


First Unitarian Universalist Church Columbus, Ohio		Policies and Procedures
Chapter: VI. Social Justice Committee		Source: Social Justice Committee
Title: Allocation of SJC Funds		
Approved by: Board of Trustees		Date Approved: 08/26/09
Effective Date: 08/26/09		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. *Proceeds from Social Justice programs such as the Fair Trade coffee sales and additional funds from direct donations to projects (e.g., Heifer International) will be deposited in the Social Justice account. Direct donations to specific projects will be treated as pass-through funds.*
5. The Social Justice Committee disburses funds as follows:
 - Payment of dues for congregationally endorsed organizations (currently B.R.E.A.D).
 - 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 or outside the Church community (for example, disaster relief, legal defense funds).

6. The Social Justice Committee provides an semi-annual report to the congregation detailing the collection and disbursement of funds.—

7. 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.

8. 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 limited to B.R.E.A.D., but this rule would apply to any church-wide projects endorsed by the Board or by congregational vote in the future.

9. 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 may be found on the website or in the workroom).

10. 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