

Social & Environmental Justice Committee
New Ministry Action Team Charter Application

Please answer all questions you are able to at this time.

Team Name: Refugee Action Team

1. What are your team's mission and goals? To establish a team of committed BUF volunteers that will partner with the local Whatcom County resettlement agency World Relief and other social service groups, in order to welcome and provide support to new refugee families. This will include: helping the families to find stable housing and employment, access to medical care, school enrollment, language training, literacy tutoring, and more.

2. Membership: A ministry team must have a minimum of five committed BUF members, or pledging friends, committed to active participation. Please list: Kathryn Allen, Genia Allen-Schimid, Sita Amba-Rao, Michael Berres, Mike Betz, Kristin Barber, Kara Black, Deb Cruz, Barbara Gilday, Esther Golde, Natalie Johnson, Judy Kasper, Erica Mallin, Joan Mackay, Frank McDonald, Sarah Pearson, Lin Skavdahl, Sue Stendeback.

3. Theological Foundation: We are called to this work for many different reasons and primarily by our commitment to the UU Principles. The inherent worth and dignity of every person, 2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. 6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

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? Offering to support and house, and help resettle international refugees is a pressing social justice issue of our time. Not only are we acting on behalf of these people, but we will be educating and raising awareness of the refugee crisis as we go about supporting a family This is an international issue that we can engage with locally.

5. Timeline: How long do you intend your team to exist? While some families may be fully settled with work and housing, the families continue to need support (e.g., green cards, social service support, literacy and language tutoring). Refugee work will be ongoing and depends on the continued energy of the team. We hope to continue to support more refugees in the future.

6. Measurement of success: What will you accomplish? How will you determine your success? Success will be measured by the families becoming fully settled and independent with housing and employment. Other measures may include: increased language proficiency, green card application completion, naturalization and citizenship acquisition, and well-attended cultural and educational events.

7. Finances: Will you need a budget? If yes, what amount and how will it be used? Does your team plan to raise money? If so, how? Who on your team will be permitted to authorize expenditures of funds? Our lead members of the team will be authorized to request expenditures: Genia Allen-Schmid, Kathryn Allen, Kristin Barber, Kara Black, Ann Stevenson. We are uncertain what the fundraising needs will be. Some of this financial support work will be

through in-kind donations and support from our volunteers. There will be on-going requests to help fund initial and on-going settlement costs. Some members provided the initial housing.

8. Engaging the Congregation: How will you reach out to engage the rest of the congregation in your ministry? Through: on-going updates, reports, fundraising, educational events, volunteer opportunities.

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? Yes

Names of Lead Applicants (minimum 5): Genia Allen-Schmid, Kathryn Allen, Kristin Barber, Kara Black, Ann Stevenson

Primary Contact and their contact information: Genia Allen-Schmid geniaas@gmail.com

Application (or Renewal) Date: January 2024

Charter Application Approval date: _____SEJC _____BUF Operations Team

Ministry Action Team Charter Annual Review and Three Year Renewal

Every winter SEJC meeting, all Ministry Action Teams will orally report about the state of their team vis a vis the statements of their charter. If a team reports not succeeding in following their charter, they will be given until the spring SEJC meeting to report (orally again) that they are doing so.

Every three years, beginning in winter of the '21-'22 church year, every Ministry Action Team shall submit a renewed charter, editing the form above, consistent with the Team's current membership and plans, two weeks in advance of the winter SEJC meeting. The full committee shall have the opportunity to review these renewed charters, and these updated charters will be posted to the website.

If a Team is not up to date with their charter by each spring meeting, or if they do not provide a satisfactory charter renewal, the full committee will vote on whether to disband that Ministry Action Team and remove their information from the website and other places where they are listed, and what to do with any funds remaining in the Team's account.