

Educate yourself and your congregation about UUSC

UUSC can provide you with sources of fresh information about our work, stories about the people whose lives are affected by our programs, and ways to get involved.

Resources for local reps

UUSC conference calls. Each month, UUSC staff members host conference calls for local reps. Calls are toll-free, last one hour, and take place on the first Monday of each month (except July and August). You are welcome to invite congregational leaders to participate. Details are e-mailed prior to each call.

UUSC Local Rep Bulletin. UUSC sends a monthly bulletin to all local reps by e-mail or regular mail. The bulletin includes an updated listing of your congregation's UUSC members and supporters, helpful information about current local rep projects, opportunities for congregational involvement, and summaries of the most recent UUSC conference calls, which are e-mailed or snail mailed to all local reps.

Resources for UUSC members and supporters

UUSC eWire. Our e-mail bulletin includes reports on social justice issues, news from our courageous program partners around the world, and information on advocacy opportunities through which you can help to advance human rights and social justice.

Human Rights Defenders. By becoming a Human Rights Defender, you receive regular e-mail alerts about opportunities to advocate for justice on specific issues related to UUSC's major program and advocacy initiatives.

Rights Now. UUSC sends our print newsletter out to all members three times per year.

www.uusc.org. On UUSC's website, you'll find updated information about all of our programs and projects, firsthand accounts from staff members on our blog, UUSC Hotwire, and a growing online community to help connect members, volunteers (including local reps), and other activists.

Primary projects for educating your congregation

Publishing articles about UUSC. Your congregational newsletter can be an invaluable tool for communicating with your congregants. Work with the appropriate people to publish at least three articles about UUSC in your congregational newsletter per year, if not one per month. Consider also your congregation's website, bulletin, and orders of service.

Take your time in writing your article. Be conscious of your words, and make sure that the information you provide is correct and up to date.

Use the resources available to you at **www.uusc.org**, in the Local Reps Bulletin sent to you each month, and UUSC print publications.

Articles usually focus on one of these topics:

- UUSC in general (especially if your congregation is not familiar with UUSC).
- UUSC's current work relating to issues in which your congregation is engaged.
- Opportunities to take action with UUSC.
- Special projects such as Guest at Your Table or Justice Sunday.
- Celebrating a UUSC congregational award, Guest at Your Table success, growing UUSC membership, or JustWorks or JustJourneys participants, etc.

Find sample articles online at www.uusc.org/volunteernetwork.

Using UUSC print publications and membership collateral. UUSC offers an array of print publications about our work and the organization in general. We also offer special items such as UUSC member buttons and stickers.

All of these items can be viewed and ordered from UUSC, free of charge, online at www.uusc.org. You can also do so by contacting UUSC directly by fax at 617-868-7102, by e-mail at orders@uusc.org, or by phone at 617-868-6600.

Please place your order at least four weeks before your event so we can ensure that your materials arrive on time. Otherwise, UUSC will incur increased shipping costs in order to rush your shipment to you.

Teaching new UUs about UUSC. If your congregation offers an orientation packet or course to new UUs, work with the appropriate people to include information about UUSC. Teach your congregation's new members how we can put UU principles into action through UUSC. Show them how they can get directly involved in UUSC's work, and encourage them not only to become members of your UU community but members of UUSC.

Speaking about UUSC. Local reps speak from the pulpit and to small groups in committee meetings. Your congregational leadership can be instrumental in planning any UUSC project, service, or event. Consider inviting your church president to deliver a pulpit editorial about UUSC. And consider offering to speak with adult forums, youth and young adult groups, and even small group ministries about human rights and UUSC's special role in UU spiritual life.

Staffing a UUSC table following services. This should be done once a month, following services and at congregational or district events. Feature membership envelopes, current publications, and advocacy opportunities. Partner with your social action committee to coordinate your social action involvement efforts.

Celebration

Celebration is essential to motivating and inspiring people. Celebrate your congregation's successes, congregants who become members or participate in UUSC's work, and especially those who help achieve those successes.

Your efforts as a local rep will be even more successful if you take the time to do just a few of the following activities.

- **Send personal thank-you letters** to new UUSC members, to Guest at Your Table participants, or others who take action with UUSC.
- **Give a UUSC gift** such as a t-shirt or pewter chalice jewelry. You can find these and more in UUSC's online store at www.uusc.org/store.
- **Make a phone call.** Sometimes a simple phone call to tell a person how much you appreciate them can mean quite a lot.
- **Celebrate publicly.** Has someone in your congregation supported UUSC in exceptional ways or for many years? Is there someone without whom your work just wouldn't be the same?
- **Host an event.** Hold a special appreciation dinner or luncheon to celebrate your congregation's UUSC members. Make it an annual event that people will look forward to and feel honored to attend. Feel free to call on UUSC for help!
- **Place announcements** in your church newsletter celebrating successes such as Guest at Your Table or Justice Sunday participation.

Use your creativity! Whatever the token or act, it should shine with your own personal touch and be tailored to the receiving person. For instance, if the person is shy or private, you might send a note rather than making a public display or announcement.