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Gun Violence Prevention Campaign

Overview

Every day, 100 Americans are killed with guns and hundreds more are shot and injured. The effects of gun violence extend far beyond these casualties—gun violence shapes the lives of millions of Americans who witness it, know someone who was shot, or live in fear of the next shooting. 58 percent of American adults or someone they care for have experienced gun violence in their lifetime. Approximately three million American children witness gun violence every year.

Congregational Action

- Participate in the National Vigil to End Gun Violence in December by planning a service or special event to remember victims of gun violence.
- UUFH Congregational Affirmation about Gun Violence in alignment with the UUA
<https://www.uua.org/action/statements/affirming-congregational-commitment-gun-violence-prevention>
- Arrange for a *Be SMART* Presentation with FM Parents
The *Be SMART* program is designed to help parents and adults normalize conversations about gun safety and take responsible actions that can prevent child gun deaths and injuries.
- Once the Video System is approved and installed, arrange for a Movie Night screening of a film that focuses on the gun violence issue such as “*The Armor of Light*.”
- During the next election, support and volunteer for Gun Sense Candidates running for state and federal offices.
Voting:
An immediate threshold issue – to elect representatives at the local, state and national level who espouse UU values. Take action to register voters, assist with obtaining ID’s, provide transportation for the above and to the polls; campaign, circulate/sign petitions & letters; make calls; send donations, attend fundraisers.
Partners may include UUA - #UUtheVotein2020, UUJMNC/Forward Together and Democracy Action Team, You Can Vote, League of Women Voters, Progressive Alliance, and Poor People’s Campaign.
- Join the local Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense-Hendersonville group and participate and support their events.
- Pledge financial resources to the state chapter of Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense which in turn supports local programs and advocacy; conduct a special offering in conjunction with a gun violence service.

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Zero Waste Campaign

Most people don’t realize how much food they throw away every day- from uneaten leftovers to spoiled produce. About 94% of the food we throw away ends up in landfills. When Project Drawdown ranked the 80 most impactful climate change solutions, No. 3 was addressing

waste of food. In the United States, we waste up to 40% of our food supply- enough nutritional value to feed millions. It accounts for an estimated 19% to 29% of global greenhouse-gas emissions. By managing food sustainability and reducing waste, we can help businesses and consumers save money, provide a bridge in our communities for those who do not have enough to eat, and conserve resources for future generations.

Benefits of reducing food waste

1. Saves money from buying less food
2. Reduce methane emissions from landfills and lowers your carbon footprint
3. Conserves energy and resources, preventing pollution involved in growing, manufacturing, transporting and selling food
4. Supports our community by providing donated untouched food that would have otherwise gone to waste to those that might not have a steady food supply.

Goals

1. Reduce Amount of food waste
2. Increase Amount of safe nutritious food donated to those in need
3. Recycle unavoidable food waste, diverting it from landfills

To achieve goals:

- Assessment - measure amount of food waste for members of congregation
- Education - ways to avoid and reduce food waste through articles in Beacon, Forums, incorporate in worship services
- Policy - advocate for reduction in food waste- at home, church, grocery stores, restaurants
- Voting:

An immediate threshold issue – to elect representatives at the local, state and national level who espouse UU values. Take action to register voters, assist with obtaining ID's, provide transportation for the above and to the polls; campaign, circulate/sign petitions & letters; make calls; send donations, attend fundraisers.

Partners may include UUA - #UUtheVotein2020, UUJMNC/Forward Together and Democracy Action Team, You Can Vote, League of Women Voters, Progressive Alliance, and Poor People's Campaign.

This congregation-encompassing effort would be fairly easy for our congregation to engage in and would not only help save our environment for future generations but would help feed the hungry.

Estimated Resources

- A. Financial: \$500
- B. Space: meetings, presentations
- C. Human:
 - a. Committee - design, promote, administer and assess the campaign as approved by the congregation
 - b. Board - ensure funding as approved by the congregation, become educated in the campaign
 - c. Minister - participate in activities as available, do one related sermon during the church year
 - d. Staff - develop methods for carrying out the campaign in key areas: Social Justice

Outreach, Family Ministry, Music, Worship, membership, finance

e. Congregation - participate in campaign, promote beyond the congregation

Possible participating organizations- Creation Care Alliance, Mountain True, Henderson County Recycling Center

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SAVING THE RAINFOREST - SAVING OURSELVES

Objective:

To promote advocacy and increase awareness of the vital role rainforests play in the climate crisis we face today.

Education:

Research organizations that are dedicated to saving the rainforest and it's rich biodiversity. Invite guest speakers from local universities, or organizations to speak about how we can mobilize to help save the rainforests and their biodiversity

Voting:

An immediate threshold issue – to elect representatives at the local, state and national level who espouse UU values. Take action to register voters, assist with obtaining ID's, provide transportation for the above and to the polls; campaign, circulate/sign petitions & letters; make calls; send donations, attend fundraisers.

