

FUSD ANNUAL COMMITTEE PLANNING FORM

COMMITTEE NAME	Reproductive Justice	DATE: 11/27/2024
PURPOSE: Why do we exist?	As a result of the work of the Reproductive Justice Initiative, members of First Unitarian will create and contribute to systems of community support that empower people to make their own choices.	
OUR OBJECTIVES: What key things must happen to accomplish our purpose?	Interested members of FUSD will know how to get involved and support reproductive justice at FUSD, are aware of ways to contribute based on their skills and interests and are given a way to volunteer or give money within the church and outside the church for reproductive justice organizations in the community. We also commit that attendees at our events feel cared about and understood while they are given an opportunity to learn something new, have positive or meaningful experiences and/or make a good connection.	
KEY STRATEGIES: What things must we do to meet our objectives? What, How, How much. How often.	Our group has two tiers. First tier is the committee, about 12-15 people who meet on zoom monthly, come up with ideas and manage the behind the scenes to make our actions happen. And a list of about 70 interested folks who have asked to be called upon to attend or show up to act in some way. We have a monthly film series. We have books at the book table. We have volunteer activities related to the election and abortion ballot initiative, and also pass along volunteer opportunities from our local connections with Cobalt and COLOR (if not other orgs if activities come up.) In 2025, we will be reviewing ways we can support women at the church as well as women in the surrounding communities with reproductive justice.	
KEY CONCERNS: What problems will we face? What issues must we mitigate to accomplish our purpose?	It is not always clear what tangible or actionable activities will move the needle on this issue. Everyone has an idea but there aren't always enough people to make it happen. We also don't want to reinvent the work and/or compete with local reproductive justice orgs like Planned Parenthood or Cobalt. So where does that leave us? As a group, we found our stride with the Cobalt Abortion Ballot Initiative. And it passed so I think people believe that was a successful effort to participate in. However, given the landscape of the country and likely infringements on women's rights coming with Trump and Project 2025, I don't know if we know how to really help, or how far we will go to help. There have been talks about safety and ensuring that our committee is safe in our actions but also not knowing how to protect ourselves given the unknowns of the administration.	
EXCITEMENT: What passion do we bring to this effort? What is it that motivates us to undertake this adventure?	We have many on the committee who have lived long enough to know the realities of pre-Roe America. We have people on the committee who have had abortions – who have struggled to get them and who have had them with little issue. They are concerned about the younger community but we don't have very many young people who come from states without abortion care, who can tell us how it is out there. But we are genuinely worried about the future of women in America who cannot access basic health care. Worried about the availability of what we have always considered simple such as birth control.	

	There is likely more worry than passion, but the anger and frustration fuels us still.	
MEASURES: How will we know we succeeded?	This is a great question. And one that we tried to answer in our strategic refocus work in spring of 2023. We came up with the purpose – copied above. And ways that we would try to create and contribute to systems of community support that empower women to make their own choices. Things such as volunteering, giving money, supporting our congregation, helping people learn and feel cared for. We did not come up with a system of tracking the success of those actions all together. With each project or activity, I ask people what they thought and we take the feedback seriously. But we would love to have help from FIAC or the board on how to measure our success with a social justice project.	
INTERCONNECTION: What other committees do we interconnect with?	Earlier this year when we thought there was going to be a fracking amendment on the ballot, we worked with climate justice. I have taken note of the other social justice activities we have done and I think our work is similar even if the topic is different. Books to read. Films to watch. Events to put on. Advocacy to take up (such as supporting or working to defeat political bills etc.) As a small group, it's not clear exactly what we can achieve. We also interact with Giving in Action, to put forth repro justice orgs to give money to. When we put on our annual reproductive justice service, we work with the musicians and audio/visual team. And we also work with finance and Rhonda in the office a good deal.	
ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES: Who does what on the committee?	Role	Responsibilities
	Chair/Co-chair	Kimberly Urish – organize meetings, main point of contact for new members, herd cats.
	All Others	Tyler Watlington – main point of contact for Cobalt.
		Jane Ashley – main point of contact for film series.