**Application for Official Status**

**Justice Initiatives at Jefferson Unitarian Church**

 Every project and activity at our church is evaluated by its alignment with our congregational mission. The mission statement of Jefferson Unitarian Church reads as follows:

Guided by Unitarian Universalist principles and powered by the energy and resources of its members, the mission of Jefferson Unitarian Church is to nurture our spiritual community, grow Unitarian Universalism, and transform the world outside our church walls.

At Jefferson Unitarian Church, we seek to build wholeness, within and among people, through ministries that help us:

Deepen to our truest selves;

Connect authentically with others; and

Engage with needs beyond our own.

 In addition to furthering our mission, no project/group at Jefferson Unitarian Church can violate a core commitment of our free faith or endanger our property or fiscal health, including our tax-exempt status. Projects/groups cannot:

* Advocate for or against a candidate or political party for elected office.
* Be a business solicitation.
* Conflict with our core values (i.e. no request to start a hate group within the church will be approved).
* Put the church at unacceptable risk of damage to the facility, the financial health of the church or the public image of the church without prior approval of the senior minister or her designees, and possibly the Board of Trustees, should the senior minister determine that the Board of Trustees ought to be consulted.

 Experience has taught us that we are most successful in creating change and addressing injustice when we partner with existing groups beyond our church. Therefore, all justice activities at the church are asked to identify a partner or partners with whom they wish to work and explain how that partnership will work.

 Groups that are part of the Social Responsibility Council must demonstrate a widespread interest and engagement by Jefferson Unitarian Members. Groups that do not meet this criteria may still be approved as affinity groups, without status as Council members. Experience has taught us that groups that do not have at least 12 interested people will likely struggle with long-term sustainability. These twelve do not have to be on the leadership team, but do need to be engaged in some way, through participation in projects, attendance at events, or otherwise helping to sustain the group. Existing groups have had people involved by helping take care of Family Promise Guests, reading with children at Lumberg Elementary, attend monthly speaker series at Jefferson Unitarian Church, participate in actions like marches and rallies, and many other activities.

 As an initial application we don’t expect that you know if there are at least 12 people who are interested in your group/project. Please note, this is not 12 people who think it might be a nice idea if someone else worked on this effort, it should be 12 people who are personally committed to participating in your group in an ongoing way.

 At the initial stage of consideration there are no funds available for new groups. Should your group demonstrate sufficient interest you may be approved up to $300 for the first year of your work. These funds can be spent on guest speakers, food for events, dues to partnership organizations, screening fees for movies, and other such things. Rarely, some groups use more than $300 per year, such as the cost to host our Family Promise Guests each week. Should your group have an activity that requires more than $300 a year we’ll want to talk about what you’re doing, at what cost, and what steps you’ll be taking to ensure the success of your effort.

 Some justice work involves getting members and friends of JUC to provide financial support for a cause. Generally this is done at our church through the special plate offerings each month. Decisions on who to give the special plate offerings to are made by the members of the Social Responsibility Council, composed of the leaders of the task forces, teams, and projects approved by our church. Unless specifically approved through the regular process for fundraisers, events, programs or activities cannot have as their purpose, in part or in whole, fundraising. All activities that have a fundraising component must be approved by the designated entities specified in church policy. If you intend to raise funds as part of your activity, plan to talk to us at a very early stage about the amounts you hope to raise and what they would be used for.

 Finally, staff and ministers of the church are here to support the mission and vision of the church. Various staff members can provide support to groups within the church pursuant to time available and relative priorities. This is true both at the initial stage as you explore the program you are trying to start, and also along the way. Staff can provide assistance with promotions, leadership visioning, logistics, and other things. The amount of assistance available at any given time will vary, but generally the further in advance you can let us know about what you’re planning or needing, the more likely we are to be able to help.

 With all that in mind, we ask that you fill out the following pages and let us know who you are, what you’re working on, and how you will go about that work. If you need any help with this form, or any other questions, feel free to contact Rev. Eric Banner, ericbanner@jeffersonunitarian.org, (303) 279-5282, ext. 28.

Note: all fields will expand as you type. Write as much or as little as you need to.

**Name of JUC Member Leader(s):** **Phone Number:**      **Email Address:**

**Date of Application:**

**Name of Group/Project (for new initiatives this can be a tentative name):**

**Tell us about the justice issue your group/project hopes to address:**

**How does your project/proposal align with and build toward the mission of our church:**

**Please list any outside partners you believe you will be working with as you move forward. If you don’t have any outside partners in mind, please explain why/how you will be successful without them:**

**Are there existing groups within the church that you intend to partner with or engage in your work. If so, please list them here:**

**Is there an existing group at Jefferson Unitarian Church that is already working to address your issue:**

 **If yes, why is a new group needed:**

**What age groups do you intend to engage with you group/project. You can select more than one age group:**

Children:[ ]  Youth:[ ]  Young Adults:[ ]  Middle Adults:[ ]  Older Adults:[ ]

**If approved, what will you do to determine if there is sufficient interest for your group?**
Write an article for Ignite:[ ]

Host an Explorations! on a Sunday morning:[ ]

Host a public event at a time other than Sunday morning:[ ]

Have a table in the South Commons on Sunday for up to three weeks:[ ]

Send a JUCeAlert about your group:[ ]

**How does your proposal intend to create change? If you foresee projects in the future that you’re not ready for at this initial stage, note that as well -**

(check all that apply, and if it is helpful, write about what specific initiatives you’ll undertake in the field next to the text box)

 **Personal Growth/Change-**

 Encouraging Personal Change:[ ]

 Hosting Speakers at Jefferson Unitarian Church:[ ]

 Provide Information to Jefferson Unitarian Church Members:[ ]

 **Legislative/Policy Change:**

 Working to Change Local Ordinances/Policies:[ ]

 Working to Promote Legislative/Policy Change in Colorado:[ ]

 Working to Promote Legislative/Policy Change in the United States:[ ]

 **Direct Service:**

 Working to Alleviate Symptoms of Injustice Locally:[ ]

 Working to Alleviate Symptoms of Injustice Nationally:[ ]

 Working to Alleviate Symptoms of Injustice Outside the United States:[ ]

 **Charitable Giving:**

 Raising Funds for Outside Organizations:[ ]

 **Support Outside Partner Organizations:**

 Hosting Events With Partners at Jefferson Unitarian Church:[ ]

 Encouraging Church People to Volunteer With Partner Organizations:[ ]

 Solidarity/Relationship Building:[ ]

 Witnessing:[ ]

 **Artistic Engagement:**

 Hosting/Promoting Cultural Event(s) Related to Your Project:[ ]

 **Other (please specify):**

**Should your group/project have sufficient interest to become a formal part of the justice ministries at Jefferson Unitarian Church, what actions or goals will you have for the initial six month trial period? Please list the activities and milestones you plan to undertake and achieve, the target group you want to reach, and the time frame you intend to complete your goals:**

**If your group intends to take on a project that will cost more than $300 per year, please tell us more about your projected expenses and congregational involvement here:**

**Do you expect to need assistance from staff? If so, please list the staff member and/or type of assistance as best you foresee it at this point in time:**

**Do you foresee an end to your project? How will people know the project is complete?**