

Bellingham Unitarian Fellowship
Group Charter Template

Recognized Group Recertification

Updated 5/1/22 & Approved by SEJC same date

Name: *Social & Environmental Justice Committee(SEJC)*

Vision Statement: We envision a world of peace, justice, equality and equity; where honor, respect and the right to existence and to flourish is afforded to all beings and the Earth.

Mission Statement: We shall engage all our members, friends, allies and partners to seek honor and equity through opposing injustice in all its forms through direct, non-violent action. We strive to inform, educate and raise awareness within our community and the wider world on the social and environmental justice issues of our time and of those that will have the greatest impact our future and the future of the Earth. We work to create a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves, our institutions and in our larger community.

Goals

Centering marginalized, underrepresented and oppressed communities, we

1. Select non-profit organizations for educational events, hands-on service projects, financial contributions and SEJC Collections.
2. Host and sponsor social and environmental justice-related building use and events.
3. Represent the Social & Environmental Justice Committee and our UU values within and beyond our congregation, at community events through sponsorship and/or participation.
4. Disseminate Social & Environmental Justice Information through sales, special community events, and demonstrations.
5. Respond to immediate needs and injustices in our community and the world.

Leadership Roles / Terms:

The Executive committee will be made up of no less than (7) officers, including the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Action Teams Chair, Communications Chair, and Nominating Chair. The Executive committee will execute all the powers of the full committee during intervals between meetings of the full committee, except for approving annual budgets, appropriating funds greater than \$200, electing new officers, creating new committee policies or reversing any committee actions approved by the full committee.

1. Chair: Kara Black
2. Vice Chair: None
3. Secretary: Ann Stevenson
4. Treasurer/Finance Chair: Todd Jones
5. Communications Chair: Mike Betz
6. Action Team Chair: Deb Cruz
7. Nominating Chair: None

The SEJC shall endeavor to maintain fifteen (15) voting members, including an elected Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, and one person appointed by the chair to oversee each sub-committee, and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Local Representative.

The position of Committee Chair is a two-year position, renewable one time for a total of four consecutive years by a majority vote of the committee during the last committee meeting of the church year. The positions of vice-chair, secretary and treasurer are each two-year positions, renewable by a majority vote of the committee during the last committee meeting of the church year.

The Finance sub-committee will be chaired by the Treasurer and will include two (2) other members. The committee's primary responsibility is to create/monitor an annual budget, give financial reports at meetings, and take the lead role with fund raising.

The Communication sub-committee will include three (3) members with one member also serving on the Executive committee. The committee's chief responsibility will be the dissemination of committee-approved information.

The Actions sub-committee will include no less than five (5) members with one member serving on the Executive committee. The committee's chief responsibilities will include: gathering information on organizations and projects to submit to the full committee for possible support, and aiding BUF small group social justice ministries.

The Nominating sub-committee will include no less than three (3) members with one member serving on the Executive committee. The committee's chief responsibility is to maintain the membership of the full committee at no less than fifteen (15) active members.

The Social & Environmental Justice Committee shall be governed by Roberts' Rules of Order abiding in the spirit of consensus.

The Social Environmental Justice Committee may amend the committee policies with a two-thirds vote of the full committee.

Annual budget and spending authorities:

The SEJC Chair shall have the authority to spend up to \$50 for committee expenses between meetings of the full committee. The chair may do this up to three times between meetings of the full committee.

The SEJC Executive Committee shall have the authority to spend up to \$200 for committee projects by a simple majority vote of the Exec Committee. This option may be used up to three times between meetings of the full committee.

The Adele Hermann funds shall be socially responsibly invested. The committee will spend 5% of the invested funds annually. Distribution of these funds into the general committee account will be made during the month of July each year. Todd Jones, Kara Black, Mike Betz and Carl Nyblade are the trustees and signers for the Adele Hermann funds invested with Domini Social Investments.

SEJC intends to raise money by:

1. Fair Trade coffee
and chocolate sales during Sunday coffee hours
2. Use our Adele
Hermann fund as an SEJC endowment, with a fixed spending rate no greater than 5% annually.