice program this year? What would you like to improve in the future?

D. What needs to be done to strengthen and further develop your social justice program?

E. Are there any particular issues about the structure of your program that you want addressed?

F. What additional resources, information, training, or funding information do you need?