



Social Justice Ministry

UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WEST HARTFORD

Our Church's New Interfaith Action Partnership

The Social Justice Ministry is leading the church in its membership in the Greater Hartford Interfaith Action Alliance (GHIAA). GHIAA, launched in October, 2019, presents a unique opportunity for the church to join with over 50 other faith communities to make systemic social justice change. Not only has this organization in its short time of operation shown itself to be effective in tackling issues and organizing a powerful voice, but it has assembled congregations across faiths, race, and class. Our sister churches, the Unitarian Society of Hartford and Unitarian Universalist Society East, are also members of GHIAA.



We are growing our partnership in developing our leadership and volunteer participation, broadening our understanding of social issues, and building relationships with people who are not white, privileged UUs. This dynamic collaboration is already showing its power to influence legislation and support legislators and other public officials who promote its identified priorities.

Our church has made great strides in education on the justice issues of anti-racism, empowerment of women, and voting. GHIAA is helping us to further our work as stated in our vision statement of being “...*a church that actively serves the community and works for a just society in partnership with those affected by injustice.*”



GHIAA's interfaith members continue to identify specific social justice issues to work on together using the process and principles of broad-based organizing. The legislative and action agenda of GHIAA is built from the ground up, using a technique called “House Meetings”. As the issues are identified, GHIAA core team members form action research teams and launch actionable campaigns. The action research teams currently

include housing, education, gun violence, health care, and criminal justice reform. We work on issues for which there is common ground theologically. We do not work on issues that divide doctrinally or otherwise. For more information, see their website cljct.org/.

Interested in learning more or signing up for the orientation session or the leadership training? Contact the Social Justice Ministry at socialjustice@westhartforduu.org.