



Why the UU Legislative Ministry of NJ Matters

Our stated mission as the public policy voice of Unitarian Universalism in New Jersey is to provide the comprehensive structure for New Jersey Unitarian Universalists' nonpartisan activism. We work for a socially just public policy in collaboration with like-minded organizations through Education, Research, Advocacy, Witness, and Service.

What Does This Mean? It means, fundamentally, that we have made a collective decision as NJ UUs to put our wide-ranging, heartfelt UU principles into direct action, right here where we live.

How? Through six volunteer Task Forces. Here is a small sampling of past and current work:

- ▶ **Environmental Justice** Supporting legislation requiring greater use of renewable, earth-friendly energy sources (RETA) and reducing lead in NJ water supplies
- ▶ **Criminal Justice** Addressing long standing racial and economic bias in the NJ justice system through Bail and Parole reform, Special Prosecutors in cases of possible racial bias, radical reduction of the use of Solitary Confinement in NJ prisons, Racial Bias Impact Statements.
- ▶ **Immigration Justice** Standing up for undocumented immigrants unfairly targeted for deportation; drivers' licenses for undocumented people; sensible immigration reform
- ▶ **Reproductive Justice** Leading signature legislation effort around protecting clinic workers; championing intersectionality of reproductive issues with race, class, and environmental realities.
- ▶ **Gun Violence Prevention** Resisting the weakening of NJ gun legislation (e.g. the possible expansion of Concealed Carry); supporting "Smart" guns technology, community education efforts
- ▶ **Economic Justice** Support for the pay equity for women, fair sick leave legislation, and fair housing efforts based on the historic (and unrealized) Mt. Laurel NJ Supreme Court decision

UULMNJ also provides direct resources to congregations and our coalition allies:

- Local Policing/Black Lives Matter Congregational Toolkit An interfaith project, spearheaded by UULMNJ, to educate local law enforcement and connect communities around an antiracist, violence and bias reduction agenda
- Legal Advocacy Project (LAP) To advocate within the NJ courts on issues of justice and equity; to create and move through the NJ Legislature signature legislation reflecting UU values. Current UULMNJ sponsored legislation supports address confidentiality for women's reproductive health care workers and clinicians.
- Sanctuary Congregations/Sanctuary Cities A project with the Immigration Justice Task Force to educate and energize NJ UUs and allies to stand against overly harsh regulation of undocumented immigrants in our state.

Stand with us. This work is more important than ever: a moral voice for compassionate public policy right here in New Jersey. We can lead the way.

UULMNJ – A voice for justice, equality and compassion in New Jersey