



Strategic Planning Task Force Commitment to Social Justice Round Table

March 14, 2021



for JUSTICE

Visions for Social Justice

*The PC(USA) Directory of Worship prepares us for social responsibility:
“God sends the church in the power of the Holy Spirit to share with Christ in establishing God’s just, peaceable, and loving rule in the world. God’s reconciliation in Jesus Christ is the ground of justice and peace. The church in worship proclaims, receives, and enacts reconciliation in Jesus Christ and commits itself to strive for justice and peace in its own life and in the world. Justice is the order God sets in human life for fair and honest dealing and for giving rights to those who have no power to claim rights for themselves.”*

Overview

The four RUC foundational mission priorities are:

- Care of the RUC family
- Care of our neighbors
- Commitment to social justice
- Care of the earth

The Visioning Events demonstrated great interest and enthusiasm in the following social justice arenas: Poor People's Campaign, Racial Justice, Care of the Earth, Civil Rights, and LGBTQ Rights.

Our intention is to educate and mobilize the Rockville United Church towards action on denominational, global, national, and local social justice issues, guided by PC(USA) and UCC policy statements.



Social Justice Framework

1

Increase awareness
of key issues

2

Provide educational
and training
opportunities in
political activism and
social responsibility

3

Drive the
prioritization of, and
focus on, key issues

4

Mobilize
congregation to act
on key issues

Potential Initiatives

- Structural Changes to Enhance our Commitment to Social Justice.
- Configuring our buildings and grounds to support social justice education and action.
 - A Social Justice Labyrinth or Walk
 - Pathway of Justice Stones
 - Upgrade our facilities to provide temporary overnight lodging
- Building Stronger Connections to Others in our Area:
 - Other Religious Groups
 - Denominational Partners
- Prominent Connection to the Poor People's Campaign.



Structural Changes to Enhance our Commitment to Social Justice

- Create and empower a new Social Advocacy Committee. This committee will coordinate our advocacy efforts around the issues, such as: Racial Justice, Earth Care Justice, LGBTQ+, Immigrant Justice, etc. The LGBTQ Outreach Group and the Poor People's Campaign would sit under this committee. This committee would also be charged with establishing a formalized relationship with our social justice partners.
- Recruit congregational members to offer volunteer leadership in support of social justice efforts.
- Assess staffing to match the needs for guidance and support for social justice/advocacy.

Buildings and Grounds- A Social Justice Labyrinth or Walk

- Create an inviting visual, outdoor witness of the importance of Social Justice at Rockville United Church. The stations will be attractively signed and spread over the Church grounds. Each station will have a written plaque and a smart phone accessible audio story.
- Utilize artist/crafters within the congregation, commissioned artists and/or justice partners to create stations like the following:
 - Racial Justice Station
 - LGBTQ+ Justice Station
 - Earth Care Justice Stations
 - Community Reach Station
 - Utilize the Peace Pole as one of the stations.
 - Indigenous Peoples Station
- Place large flagstones throughout the property with Justice Quotes and Scripture.

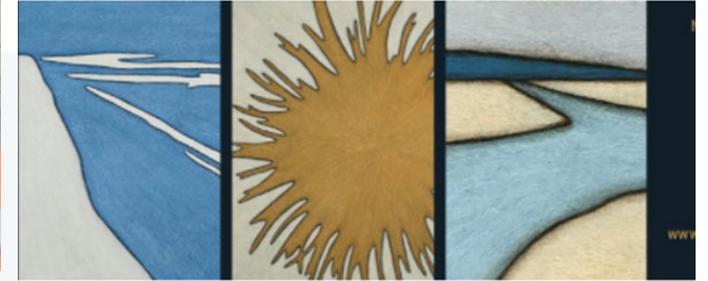


Building and Grounds- Potential Partners

- The Good of the Hive.
<https://www.thegoodofthehive.com/>
- Art for Justice Fund.
www.artforjusticefund.org.
- Wesley Theological Seminary's
Curating Community Through the Arts
Doctor of Ministry Program

Community Through the Arts

Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington, DC



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Building Stronger Connections to Other Religious Groups in our Area

- Look for opportunities for shared action in the areas of social justice and worship.
- Promote opportunities for exchanges in music and culture.
- Building our relationship to Community Reach's Faith Advisory Committee.



Building Stronger Connections to our Denominational Partners

- UCC Central Atlantic Conference & Potomac Association
 - Justice and Witness Action Network
 - UCC Washington Office
 - UCC's Creation Justice Church Program
- PC(USA) and National Capital Presbytery
 - Advocacy and Social Justice Ministry
 - PC(USA) Washington Office
 - Presbyterians for Earth Care



Office of Public Witness



a just
world
for all
ucc.org

Prominent Connection to the Poor People's Campaign

- Coordinate actions with the national movement, state and regional level organizations, and local working groups through the Social Advocacy Committee.
- Provide regular education to the congregation on Poor People's Campaign activities, issues, and opportunities by holding periodic round tables.
- Develop an agile network to provide a timely communication of calls for action.
- Upgrade our facilities to be used as temporary meeting and lodging spaces.
 - Add showers, modular furniture downstairs, laundry facilities, storage space for cots and enhance accessibility.



Questions & Answers

Feedback

