

SOCIAL JUSTICE TEAM

The Social Justice Team has been restructured because of the number of “working groups” within it. The working groups will continue to meet individually and come together 2 or 3 times per year under the new name, Love in Action. Below are summary reports from the working groups, written by those highly involved in each group.

Green Sanctuary

We chose to partner with WindowDressers, a nonprofit organization begun in Maine to offer low-cost interior window inserts for people who may not afford the expense of new windows or inserts now on the retail market. Our team is targeting residents, both homeowners and renters in the Greater Nashua community (Hudson, Litchfield, Merrimack, Hollis and Nashua).

Our goal is to help people reduce heating costs, keep homes warmer, and reduce CO2 pollution. We have titled our project, Project COZY, which will include measuring, building, and distributing these window inserts. Our first build will begin in our church auditorium from November 5-11, 2026.

At present, we are asking for volunteers to assist measuring windows as orders are placed. We are also in need of a coordinator for the project. If you are interested in becoming engaged in this fun and worthwhile opportunity, please reach out to Dick Widhu or Kate Messner.

-Dick Widhu

Daring Democracy

Daring Democracy transitioned from a book discussion group to a social justice working group in Nov 2025. We meet twice a month. The goal of the group is to

find actionable items that meet our goals of daring NH to become a better version of democracy. We have chosen the following area to focus on:

Ranked Choice Voting

1. Independent Districting
2. Elimination of out of state money
3. CLEAN ELECTIONS (TRANSPARENCY)
4. Getting us switched to becoming a direct democracy
5. Educate on Free Staters
6. Single Ballot
7. Automatic Voter

This church year, we have undertaken the following efforts:

- Contacting our representative campaigns: postcards, emails, and phone calls for various appropriate issues.
- Hosting a half-day educational event with multiple speakers.

Starting in April, one of our two monthly meetings was designated as educational outreach where speakers come in during our meeting after church to give us information and actions we can take. The meetings are open to both the congregation and the public. We are discussing whether to offer during the summer.

We have also been networking with other nonprofit groups whose work aligns with our goals to help do things together.

We have two goals under discussion at this time, one of which is to run a larger voter registration event, which will be promoted throughout our allies and other avenues to educate and help people make sure they understand what they need and help, when possible, have them get what they need and to run a candidate's forum.

Our other goal is to try and create relationships with other UU churches throughout take quick and simple actions to help us achieve our goals.

Though we may not have the impact we were hoping for in time for the 2026 midterms, hopefully Daring Democracy can have a greater impact in the 2027-2028 legislative year in Concord.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me, Kevin Ross Emery.

-Kevin Ross Emery

NH Community Bail Fund

The annual rate has gone down due to the new “Bail Reform” law put in place in November 2025. We’re averaging about 35 bails per month, at a \$420 per person run rate. An interesting point is that we have had better volunteer representation throughout the state and have posted bail at every jail in the state!!

-Paul Introcaso

Granite State Organizing Project (GSOP)

GSOP has continued its work focusing on justice issues, including immigrant rights, hosting support rallies in Manchester and Nashua, advocating at the state level both for positive actions and trying to prevent harmful bills, this last a constant effort. We have about 10 people from the congregation who regularly attend GSOP Nashua Chapter meetings.

The Nashua chapter has chosen homelessness as its central focus and has developed a robust team with other committees that focus on areas as diverse as data collection to collecting stories of those who are homeless to elevate their lived experiences so as to influence the Nashua Aldermen and Mayor to enact policies that will end homelessness. One of the committees is focusing on a longer range plan that advocates for more shelter and permanent supportive housing. We have been very active in expressing diverse views on a proposed Resource Center for the homeless, which was defeated by one vote, as the majority of the Aldermen thought it was too expensive at \$4.5M for a small building with probably limited impact in numbers.

On other matters, a major change for GSOP is that Sarah Jane Knoy, the Executive Director for 19 years will be stepping down in June. She has been an exceptional

leader for GSOP and the community at large, and we will miss her and wish her the very best. Janet Groat, with extensive experience in the non-profit community and in NH, will be the new Executive Director, and we feel fortunate to have her come on board GSOP.

-Bob Keating

Racial Justice

The Racial Justice Working Group sponsored three workshops on racial justice from the UUA's new Mosaic Curriculum. These were led by Jodie Holway and Michael Packard. The RJWG also held their second annual Campbell Day of Action on March 15, honoring Rev. Jeffrey Campbell, Marguerite Campbell Davis and Lillian Campbell with a day of remembrance and action. There were three ways to take action after the service: writing letters to NH legislators, packing gift bags for the United Way's Community Baby Shower, and making protest signs. The day ended with a short service at Edgewood Cemetery where the family is buried.

The Campbell Study Group also presented about the Campbell Family for Pilgrim Church, UCC in May. The RJWG signed on as a sponsor for both the NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner and the DRUUMM Public Worship and continued to support immigrant solidarity work and the Bail Fund.

-Reverend Allison Palm

Welcoming Congregation

The Welcoming Congregation Working Group helped lead two services this year, one in February about Thinking Beyond the Binary and one in June for Pride. They partnered with UU Concord and UU Manchester to host a NH site for the Building Beloved Community Beyond the Binary conference on April 18, with about 60 attendees. Once again this year, we will be participating in the Nashua Pride Festival in June.

-Reverend Allison Palm

Community Dinners

After a several-year hiatus, UU Nashua held its re-inaugural community supper on April 25. The initial dinner was modest but exciting, providing over 49 servings to 31 neighbors. The evening featured live music, a children's activity table, and lively discussion. White linen tablecloths, formal place settings, and table service transformed the church space into a fine dining establishment, offering guests a warm and dignified meal.

More than 15 UU volunteers assisted with the event, and we continue to coordinate with Meals on Wheels, the Nashua Soup Kitchen, and other local social justice groups to spread the word about this monthly gathering. Excitement continues to grow on both the serving and receiving sides.

-John Vinson

Community Outreach

Through weekly donations to a Community Outreach recipient, we donated more than \$34K from July 2025 through April 2026 and around \$463K since its inception. This year's Outreach Recipients are as follows:

- July 2025- End 68 Hours of Hunger: \$1,903.19
- August 2025- Grow Nashua: \$2,159.37
- September 2025 - AguaClara Reach, safe drinking water projects: \$3,048.12
- October 2025 - UU Nashua Cemetery, Historic stone repair: \$4,760.13
- November 2025 - Embrace Race, Support for development of a toolkit for transracially adoptive families: \$2,866.66
- December 2025 - Marguerite's Place, comprehensive services for mothers and children exiting homelessness: \$4,192.89
- January 2026 - Southern NH Service/CAPHR, Fuel Assistance: \$2,453.83

- February 2026 - UU Nashua Disaster Relief Fund, support for Nashua fire victims: \$3,918.97
- March 2026 - Children's Winter Garden at White Wing School (CWG@WWS), Purkhiser-McDevitt Scholarship: \$6,481.72
- April 2026 - ReGenerative Roots, support for ReGen's Community Corner at 191 West Hollis St. in Nashua: \$2,522.18
- May 2026 - Positive Street Art, community building through urban art
- June 2026 - Pink Haven Coalition, Welcoming Congregation suggestion
- July & August 2026 - Window Dressers, window inserts for heating cost reduction

The Outreach Team would like to thank the congregation for their continuous support of local organizations.

-Full report compiled by Hilary Keating