

2025-2026 Social and Racial Justice Committee

Annual Report Cathy Solomon, Chair

Goals/Mission Learn, Educate, Advocate

Accomplishments/Highlights

Learning:

Our discussions continued on a monthly rather than twice monthly basis and with a smaller group. Given the atrocities that were happening at every level of the government, the participants had become more focused on “doing” rather than “learning”.

Education:

- Beyond the Binary, a day of learning, sharing and supporting the gender diverse community. This was the second time sponsoring this event which was focused on young adults and was a moderated panel format. Funded via the Hurdis Fund.
- NonViolence Training. A full day of learning about Kingian NonViolence techniques. Funded via the Hurdis Fund.
- Observer Training. Sponsored by the RI Council of Churches, this training focused on an individuals’ rights and what they can and cannot do under the law if involved in a confrontation with agitators.

Advocacy:

- Writing letters to Senators and Reps on issues such as the Voting Rights Act.
- Participated in the fall and spring Legislative Forums produced by the UU Legislative Ministry of RI.
- Participated in South County Pride as a sponsor and had an information table
- Collaborations:

We continued collaborations with local social justice groups.

These include:

The Womxn Project, the South County Huddle, the League of Women Voters, the South County Social Justice Coalition, Westminster Unitarian, TANK (Towards an AntiRacist North Kingstown), ARC Westerly, South County Resistance, South County Rising

2025-2026 Goals

- Stand up against hate and prejudice
- Protect the vulnerable

- Support causes that are in line with our principles
- Learn more about the needs in the community.
- Educate the congregation about these needs and determine appropriate actions
- Community Support
- Continue to show up in support of community events
- Advocate for action. Make a difference

2025-2026 Challenges

- The current political events have created an opportunity to come together and make our voices heard, but it has distracted us from other social justice causes and generally has overwhelmed many people.
- We struggle to reach more people in the congregation to work with us. It's generally the same faces. (thank you!)
- We have an opportunity to be the voice of reason and compassion in the community, but with limited resources and people, it is difficult.

