


First Unitarian Universalist Church Columbus, Ohio		
Chapter: VI. Social Concerns		Source:
Title: Allocation of Outreach Funds		
Approved by: Board of Trustees		Date Approved:
Effective Date:		Date of Last Review:

The Social Justice Collection, originally entitled “Second Collection”, was established in 1996 by congregational vote. The purpose of the Social Justice Collection is to support the social justice outreach activities administered by the Social Justice Committee on behalf of this church. These may include large and far-reaching local projects chosen by congregational vote (e.g., B.R.E.A.D.), national and international organizations with historical and ongoing ties to UUA and its Principles and Purposes (e.g., UUSC), and other projects, both direct service and activist, supported locally by the Social Justice Committee and sustained by the volunteer efforts of members and friends of this church (e.g., Faith Mission dinners, NAICCO, heifer, and several others).

Procedures:

1. The Social Justice Collection is taken on the third Sunday of each month at both services September-May, and at the single service June-August.
2. Contributions to the Social Justice Collection are to be counted in accordance with the policies established for the regular Sunday offering.
3. Funds from the Social Justice Collection are to be deposited in the Social Justice Committee account and funds remaining at the end of the fiscal year may be carried over to the following year.
4. The Social Justice Committee disburses funds as follows:
 - Payment of dues for congregationally endorsed organizations, currently B.R.E.A.D. and UUSC.
 - Reimbursement to the Church for an annual contribution to UUSC of \$1/member. [A new policy establishes this line item contribution in the Church’s operating budget in lieu of past policy (prior to 2003-04) of allocating the entire May Social Justice Collection to UUSC. A line item for that purpose has been approved by the Finance Committee.] Individual memberships in UUSC may still be renewed through the May Social Justice Collection, but remaining May contributions (those not designated for individual memberships) will be deposited in the Social Justice account as they are each month.
 - Support of a wide range of ongoing projects approved by the Social Justice Committee that engage significant volunteer participation within the congregation. These activities typically serve a variety of purposes, including direct service, social activism, and education about social justice issues, and they may be local, national, or global in scope.
 - Support of new projects proposed by members or friends of the Church that embody the Principles and Purposes of UUA and First UU and that engage or have the clear potential to engage the interest, support, and participation of the congregation.
 - Support for occasional, periodic, or one-time activities or events that are likely to generate interest in social justice issues or provide important information about them.

- Provision of emergency funds for unanticipated needs within the outside the Church community (for example, disaster relief, legal defense funds).
5. The Social Justice Committee provides semi-annual reports to the congregation detailing the collection and disbursement of funds. A formal report is to be included in the Church's Annual Report and an additional report is to be presented to the congregation on the third Sunday of September.
 6. The Chair of the Committee must ensure each month that the projected allocation of funds does not exceed the projected income from the Social Justice Collection. Projections are made on the basis of a comparison with the collections of previous years.
 7. If revenue from the Social Justice Collection begins to decrease over several months (as determined by comparison with previous years), support of various projects, as determined by the Social Justice Committee, must be decreased. However, commitments to Board-endorsed or congregationally endorsed projects must be the first funding priority. These are currently (2003-04) B.R.E.A.D. and UUSC, but this rule would apply to any church-wide projects endorsed by the Board or by congregational vote in the future.
 8. When sufficient funds are available and projected to continue, the Social Justice Committee may increase support of ongoing projects and may consider support of additional proposals submitted to the Committee for consideration. (Proposal forms are appended.)
 9. The Social Justice Committee shall maintain, when sufficient funds are available, an Emergency Fund to be carried over year-to-year for unforeseen contingencies related to social justice issues.