

SOCIAL ACTION & OUTREACH GUIDELINES

Developed by the Social Action & Outreach Committee

That we may be social beings in service to others, the church has begun numerous projects in the community. We have also engaged in a variety of activities designed to benefit the public and to further the causes of justice and peace. The following are guidelines that govern outreach of the Washington Park UCC:

- WPUCC does not engage in outreach with the idea that those helped will eventually join and strengthen the church, nor does WPUCC see its purpose as transforming the world to look, act and believe as the church does. Instead, the church's task is to enable others to become what God wants them to be.
- When we initiate a program we try to withdraw as soon as the project is "on its feet". It is not our policy to enlarge our control over any enterprise originating with us. It is our policy to free such projects to go their own way.
- We are concerned about global as well as the local issues, and seek to involve our congregation in the broadest possible outreach.
- We affirm the National UCC concern for Environmental Survival and Integrity of Creation. In our church, as well as in the larger community we work to recycle, to conserve, to use products that do not harm the earth and atmosphere or exploit other people.
- We are a Just Peace Church, which means that as a church family we are committed to making local and global issues of justice and peace a high priority.
- Our church is Open and Affirming of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people. As a congregation we have determined to welcome these people into every level of our life and leadership, and we are committed to the struggle for their rights in society.