

Social & Environmental Justice Committee

Ministry Action Team Charter Renewal

Team Name:

BUF Native American Connections Committee NACC

1. What are your team's mission and goals?

Working to support, honor, appreciate, and work compassionately with, and for, Indigenous peoples locally, nationally, and internationally

2. **Membership:** A ministry team must have a minimum of five committed BUF members, or pledging friends, committed to active participation. Please list below.

Beth Brownfield, Deb Cruz, Isa Werney, Barbara Davenport, and Betty Scott.

Along with these there is a list of over 60 people who had signed up for NACC or have been most active in various ways. Here is a list of some that have been most active or interested: Kevin Allen-Schmid, Paul Beckel, Marian Beddill, Mike Betz, Kara Black, Mike Brunt, Linda Clarke, Wendy Courtemanche, Dominique Coulet Du Gard, David Curley, Becky Curtis, Kaitlin Davis, Carol Dukes, Linda Fels, Heidi Ohana, Jaco Ten Hove, Noeeen Fujita-Sacco, Todd Jones, Miale Jose, Judy and Dick Kasper, Michael Knapp, Angie Lindquist, Anastacia Lundholm, Sue McDonald, Lissa Moss, Chad Nuckles-Flinn, Khore Phoenix, Albert Snow, Kate Sovell, Lee Willis and Rick Herman, Judy Fruhbauer, Kai Rapaport

Before Covid there were 92 individuals, members and Friends who had requested to be listed. Since Covid it is difficult to determine which of those numbers identifies now with BUF's Native American Connections Committee. However, none of them have asked to be taken off the Native Event emails that go out to about 1,000 people on an average now, once a month.

Many people in the congregation who are not on this list may contribute to a fundraiser, attend a lecture, movie, BUF service, movie, totem pole journey, go out to the Lummi Stommish Water Festival, went to Standing Rock, take an action, sign a petition, attend a rally, read articles or books, etc.

3. **Theological Foundation:** How does your ministry action team support our Unitarian Universalist principles? What inspires you to devote yourselves to this ministry? What is your spiritual reason for creating your team?

Our UU Principles call us to affirm and promote the worth and dignity of every person and work for peace, justice, and equality. Our nation has been complicit in profound injustices in relationship to indigenous nations and people on this continent, in the past and in present times. As a society, in general, we are not aware of our history regarding this relationship, nor are we aware of the living cultures and contributions that indigenous peoples on this continent, and worldwide, have to bring forward. It is important that we educate ourselves about these issues and that we work in partnership with tribes or Indian organizations, on projects, to redress them. It is also important that we get to know our indigenous neighbors in a loving and respectful manner.

4. Mission and Vision: The Mission of the Social & Environmental Justice Committee is to affirm and promote peace, justice and equality through action, education and raising awareness within our community and the wider world. How does your ministry action team align with SEJC's mission?

We strongly align with the SEJC mission with focus on Indigenous peoples. There are many opportunities with local, national, and international Original Nations and Peoples that call for action, compassion, and for contributions of time, money, service, and building of bridges of understanding, respect, and compassion.

As a committee we do not plan activities or actions. We receive inquiries, requests for information or support, provide background information and resources. We invite people to read, watch, march, give time and money, and learn about Original Nations and Peoples near and far. We work as a network, connecting people to opportunities to engage, learn and respond.

BUF has been trusted above any organization, or institution, because we have made ourselves available to help network between Lummi and the wider community in Tribal Canoe Journeys, the fight to defeat the Coal Terminal, and the Totem Pole Journeys, and resolutions that directly affect Lummi or Original Nations and Peoples. Profoundly, building bridges of respect means being invited to work with them, never to come with a proposal to help.

5. Timeline: How long do you intend your team to exist?

Our team will continue for as long as there is a call from Original Nations and Peoples. As long as there is need for education, action, resources of time and money for initiatives. Also, as long as there is disparity in justice and reconciliation

6. Measurement of success: What will you accomplish? How will you determine your success?

We measure success by the continuation of our relationships with individuals, Tribal Nations, organizations, and movements. This includes participation in seminars, courses, online Zoom sessions, and cultural events. It includes donations made, letters written, individual actions taken, volunteers for specific events, etc.

Beyond BUF, Deb Cruz through JUJustice WA, works with UUs and friends in WA State to promote Native American connections. She also is in touch with UU Ministry for Earth, and has been VERY successful in promoting our work and opportunities for involvement through workshops at UUA General Assemblies. She has networked with the Social Justice community, the religious community, the climate justice community, and the tribal community.

7. Finances:

We raise money by donations, by requests to SEJC for special projects, on a few occasions from grants. We do not need a budget.

Expenditure authority: Beth Brownfield, Deb Cruz

8. Engaging the Congregation: How will you reach out to engage the rest of the congregation in your ministry?

Through mid-week update, BUF News, SEJC, email lists, cooperation with Rev. Paul Beckel and Music Director Kevin Allen-Schmid, and Lifelong Learning Director, Genia Allen-Schmid for programing, Sunday

Services, email, special events, and coordination with Lummi related events, petitions, resolutions, attendance, social actions. We also let the congregation know when and where volunteers are needed, or funds need to be raised.

9. Ministry Action Team Requirements:

- Actively participate with the Social & Environmental Justice Committee by sending a representative to each of three annual SEJC meetings.
- Report a summary of your activities and accomplishments to SEJC prior to each meeting.
- Abide by subcommittee procedures as developed by the BUF Operations Team.

Does your ministry team agree to meet these requirements?

We do agree and have satisfied all these requirements.

Primary Contact and their contact information:

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Application (or Renewal) Date: 2021

Charter Application Approval date: *_January 2022_SEJC _____BUF Operations Team*