

FREE AND FAIR ELECTION TEAM CHARTER

Date: December 1, 2023

Responsible to: Social Justice Committee/Minister

Free and Fair Elections Team Chair: Rich Pitra

Free and Fair Elections Team Members: (minimum of 3 people)
Debbie Hocevar, Anne Monnier, Rich Pitra, Joanne Polichetti

Key Responsibilities of Free and Fair Elections Team:

Working with outside organizations to help get out the vote in local, state, and national elections, prioritizing areas that have historically had disenfranchised voters (8th Principle).

- We write and mail postcards and letters encouraging the recipient to exercise their right to vote and why it's important. Postcards and letters are mailed to individual names supplied by the 2 organizations below.
- UU the Vote – writing postcards
- Vote Forward – briefly adding a sentence to a form letter explaining why the writer votes
- Work with organizations in NYS (NYCLU, League of Women Voters, etc.)
 - To make elections in NYS, particularly on Long Island as free and fair as possible
 - To make voters aware that the NYS Equal Rights Amendment will be on the ballot in 2024 and the importance of its passage

Limitations on Authority/Approvals Required:

The Free and Fair Election Team, in communication with the Social Justice Committee, is empowered to take action, sponsor activities, sign public documents, meet with policymakers, or co-host events with other organizations when the UUFH and/or the UUA has a specific written policy or position on the issue. When there is no UUA or UUFH policy or position, the team will first get the support of the Social Justice Committee and the minister, and if obtained, then create a process for educating the congregation and obtaining congregational support before engaging this issue on behalf of UUFH. **The committee must adhere to all laws prohibiting the endorsement of a political candidate.** Only the Minister and the Board President may make public statements to the media on behalf of UUFH, unless they specifically approve a designee. All press releases must be approved by the minister in advance.

Committees/Teams/People to Coordinate with:

Reproductive Justice Team, LGBTQ Justice Team (in coordinating on the NYS Equal Rights Amendment), Racial Justice Team, Climate/Environment Justice Team, Congregation
Also, coordination with other committees in terms of use of the Social Hall after services for postcard writing, and in getting the word out to the congregation to get involved in all of these things (through the Flash, Sunday service announcements, etc).

Other: NYCLU; League of Women Voters; Elections Commissions.

Board approval _____ , Date