

The Unitarian Society of Ridgewood  
Reproductive Justice Committee  
113 Cottage Place  
Ridgewood, NJ 07450

October 27, 2011

Dear Unitarian Universalist Congregation:

The Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood recently unanimously voted to submit a Congregation Study/Action Issue (CSAI) to the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). This CSAI was initiated by the Reproductive Justice Committee of the UUA. This enclosed document, proposes a study of the reproductive justice framework as a tool for analyzing and understanding the intersection of racial, economic, cultural and other societal forces and how these interlocking systems limit and sometimes completely remove reproductive choices and rights, especially for low income women and women of color.

As co-chairs of the Reproductive Justice Committee, we are writing to ask for your congregation's endorsement of this CSAI. The UUA has a long history of supporting reproductive rights, including abortion, however it has not voted for a statement of conscience on the issue since 1993. We feel for the reasons expressed in the proposal that it is timely on many levels. There are three documents attached for your review. There are two proposals, one more detailed than the other. The longer proposal is more comprehensive. The shorter proposal is the one that the UUA will use for submission to the congregations. The third document lists the resources for reproductive justice.

Your endorsement will be part of the package that is sent to all UUA congregations for a congregational poll, *if we receive your endorsement by November 15, 2011 and if the CSAI is accepted by the Commission on Social Witness*. Your congregation will be listed with the CSAI on the UUA website. If the proposal is one of five that is voted on, then it will go to the 2012 General Assembly (Justice Assembly). If it is voted for there, then it will be the Congregational Study/Action Issue for the next four years.

We are writing to your congregation because we have heard that you have a special interest in reproductive health, reproductive justice or abortion rights.

You can email us with the endorsement and we will send it to the UUA. We do not need signatures or proof. We do need you to tell us that your congregation's policy has been followed for signing onto a CSAI. If the endorsement comes in after November 15, your congregation can be added to the website. A committee or group within your congregation can endorse this proposal if there is not enough time for full congregation support.

Feel free to email us or call with any questions you may have. We look forward to your partnership in this important work.

Sincerely,

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