

RJI is the group that facilitates First UUs justice actions around both racial justice and immigration. As UUs, our first principle is the inherent worth and dignity of all people, and RJI works to promote justice in our community for our black and brown friends and neighbors and those who are new to this country.

Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Caucus

Contact: Tamara Parson, Kelli McNeal. Please email our Director of Congregational Life, Kelli McNeal, kelli@firstuucolumbus.org

Meeting Times: TBD

As a church, we are realizing that all too often, our members and friends who are Black, Indigenous, and People of Color experience tokenization, marginalization, and microaggressions in our community. We are working both on changing that culture and on creating a space specifically by and for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color in our community. If you identify as Black, Indigenous, or a Person of Color, we want to hear from you!

Anti-Racist Allies Group (ARA)

Contact: Jan Phillips, Amanda Hays. To join ARA or ask a question, send an email to **contact-anti-racistallies@firstuucolumbus.org**

Meeting Times: 4th Fridays from 6-8pm, in-person and virtual options

First UU's Anti-Racist Allies Group is new, formed in the Spring of 2021, to support our friends in First UU's Black, Indigenous, People of Color Caucus. ARA has a 2-fold purpose, to dismantle systemic white supremacy at First UU, and to continue members' own personal growth around racial justice. To become a member of ARA, we ask that persons have completed either Beloved Conversations or Living the Pledge, or an equivalent anti-racist training program.



Justice Action Ministry

Focus Groups

B.R.E.A.D. (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity)

Contact: Alice Rathburn, eulala1905@me.com, (614) 563-0536

First UU's B.R.E.A.D. Focus Group organizes First UU's work as a founding congregation in B.R.E.A.D. (Building Responsibility Equality And Dignity). B.R.E.A.D. is a congregation-based community organization of many different religious congregations in Franklin County Central OH. These congregations are united through B.R.E.A.D. to research proven solutions and apply non-partisan pressure on local decision makers to address serious community problems. Current campaigns include affordable housing, gun violence, police reform, juvenile justice, elder care, municipal I.D., and jobs for hard to hire workers. B.R.E.A.D. is part of the Direct Action and Research Training Center (DART) national network.

Dates to put on your calendar:

Multiple House Meeting options between September 16-October 25. This year's listening process will include a question asking how you have personally experienced environmental injustice.

Annual Assembly: Monday, Nov 15, 2021- together, B.R.E.A.D. congregations come together to vote on a new issue to adopt for that year.

Research Kickoff: Monday, Dec 6, 2021- Anyone interested in learning more about these problems and working with others

from diverse faith communities to identify solutions are welcome to come to learn more.

Democracy & Human Rights Focus Group

Contacts: Chris Johnson and Susan O'Donnell. You can sign up for email updates and reach Chris and Susan by emailing contact-democracy-and-human-rights@firstuucolumbus.org

Meeting Times: First and Third Wednesdays at 6pm on Zoom
First UU's Democracy & Human Rights Focus Group works with a number of local and national groups to promote and protect democracy and human rights. Currently, our central focus is working with Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio to organize in Columbus against statehouse bills threatening our First Amendment Right to protest, as well as the ongoing Ohio redistricting process.

Monthly Action Hours: First Wednesdays at 6pm on Zoom. Learn the latest about local, state, and national bills concerning our rights and take an action, all in one hour.

Eco-Justice Focus Group

Contacts: Elaine Fujimura, Erica Barrett Morrison, and Brian Hagemann. You can reach Elaine, Erica, and Brian, and sign up for email updates by emailing contact-ecojustice@firstuucolumbus.org

Environmental justice will be achieved when all people, regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, enjoy healthy conditions in which to live, learn, and work. This is accomplished when all receive the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and equal access to the decision-making process. First UU's Eco-Justice Focus Group is looking into ways to contribute to improving systemic

environmental justice by participating in outreach events in communities historically underserved.

Food (In)security Focus Group

Contacts: Jacques Angelino, 614-439-0245; 617 Woodsfield Dr., Columbus, OH 43214; Stuart Smith, contact-foodinsecurity@firstuucolumbus.org

First UU's Food (In)security Focus Group partners with several local, state, and national groups to provide food relief. Through Feed and Read Ohio, we provide food and other supplies to those experiencing poverty in Franklin and Athens Counties. Through Faith Mission and YWCA, we provide meals to those in need in Columbus once a month, which includes cooking during non-pandemic times.

Donations of food, essentials, and gently-used items can be accepted by Jacques at his address. Call Jacques for more information.

Healthcare Focus Group

Contact: Alice Faryna, alice.faryna@gmail.com

First UU's Healthcare Focus Group partners with SPAN, NARAL, Ohio RCRC, and Planned Parenthood to work for policy change that improves access to healthcare, including a full range of reproductive choices.

Racial Justice and Immigration JAM Focus Group (RJI):

Contact: Jan Phillips. You can reach Jan or sign up for email updates by emailing contact-racialjusticeandimmigration@firstuucolumbus.org

Meeting Times: Tuesdays at 7pm on Zoom, about every 6 weeks.