

Social Justice and Action Committee

Background:

The Social Justice and Action Committee is a supporting committee (Bylaws 14.1B) central to fulfilling the Mission of the Congregation. The chair is elected by the members of the committee for a period of three years, subject to confirmation by the Board (Bylaws 14.6). The Social Justice and Action Committee is partly responsible for implementing the Justice Initiative of RVUUF's Strategic Plan.

Purpose:

- To provide service to the local, national, and international communities.
- To inspire the larger community toward greater compassion and justice.
- To foster a community living with respect for the interdependent web of all existence.

Responsibilities:

- Develop within the Fellowship an awareness of human suffering and implement social-action projects that promote the well-being of all people.
- Expand the philanthropic role of the Fellowship in the community.
- Explore working on specific projects with other community organizations.
- Explore the opportunity for Congregation-based organizing.
- Publicize the service and philanthropic activity of the church in local media, coordinating when useful with other public-relations activities of the Fellowship.

General Operating Procedures:

- Issues that need to be decided on in a timely manner can be voted on by email or phone unless there is a request for an in-person discussion and vote by a member of the committee.
- 2/3rd vote of the "responders" constitute a final decision on the issue.
- The issue to be voted on should be addressed to "Members of the Committee" as Friends of the Committee are also on the email address.
- A request to the SJ&A email group should be sent to determine if there are any people who would prefer not to be on the email list.
- The final agenda for the meeting will be sent out 5 days before a meeting. That will be considered timely notice of issues to be voted on.

Third Sunday Offering Selection Procedure:

- A designated member of the committee will assess the following criteria and present their findings to the total committee for their consideration:
 - Organization is a 501(C)3
 - Organization's length of time in existence demonstrates viability
 - List of Board Members
 - Copy of budget (to determine how contributed funds will be used).
 - Ratio of administrative costs to services is reasonable
 - Frequency of change of executive officer/director is considered
 - Local support in addition to federal and/or state aid.

- Organization's goals and services (who they serve).

If the recipient is selected, this person will be responsible for submitting information about the recipient in the Order of Service beginning two Sundays prior to the offering and contacting the organization to arrange for a speaker at the 3rd Sunday service (stressing the 3 minute guideline). A "thank-you" letter is also to be requested. The delegated committee member will meet the representative at the front door, introduce them to the Worship associate, and seat them near the front of the Great Hall. The composition of recipient organizations is the UUA, UUSC, one other global organization and nine local agencies.

Tabling Procedure:

- Groups or individuals wishing to table to obtain signatures or provide information must receive approval/permission in advance from SJ&A. Presence of the table will be announced to the Fellowship in advance. Groups or individuals must provide their own table and supplies, to be set up on the covered front outside entry area, to the right of the front doors. Exception for use of any other area may be authorized by SJ&A at its discretion.
- Tabling is allowed for ½ hour following the Sunday service.
- Only non-profits may table. Partisan political groups or campaigning by those seeking election are not allowed. Commercial enterprises are not allowed.

Bodacious Rainbow Ball Procedures:

- In October the committee will vote on whether to sponsor the Ball (which is generally held in February of the following year) and donate all proceeds to Lotus Rising Project.
- The request for funds proposal requires approval by the Finance committee and the Board (as the majority of proceeds will not go to the RVUUF general account.)
- A member of the committee (point person) will organize a planning committee consisting of members of the committee, RVUUF congregants and outside organizations.
- The point person will confirm the availability of the band (Blue Lightning) which is usually agreed to following the end of the dance and confirm the date scheduled with the office administrator.
- A flyer will be created which will be posted on RVUUF Facebook, website and distributed to pertinent organizations and posted locally.
- The committee will decide if the Ball will have co-sponsors such as other faith based organizations and nonprofits.
- The point person and Ball committee will be responsible for publicizing the dance, selling tickets the night of the dance, removal of chairs and pews, decorating the hall, arranging child care, selling tickets following church services three weeks prior to the Ball, soliciting food and drink donations and help in the kitchen and food table the night of the Ball.
- The point person will arrange with the office administrator for checks to be cut for the band(the night of the Ball), custodian (if necessary) and payment for related purchases. The office administrator will cut a check for Lotus Rising which will be filled in the night of the Ball after all income has been counted and expenses have been documented.

- A check will be presented to Lotus Rising Board President/Executive Director during the Sunday service following the dance.

Homeless Shelter Procedures:

SJA, in partnership with Temple Emek Shalom, uses Pioneer Hall to operate a winter homeless shelter from mid-November to mid-April. RVUUF and Emek Shalom sign an annual agreement with the City of Ashland for the use of Pioneer Hall.

Estimated cost to run the shelter annually is \$1,500-\$1,900 per year. Costs include providing blankets, sleeping pads, coffee, tea, cups, paper towels, sugar, milk, oatmeal, and utensils. Additional costs include laundry and detergent. Funds to be sought from RVUUF budget, RVUUF Endowment, partners, and other available grants.

Shelter Policies:

1. Check in begins at 7:30 every Tuesday and Thursday through April 15th.
2. Doors are locked at 10 PM.
3. No re-entry after 9:45.
4. No cooking.
5. No drugs, alcohol, or weapons.
6. No disorderly conduct.
7. No threatening or abusive language.
8. No excessive noise, including loud radios or phone conversations.
9. No smoking. No smoking within 10 feet of the building.
10. Failure to comply with shelter rules may disqualify a guest from future stays.

Guest Agreement:

- A. I agree to the shelter policies above.
- B. I confirm that I am 18 years or older.
- C. I release, discharge and hold harmless the Pioneer Shelter volunteers, and the City of Ashland, its officers and agent, employees from any loss or damage or claim from damages on the account of any injury to person or damage to property resulting from my use of the Pioneer Hall Shelter, except for injury to person or damage to property arising out of the intentional misconduct or recklessness of the City or volunteers.

Policies

- 102 Mailings and emails
- 112 Political organizations and persons
- 203.1 Special Offerings
- 700.2 Building Use
- Administration Procedure ADM-001.00 - Building Use

Date Approved: Dec. 4, 2014