

# A Better Way to Volunteer for Justice

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UUA General Assembly 2015

Rev. Brock Leach, UUSC  
Pam Sparr, UUSC Justice-Building  
Rev. Kathleen McTigue, UU College of Social Justice

June 27, 2015



# Today's Workshop

**Goal:** Discover or connect your passion for justice work to new and emerging opportunities to learn, volunteer and lead.

## Flow:

- Reflect on your calling to justice work and what's next.
- Introduce UUSC's New Justice-Building Program.
- Describe new Justice-Building roles in congregations.
- Introduce new service-learning and justice education opportunities at the UU College of Social Justice.
- Collect your ideas and feedback on future volunteer opportunities.



# A Whole Range of Opportunities

Exciting **UU College of  
Social Justice**  
Programs



New **UUSC Justice-  
Building** Roles



**Commit2Respond**  
Activism and Volunteer  
Opportunities



# Getting to Know Your Interests

Who is looking for a good way to volunteer for justice...

... for the first time?

... within your congregation?

... in your local community?

... at the state or national level?

Who is looking for experiential learning opportunities to learn about issues first-hand and do service work?



# Exploring Your Call to Justice Work

## 1. Reflect on how you first felt called to justice work:

- Was there a specific moment or experience?
- What did you learn about yourself?
- What was rewarding or frustrating?
- What did it lead you to do?



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## 2. Looking Forward...

- What experience would you like to have now?
- What would you like to learn about yourself now?
- What do you feel called to do now?

