

ALBANY UU SERVICE OPPORTUNITY DESCRIPTION

Service Opportunity Name/Title: Social Responsibilities Council Member

Service Opportunity Brief Description:

The Council has the responsibility to guide and coordinate education and action in the realms of social matters of moral and ethical significance.

Service Opportunity Detailed Description:

In recent years, the Council members have been involved in the following projects:

- Adopting the local public elementary school, Sheridan Prep, providing them with volunteers to work in classrooms, funds for field trips, housing for homeless families with kids at the school, and raising funds for, and building, the school a playground;
- Providing a free community breakfast once a month with the goal of feeding all who come and providing a relaxed environment for sitting down with our neighbors to find out what's on their minds;
- Guiding the congregation through the process of declaring ourselves a Sanctuary Congregation, teaming up with five other churches to offer sanctuary to refugees and immigrants;

The Council organizes forums on topics such as Women against War and the Sanctuary Movement. The Council regularly mobilizes congregation members to attend vigils, marches, and protests around such issues as Black Lives Matter, Moral Mondays, Capital District SURJ (Showing up for Racial Justice), Capital District Against Islamophobia, and peace marches, often in partnership with other faiths and organizations, such as Capital Area against Mass Incarceration and The New Sanctuary Movement. They also organize letter writing campaigns to legislators and post cards to individual voters. The Council issues letters in support of legislation and initiatives of note. The Council also sells fair trade items in coffee hour.

On six Sundays during the church year, the Council may designate a non-profit organization that the proceeds from the collection plate will be donated to. They also provide our facilities to 13 outside organizations rent free, for which the Council focuses on making a difference in the lives of children and families in the city of Albany. The Council regularly collects donations for the Focus Food Pantry on a monthly basis.

The Council meets once a month during the regular church year, with time and place determined by the members at the beginning of the church year.

Length of Service Commitment: 1 year

This opportunity will enable you to work closely with people who care passionately about the most important moral and ethical issues of the day. Commitment to this Council will allow you to feel a sense of accomplishment, even with some of the more intractable issues of today.

Skills Needed:

No special specific skills are needed.

Training, assistance, and safety requirements:

Other members of the Council will happily provide you with any assistance you need to get up to speed on the issues and where Albany UU stands on them.

Number of positions available: no limit

Key words: social justice, social action, advocacy, protest