Partners may include UUA - #UUtheVotein2020, UJMN/Forward Together and Democracy Action Team, You Can Vote, League of Women Voters, Progressive Alliance, and Poor People's Campaign.

Projects:

1. Organize study groups that focus on negative and positive effects related to rainforest preservation such as:

global impact of deforestation

negative and positive impacts to indigenous populations living in rainforests

loss of medicinal plants, including ones not yet discovered

loss of habitat for many of the world's animal and plant species

2. Research what sustainable products carry rainforest eco-certifications in restaurants, grocery stores and home improvement stores, and put up rainforest posters at UUFH downstairs with some of the information gathered.

3. Potluck at UUFH where dishes brought include ingredients that are forest friendly, such as sustainable coffee, bananas, chocolate, spices, and more that are Rainforest Alliance certified. Use only non-plastic cutlery, plates and eco friendly paper napkins.

4. Help develop family ministry projects, e.g., saving species! Get the kids involved!

Resources:

Financial: \$500

Space: meetings, presentations

Human:

a. committees - design, promote, administer and assess the plan as approved by the congregation.

b. family ministry - engage UUFH youth in learning about the richness and importance of the rainforest and its biodiversity.

c. board - develop an expanded green certification policy that is rainforest compliant in all UUFH purchasing, from paper and wood products to foods. The policy would also encourage volunteers who contribute goods to UUFH social events to be aware of rainforest friendly guidelines. UUFH compliance with rainforest friendly guidelines should be noted on the website.

d. Minister - participate in activities as available; preach one related sermon during the church year.

e. Staff develop methods for carrying out the campaign in key areas: Social Justice Outreach, Family Ministry, Music, Worship, Membership, Finance.

f. Congregation - participate in the campaign and promote beyond the congregation.

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CLIMATE JUSTICE CAMPAIGN

UUA has made CLIMATE JUSTICE one of their four intersectional priorities, calling this UU inter-organizational collaborative movement CREATE CLIMATE JUSTICE. UUA already has a website CreateClimateJustice.net, which lists resources, videos, and actionable congregational, local and global ways for each of us to make every kind of big and little effort. We see Climate Change as the existential crisis of our time. It is an umbrella issue that encompasses most other social justice issues. Individuals and groups If UUFH chooses Climate Justice as our 2020 social justice focus, our members and friends can implement a multi-dimensional response, both locally and globally.

LOCAL GOALS (those within our fellowship, Hendersonville, and Western North Carolina) may or may not include:

A. Partnership with area UU and other progressive congregations to provide and promote speakers, events, YouTube video and documentary discussions, etc. that result in combined efforts at addressing various aspects of Climate Justice.

B. A frequently updated list of local climate change activist organizations, rallies, protests, etc. (examples: Creation Care Alliance, & Mountain True)

C. Adult and youth projects developed with Family Ministry, focused on reducing our carbon footprint.

D. Periodic sermons delivered by our own, or visiting ministers, activists, and others already doing meaningful work in this area.

GLOBAL GOALS (those with national or global effort and impact) may or may not include:

A. Voting efforts

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Partners may include UUA - #UUtheVotein2020, UUMNC/Forward Together and Democracy Action Team, You Can Vote, League of Women Voters, Progressive Alliance, and Poor People's Campaign.

B. Participating in, and occasionally hosting Postcard Parties to write to our country's key politicians about our climate crisis concerns.

C. Attending regional and national UU conferences on climate justice.

D. Start a book discussion group on Greta Thurnberg's No One Is Too Small To Make a Difference and/or Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming, by Paul Hawken

OBJECTIVE:

To create a wide variety of actionable items (ie: 101 Ways list) addressing Climate Justice, in ways that give everyone within UUFH and opportunity to do something, no matter how big or small, to have a positive impact on creating climate justice.

Means: All committees, teams, and groups would focus on a way or ways their particular focus can have an impact on climate justice.

ESTIMATED RESOURCES:

A. Initial budget of \$500

B. Space, meetings, presentations, advocacy and rallies

C. Human:

- a. SJOT - design, promote, administer and assess the campaign as approved by fellowship.
- b. Board - ensure funding. Be updated periodically by designated SJOT member
- c. Minister - participate in activities as available. Do occasional related sermons during church year. Suggest occasional appropriate sermon presenters, or approve/disapprove those suggested by climate campaign organizers
- d. Staff - develop methods for carrying out the campaign in key areas: SJOT, Family Ministry, Music, Worship, Membership, Finance, Public Relations Promotion
- e. Congregation - participate in campaign