

Annual Summary

Advocates for Racial Justice

2025-26

We nurture each other as a diverse, intergenerational, and multicultural congregation. We honor a variety of spiritual paths while promoting religious liberty. We intentionally engage in community relationships that champion environmental and social justice.

Advocates for Racial Justice goals for 2025

1. To increase our personal knowledge regarding issues of racial injustice and share that information with the congregation. (recurring long term goal)
2. To look for groups doing good work in our community to support and lift up. (recurring long term goal)
3. Develop the emerging partnership with the Urban League.
4. Back up the new UUCFW initiative for countering Christian nationalism.

2025

ARJ have met several times following the service; adhering to a timetable has been challenging. The January 12th meeting had 12 people attending; the February 9th meeting had 5. Attendance at other meetings during the year varied. Email communication was utilized to discuss projects and directions to be taken.

- YWCA Race Against Racism raised the sponsor fee to \$500 with less “perks” than the previous amount of \$250. We decided to forego being a sponsor and just promote the event as community service and fellowship for our congregation.
- 2025 APRI
 - Scholarship Banquet, April 19. \$500 for a table of 8
 - Session on Worker’s Rights, addressing current political developments, April 1
 - Feb. 2- APRI potato bar fundraiser- cash collected \$454. TEXT TO GIVE not reported
 - Dennis Shipley continues to serve as a UUCFW liaison with APRI.
- The group is working toward developing closer relationships with partner organizations that want to work with us on specific projects.
 - Urban League- Race Card Project and Banned Book Week
 - Reverend Christe asked Cathy Duchovic to do the Stewardship Moment and tie in the Race Card Project. She prepared 4 examples of statements from previous Race Cards for the tech team to project during the service.
 - Blank Race Cards and pencils and pencils were distributed to the congregation. The bulletin board in the Social Hall has a display of the Race Cards. Pictures of the Race Card Wall were submitted to the Urban League.
 - ARJ promoted support of the Urban League’s Banned Book Project in October. The congregation donated books on the list submitted by the Urban League. Books were delivered for distribution at Juneteenth celebrations and for the League’s library.
 - MLK Club- Unity Day and Santa On Tour
 - Toys were donated by the congregation for children ages 2-12. Toys were wrapped and delivered.
 - Members of ARJ met at the Urban League to wrap and distribute toys in support of MLK Club’s Santa on Tour.

- Invited to join Faith United Methodist Church for a 6-week book study on *The Cross and the Lynching Tree*
- Just Neighbors Family Homeless Shelter
 - Supported the congregation's meal outreach to the shelter in October.

Advocates for Racial Justice goals for 2026

1. To increase our personal knowledge regarding current issues of racial injustice and share that information with the congregation. (revised recurring long-term goal)
2. To look for groups doing good work in our community to support and lift up, while continuing to develop strong partnerships. (revised recurring long-term goal)
3. Develop the emerging partnership with the Urban League. (recurring long-term goal)
4. Back up the new UUCFW initiative for countering Christian nationalism. (recurring long-term goal)

2026

ARJ scheduled a 2026 Planning Session for January 25th. Due to inclement weather, the meeting was held via Zoom with 8 members participating. 2026 meetings are scheduled quarterly in person with communication via Church Center and email. Information will continue to be posted in Around the Meetinghouse.

Projects and Relationships in the Community

- APRI-Charles Redd Scholarship Soup Sunday fundraiser on February 1st. Cash collected \$225. TEXT TO GIVE not reported.
 - \$100 will be put aside to assist with application fees for the scholarship.
 - Scholarship Banquet is this spring. Looking at table of 8 at the banquet.
 - Reaching out to APRI with offers to assist with increasing visibility of scholarship. Dennis Shipley will discuss with APRI leadership.
- MLK Club is in the process of finalizing activities for 2026 and will inform Dee Koehl of ways for ARJ to connect in addition to the Santa Train.
- Activities with the Urban League's Race Card Project are not being pursued at this time. There are plans to continue supporting the Banned Book Month project. ARJ will investigate having a speaker from the library and possible shared book reading with the Urban League. Cathy Duchovic will provide possible interface with other Urban League projects.
- Continue to post opportunities for community involvement in Around the Meetinghouse.
- Monitor Fuerza Unida website for accurate information on ICE activities in the community.
- Continue to support activities of Hoosiers United for Separation of Church and State.