

TPC VISIONING 2/26/06 DATA

SOCIAL JUSTICE & SERVICE

- More opportunities for outreach to the wider world
- Social justice advocacy and initiatives local and at large
- Social action outreach
- Clearer opportunity for social action
- Expand our social action work in this community, city, country and world
- Increase world awareness and greater good
- Raise awareness in church through guest speakers, debates, talks, be willing to address delicate issue of politics, even though we are politically diverse.
- Involve more of the congregation in social justice action
 - Awareness, education
 - Legislative or political action
 - Work with UUSC
- WORKING FOR OUR PRINCIPLES
 - The world is in “troubled times.” It’s important to take the UU principles out into the great community to work for change.
 - Clearer outlets for social action growing from the UU principles
 - TPC and UUism should be more vocal about what we stand for, especially when other churches are strongly advocating for their concerns.
- LOCAL service ENGAGEMENT
 - Strong service presence in local community
 - More integrated into larger community with regard to social action and justice
 - We live in “troubled times.” It’s important to take the UU principles out into the great community to work for change.
 - Greater local force in social action, awareness, making connections between ourselves and the community
 - Strong service presence in community
 - Stronger presence in larger community demonstrating that we are a community of faith and justice to all our neighbors.
 - GBIO (Greater Boston Interfaith organization)
 - Local sister church
 - Sister church
- BEYOND USA
 - Deeper understanding of and commitment to global justice and sustainability
 - Care packages to troops in Iraq
 - Leverage our available language skills, contacts, and activities to carry out service project in Latin America
 - International outreach w/ connections to El Salvador
 - Connection to social justice on a larger level/scale
 - Such as “sister church” in the developing world
 - Sister church or community in Central America

- ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION
 - Live out the 7th principle of the interconnectedness of all life,
 - Stop using disposables at coffee hour
 - Organize cleanups of public areas in West Roxbury
 - Organize outings to our local reservations
 - Community garden project
 - Reconnect with the natural world for spiritual strength
- MAKING COMMITMENTS
 - Clarify structure and direction of our social action work for deeper investment, sustainable activities, bring energy from church out to connect with other communities
 - Pick a service area locally to demonstrate our values.
 - More active social justice engagement in our community and beyond that would be based on long term relationships with people, places, and things outside of our community
 - A community service project (like Habitat for Humanity) that we as a group commit to seeing through from beginning to end
 - Our church should take a stand for social justice and take action that reflects that commitment
- FROM CHARITY TO SOCIAL CHANGE FOR JUSTICE
 - Identify causes beyond or linked to ourselves, not just charity but work for justice and real social change
 - In what sense is this church political? How much appetite do we have for standard political activity? What other ways can we work for change?
 - Work for marriage equality
- FROM FUNDRAISING TO ACTIVE PARTICIPATION
 - More active participation in local community, rather than just holding fundraisers
 - Increased active social action
 - The Unitarian faith has a lot to offer other organizations in addition to financial support.
 - Active volunteer involvement w/ Renewal House
 - Put the action into Social Action, reach into local community
 - Volunteer at Rosie's Place
 - Tutor underprivileged kids
- WORKING WITH OTHER CONGREGATIONS
 - Exchanges w/ other congregations in pursuit of social justice, human rights, environmental consciousness, outward links.
 - Partner with another UU church in the inner city
- SOCIAL ACTION WITH CHILDREN AND YOUTH
 - Service projects especially for kids, experiential social action
 - Food pantries
 - Nursing homes
 - Community gardens
 - Activism on larger national and world issues