**First Parish Cambridge**

**Social Justice Council**

**2015-2016 TASK FORCE APPLICATION**

 ***Final draft due May 18. Congregational vote on Task Forces, June 1.***

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**Task Force Name: Environmental Justice Task Force**

**Lead organizer: Name: Rosalie Anders and Marcia Hams**

 **Phone: 617-868-6058 Email: Rosalie.h.anders@gmail.com**

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*Please answer each question in up to five sentences.*

**1. Primary issue and goals:** Our primary issue and goals remain the same. We strive to raise awareness about the devastating impacts of our human activities that are already created millions of refugees and are devastating the ecosystems we rely on for life. We acknowledge that climate change is impacting disproportionally those who are least responsible and have the fewest resources to handle the consequences such as flood, famine, rising sea levels and severe storms. We will continue to educate FPC members and friends and provide opportunities to advocate for a just and sustainable world in concert with other UUs and other organizations and faith communities.

**2. Task Force strategies and potential activities in 2015-16 (in as much detail as you know now).**

We plan to:

* Continue our work advocating and promoting divestment from fossil fuels in the UU and other faith communities, at the state and city level as well as through support of divestment campaigns at colleges and universities. We will also continue to educate members of the congregation about individual divestment strategies.
* Continue to lead initiatives for sustainable practices at First Parish and support the Green Team in engaging more of the congregation in this work.
* Collaborate with Mothers Out Front and encourage members of FP to join the campaign to “switch” our electricity energy to renewable energies.
* Continue our collaboration with 350 MA.org on its Go FossilFree campaign and efforts to stop the KXL pipeline as well as gas pipelines in New England. Provide opportunities for members of First Parish to participate in these campaigns through letter writing at coffee hour, letters to the editor, lobbying public officials, and public witness.
* Provide educational forums around issues and strategies related to climate change.

**3. Grounding and fit:** *How is the purpose grounded in our UU Seven Principles, our First Parish mission and covenant, and other aspects of our congregational life.*

EJTF’s purpose is aligned with UU principles that acknowledge the inherent worth and dignity of every person, world community with peace, justice and equality of all and respect for the interdependent web of existence. We also are aligned with the Covenant and Mission of First Parish, realizing that environmental justice requires that we work for racial and class justice.

4. **Opportunity to make a difference:** *What conditions make it likely that the work of the Task Force can make a difference*?

First Parish’s early decision to divest from fossil fuels raised our profile in the broader community. This has resulted in many requests and opportunities to participate in educational efforts in the broader UU community, as well as the larger community. First Parish has been a key community supporter of the Harvard divestment campaign, providing facilities, volunteers, and visibility. We help provide important moral arguments for the work for divestment on the state level and by other institutions. By supporting and promoting MOF’s efforts to switch to renewable energies we will contribute to a growing demand for renewables. As the threat and reality of climate change grow, so must the opportunities to take action.

5. **Accountability:** *How will the Task Force work in partnership and be accountable to the communities affected by the issue begin worked on? How will it follow our Covenant of Right Relations within its meetings and with other members of the congregation*?

We are guided by the Covenant of Right Relations, and will continue to reflect on our process as it relates to the Covenant. Climate Change is a social justice issue. Those least responsible and with the fewest resources are being most impacted.

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***Organizers* commit to serving on the task force and actively work on this issue. (At least 5 members of First Parish)**

**Name**

**1. Rosalie Anders**

**2. Marcia Hams**

**3. Linda Clark**

**4. Ginger Ryan**

**5. Claryce Evans**

**6. Sharon DeVos**

**7. Alison Altman**

***Supporters* agree to participate in activities of the task force. (At least 5 members of First Parish).** *We have seven organizers, so we meet the requirements with just 3 supporters, but we hope to have 5.*

**Name**

**1. Michele Sprengnether**

**2. Gloria Korsman**

**3. Peggy Lynch**

**4. David Pap**

**5. Grace Hall**