

**Congregational Study/Action Issue: Reproductive Justice**  
**Approved by the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood**  
**Submitted by Reproductive Justice Committee of the Unitarian Society of Ridgewood**  
**Co-Chairs: Carol A. Loscalzo and Mandolin Restivo**  
**September 12, 2011**

**1. Issue**

Reproductive rights and health services are seriously under attack nationally. Reproductive Justice represents a broader analysis of racial, economic, cultural, and structural constraints on women's power ([www.sistersong.net](http://www.sistersong.net)). The right to have children, to not have children, and to parent children in safe and healthy environments is a human right.

**2. In no more than 50 words, this section should answer why Unitarian Universalism might have a particular responsibility or position calling Unitarian Universalists (UUs) to engage the issue.**

UU's have been on the frontline of women's reproductive rights and anti-racist work for decades. The commitment to reproductive justice would reenergize that commitment, and pay attention to the important intersections of race, class and gender. This work would be informed by the feminist theologians, reproductive justice advocates, and UU's in the movement.

**3. *Topics for Congregational Study:*** What is reproductive justice?

1. Why is focusing on individual choice inadequate?
2. How do power structures limit individuals' access to reproductive justice?
3. What are the choices in birth?
4. What moral questions does reproductive technology create?
5. How does sexual assault and childhood sexual abuse contribute to unintended pregnancies later in life?
6. How can eliminating racism, classism and sexism reduce the need for abortion and enable families to care for the children they do have?
7. How are pregnant women who use drugs stigmatized and what are the real dangers and solutions?
8. How can transgendered individuals maintain their reproductive rights?
9. How do economic justice and reproductive justice intersect?

**4. *Possible Congregational/District Actions:***

1. Form a Reproductive Justice Committee
2. Join Sister Song as an ally member.
3. Invite SisterSong to conduct reproductive justice training.
4. Educate congregation on reproductive justice, choices in birth and other relevant issues, including presenting a lay service on reproductive justice.
5. Show films about reproductive justice.
6. Present a reproductive justice workshop at district meetings.
7. Advocate for legislative positions that foster reproductive justice.
8. Give money to organizations that help women fund abortions.
9. Create interfaith networks and committees.

**5. Related Prior Social Witness Statements**

1. Reform of Abortion Statutes – 1963
2. Abortion – 1968
3. Abortion – 1973

4. Unitarian Universalist Statement On Survival And Population Control -1970
5. For The Right To Abortion -1975
6. Abortion: Right To Choose – 1978
7. A Religious Statement On Abortion: A Call To Commitment – 1980=
8. Resolution On Abortion Clinic Bombings – 1985
9. Right To Choose – 1987
10. Federal Legislation For Choice - 1993