

JUST WORKS WORKCAMP Unitarian Universalist Service Committee

Letter of Inquiry

Just Works Overview

Just Works workcamps are short-term (typically 1-2 weeks), hands-on experiential learning projects that help volunteers examine and understand the causes and damaging effects of injustice. Participants work directly with people in the communities they serve, experiencing social justice struggles firsthand.

While learning about human rights issues and promoting intercultural understanding and reconciliation, volunteers are taught advocacy skills to address issues of poverty, discrimination and racism. Participants may then make use of these skills in their congregations, campuses and communities. The Just Works program is an important element in UUSC's mission to advance justice and protect human rights in the United States and around the world.

Workcamps have addressed a variety of issues, including racism and discrimination. Our current workcamps focus on supporting the struggles of oppressed racial, ethnic and indigenous groups, specifically farm workers and Native Americans, but we are always looking for new ways to promote justice in collaboration with congregations.

Getting Started:

Congregational support is key to making a workcamp a success. Serving as the link to the community, a congregation would choose the local social justice concern and propose a workcamp that will address that issue.

A congregation can start the workcamp process by sending a letter of inquiry to the Programs Department of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. In this letter (*about two single type-written pages*), please describe the:

1. Local concern(s) of the congregation
2. The purpose of the workcamp and
3. A list of potential local partner organizations who will assist in supporting the workcamp (Partner organizations are usually locally-focused, community-based social justice agencies.)

Once the letter is received, our staff will talk through the proposal process with you to develop the workcamp.

Submission:

Please submit your letter of inquiry by mail, e-mail, or fax.

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