

Multicultural Growth & Witness

January 2012

Best Practice

First Unitarian Church of Oakland Partners with the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights



The First Unitarian Church of Oakland has begun exploring a new and dynamic model of social justice ministry by partnering with the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights. Working together with members of the community, their partnership seeks to address pressing local concerns, including

high rates of teen incarceration, increasing urban violence and the need for green jobs that support low income families and people of color. The growing success of this partnership results from strong congregational leadership at First Unitarian, which sought support from the whole congregation, not simply a few members. By gaining a church-wide commitment to the Ella Baker Center and its work, First Unitarian has emerged as a leading voice for justice in Oakland. Read about their recent support of Occupy too!

Read the complete story and see the Action Steps for Forming a Congregational Community Partnership: www.uua.org/action/stories/oakland/

Awards

Social Justice Awards for UU Congregations & Individuals!

Deadline to apply: March 1, 2012

- Bennett Award for Congregational Action on Human Justice and Social Action (deadline March 15, 2012)
- Holmes-Weatherly Award
- Skinner Sermon Award
- Social Witness Sermon Contest
- Wilton Peace Prize

To learn more and apply, see: www.uua.org/action/awards/

Witness

National Standing on the Side of Love Month

Thirty Days of Love
Jan 16, 2012–Feb 14, 2012

The Story of Us, The Story of Now

Welcome to THIRTY DAYS OF LOVE, beginning Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and culminating with Valentine's Day! THIRTY DAYS OF LOVE is a collective visioning process about making sense of the present moment, and what we are called to do. We aim to accomplish this through self-reflection, active listening, sharing personal and community stories, and celebrating our lives and our heroes for their courageous love.



THIRTY DAYS OF LOVE offers daily, direct actions for love, and the calendar is a template to guide you through a meaningful THIRTY DAYS. But your participation is envisioned as a process, not an event.

While there is great power in collective action, the beauty of Standing on the Side of Love is its "open source" spirit, so bring your own ideas, actions, and traditions with you for this journey.

www.standingonthesideoflove.org/national-standing-on-the-side-of-love-month-the-story-of-us-the-story-of-now

See our 2011-2012 UU Social Justice Calendar at www.uua.org/justice/calendar/index.shtml

The programs and services of the UUA are made possible by the generosity of individual donors and gifts to the Annual Program Fund. Please consider making a donation today to sustain our work: uua.org/giving/apf.

www.uua.org/justice

Earth Day 2012



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
MINISTRY FOR EARTH

The UU Ministry for Earth is preparing its annual collection of Earth Day materials to assist congregations in planning worship services and other activities around **Earth Day – Sunday, April 22, 2012.**

In keeping with the focus on immigration at the upcoming General Assembly and the current “Immigration as a Moral Issue” CSAI, this year’s offerings explore links between Environmental Justice and Immigration. Materials will include downloads and resources, a call to action, congregational stories, and more. They will be available on the UU Ministry for Earth’s website (www.uuministryforearth.org) by mid-January and congregations are encouraged to share their planned activities with others by registering online.

Welcoming Congregation Resources

Did you know? 65% of UU congregations are recognized for their intentional work to welcome people of all sexual orientations and gender identities.



Did you know? LGBT Ministries recommends that all congregations go through a Welcoming Congregation Program or refresher course every 5 years.

Learn more! The UUA has brand new resources, guidance, and ideas for LGBT welcome and inclusion at www.uua.org/lgbt/welcoming

Discover best practices and new ideas for deepening your welcome—including special new guidance regarding small congregations, refresher courses, Living the Welcoming Congregation, transgender welcome, and other next steps.

Resource

Congregational Resources for Immigration Advocacy in Our Communities

A new **Congregational Toolkit for Immigration Advocacy in Our Communities** is now available and a **webinar** on how to use it will be held on **Monday, Jan. 9th at 3:30 pm Eastern.** Please Mark Your Calendars!

Participate in a National Interfaith Immigration Coalition/NDLON Campaign to end Secure Communities - The only secure community is the beloved community.

Go to www.interfaithimmigration.org/index.php/2011/11/21/iic-scomm-toolkit/ and download the S-comm Toolkit for Interfaith Grassroots Advocacy, sign up for the accompanying webinar, and look at the map to see if there any Advocacy Teams already working on this issue near you.

Kick off 30 Days of Love on MLK Day!

Bring your Standing on the Side of Love banner and wear your yellow love shirts! Witness at your local MLK Day events, marches, and service activities.

Witness

Interfaith Service to Honor Dr. King’s Commitment to Worker Justice in Washington, D.C. to Kick Off National Tour

Faith Advocates for Jobs will sponsor a national interfaith service to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and to rededicate ourselves to the struggle for worker justice, which he championed up to his death.

Rev. Dr. James Forbes, senior pastor emeritus of Riverside Church in New York City, will deliver the sermon. He will be joined on the pulpit by unemployed workers and Rev. Paul Sherry, former president of the United Church of Christ and national coordinator of Faith Advocates for Jobs. Kat Liu, Witness Ministries, will also be participating.

When: January 16, 2012, 3:00 p.m.

Where: Shiloh Baptist Church, 1500 Ninth Street NW Washington, D.C.

Faith Advocates for Jobs is a campaign initiated by Interfaith Worker Justice and 40 other organizations including the UUA to address the severe suffering endured by millions of unemployed workers. For more information on the campaign & the tour visit faithadvocatesforjobs.wordpress.com.