

Faithful Action Leadership Council (FALC)
First Universalist Church of Minneapolis
August 26, 2015 7:00-8:30
SUMMARY

Summary of FALC

Over the years, the church has had a strong commitment to justice issues from its ministers and members with many positive benefits accruing to the church and community. However, social justice work hasn't always been coordinated or consistently supported resulting in some confusion and lack of clarity about the approach to social justice at our church. Under the leadership of Rev. Jen Crow, a working group of past and current faithful action leaders developed the idea behind FALC in early 2015 including the principles and organizing structure. This work is now being implemented through FALC. FALC will apply a Racial Justice lens to all Faithful Action work. The council will help people of all ages by removing barriers that prevent them from acting on their Racial Justice and Faithful Action values through deep listening and partnerships. FALC is the body that will coordinate Faithful Action for our church. Rev. Justin Schroeder and Joan Naymark are co-chairs of the Council; 11 of 12 members attended the first meeting representing a broad cross-section of our church and our community and internal partners. [More about FALC and its Guiding Principles is [here](#)]

Working Together as a Council

In the past, First Universalist social justice work lacked consistent communications and understanding between those working in Faithful Action and the congregation as a whole. FALC will prioritize accountability, transparency, and access as operating principles. Racial justice is our primary lens because of the unique time in our country; Racial Justice encompasses economic and environmental justice. FALC will prioritize working through partnerships with groups operating in the community and internal Faithful Action groups. Through this approach, we will have more impact and influence than through the actions of individual groups. The council is structured to take action while balancing advocacy/systemic change with attending to immediate needs. The council's decision making process will include consideration of working group recommendations, FALC discussion, transparency and accountability. This year is very important because we are setting precedent. Additionally, we seek a spiritual component in our social justice work for our own spiritual development, that of the church, and for our community.

What's Ahead this Year?

The Council works to represent all community partners; we are still looking for members to represent Habitat for Humanity, Families Moving Forward, and Simpson. Members will serve on the council for 2 years. The council will do its work through working groups. The first two that will be formed are partnership and communications and will begin to work immediately. The Council will meet 6 times in the coming 2015-2016 year.

Last year, the Faithful Action committee and the board approved Beacon Interfaith Families Moving Forward as the Holiday Giving Recipient. In the future, FALC will facilitate a congregation wide process, including relevant guidelines, to help identify the Holiday Giving

For the complete minutes, contact FALC Secretary Taylor Putz at teputz94@gmail.com

Recipient. The 2015 team organizing holiday giving is in place, an intergenerational team made up of youth, adults, long time members, and newer church members.. FALC will coordinate with this group in October.

The council then discussed the Faithful Action Fair on Sunday, October 25. Current and potential partners will be invited to participate to inform the congregation about their work and offer volunteer opportunities. Matt Kresl and Joan Patterson are organizing the event. Invitations to partners will be sent out through their church liaison in September.

The council will determine and communicate the partnership application process. All potential partners will apply in January and start working with First Universalist in the fall of 2016.
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