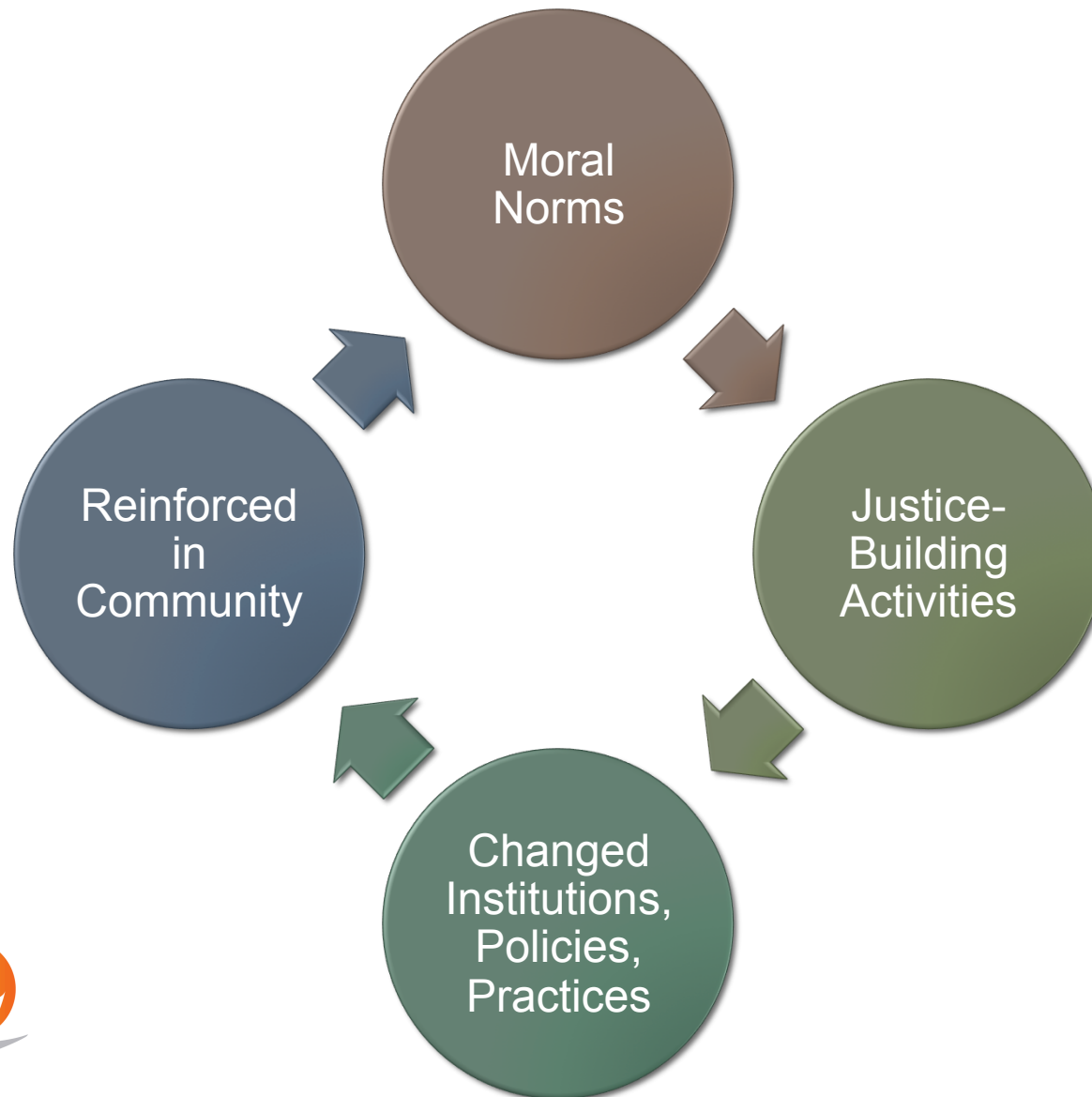


# Introducing UUSC Justice-Building

- **Six month study** of how to better serve our constituents.
- **Two large needs** identified:
  - Help **congregations** do justice work together that is effective and sustained.
  - Help **individuals** grow spiritually and be rewarded in justice work.
- **One ah-ah!**
  - UUSC is ideally positioned to help if we support our constituents in justice-building regardless of the issue they choose.



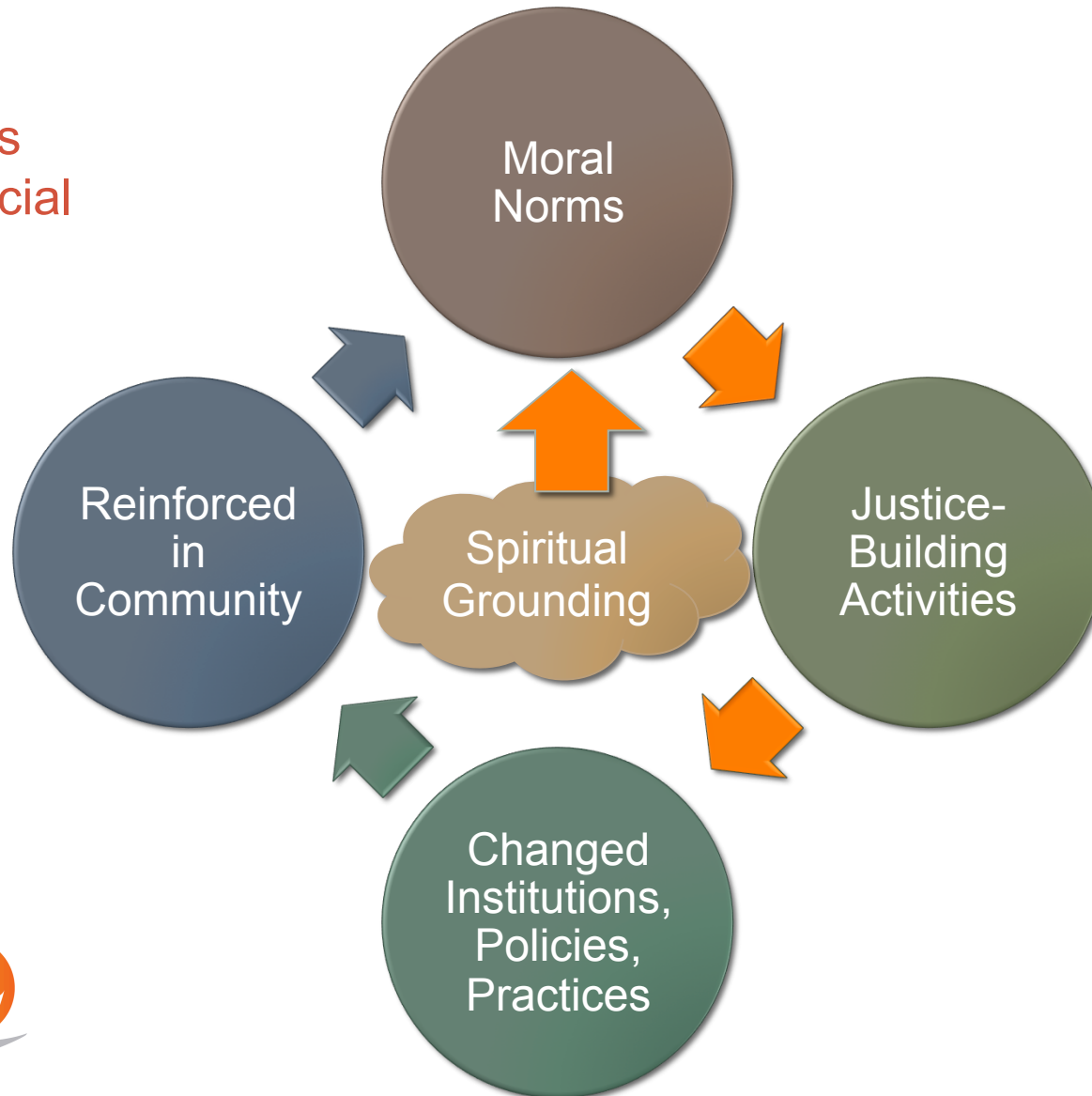
# The Virtuous Circle of Social Change





# UU's Have been Critical Catalysts

The Virtuous  
Circle of Social  
Change



# The Arc of Justice-Building



Opportunity: Develop, organize and harmonize key tools for Justice-Building



# Replaced Member Services with Justice-Building

## Member Services:

- Administering congregational fundraising & membership.
- Supporting the Volunteer Network in that work.



## Justice-Building Program:

More direct opportunities to participate in UUSC's issue-based programs



Equipping constituents for more effective Justice-Building wherever they are called to do it



# Justice-Building Program Key Components:

## For individuals:

- A wider portfolio of **graduated volunteer roles** and experiences—easy & short-term to professionalized & ongoing.
- More **compelling campaigns** to join in.
- Roles, experiences, campaigns that **attract young adults**: online + direct engagement.



# Justice-Building Program Key Components:

## For congregations:

- More **hands-on learning-acting campaigns and events** (e.g. Guest at Your Table).
- Pilot several **viable models of “on-staff” social justice leadership** in congregations.
- Develop **structured, self-guided support system for congregations** that want to do more effective social change.



# The New Justice-Building Program

- **Will be led by Pam Sparr**, Associate Director, Justice-Building
- **Two new Senior Program Leader** positions:
  - Senior Program Leader for Activism
  - Senior Program Leader for Justice-Building
- **Two new Volunteer Roles** to Start
  - Congregational Membership and Events Liaison
  - Justice-Building Innovator



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# Justice-Building Innovator

- Select position; application process includes ministerial reference
- Up to 3 years
- Work with one or more congregations to develop their skills, focus, grounding, game plan, organizing efforts (advance with them along social justice trajectory)
- Help pilot UUSC programs, projects, campaigning
- Innovators receive ongoing training and staff support – networked with each other
- Possible stipend





# Congregational Membership & Events Liaison

- Application process – includes ministerial reference
- 3 year term – possibly renewable
- Organizer/Educator/Salesperson
- 2-way communications hub
- Provide regular feedback and information; identify opportunities
- In charge of organizing volunteers to implement UUSC programs such as Guest at Your Table, Justice Sunday and others to be developed



# UU College of Social Justice

- [www.uucsj.org](http://www.uucsj.org)



# Volunteering for Commit2Respond

- Join and endorse [Commit2Respond.org](http://Commit2Respond.org).
- Go to “Act” & Individual Actions to join the Commit2Respond Network



 **INDIVIDUAL ACTION**



**Join the Commit2Respond Climate Activist Network**

**27 commitments**

**COMMIT**

# Volunteering for Commit2Respond

- Join one of the Sponsoring Organizations:



**ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COLLABORATORY**

A COALITION OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ORGANIZATIONS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

- Go to [Commit2Respond.org](https://Commit2Respond.org) “Form a Congregational Partnership with a Frontlines Organization”:

- Climate Justice Alliance ([CJA Our Power Campaign](#))
- NAACP ([NAACP Climate Justice Initiative](#))
- [New Economy Coalition](#)
- [Interfaith Power & Light](#)
- Local Congregation-Based Community Organizing (CBCO) networks such as DART, Gamaliel, Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF), InterValley Project and PICO.



# Getting Your Ideas and Feedback

1. Please **tell us the volunteer roles or experiences you'd like to see offered.** Write them on the Post-it notes and place them on the flip chart grid.
2. As you leave, please **let us know the opportunities YOU would be most interested in.** Put a **GREEN** dot beside your top three picks.



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