

## POLICY

### Public Witness at UUMAN

“Unitarian Universalists (UUs) are diverse in our beliefs, backgrounds, and identities—and we are united in living a ministry that seeks justice. We value all people as blessings. We act in solidarity with those who are excluded or are victims of violence and oppression.” <http://www.uua.org/love/index.shtml>.

Public witness is an affirmation of our search for justice through non-violent speech or action designed to lead us toward personal and social transformation

All public witness events at UUMAN will:

- Be grounded in our UU principles, affirming universal love and the inherent worth and dignity of all peoples while demonstrating the values of justice and peace.
- Align our action with the collective values and positions of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations (UUA) and /or reflect stands taken by Standing on the Side of Love interfaith campaign. <http://standingonthesideoflove.org/>.
- Build partnerships and bridges.
- Provide a vision for our collective future.
- Give UUMAN a visible presence in our local community while allowing us to share our message.

The process of establishing a Public Witness Vigil at UUMAN via the SJC will follow these steps:

- Chosen vigil themes will be generated within the SJC during regular open meetings to which all UUMAN members are invited.
- The Social Justice Committee will generate a written proposal detailing the purposes of each vigil, its connection to our UUMAN principles, UUA written Social Justice statements and/or Standing On the Side of Love (SOSL) campaigns.
  - Each proposal will:
    - Be stated in positive terms.
    - Be provided to the UUMAN Board at least two weeks prior to the regularly scheduled UUMAN board Meeting for approval.
    - Designate a chaplain, either the Minister or another member of the congregation that is approved by the Minister to set a spiritual tone and to express our stand on the current theme and connect them with our values for the press, passers-by and/or congregants.
    - Will include talking points to provide to the Press as appropriate.
- The UUMAN Board will inform the congregation via UUMAN Announcements and the OOW one week prior to the Board meeting, so that members of the congregation can learn about and share their thoughts on the proposed vigil in writing or at the board meeting prior to the Board's vote to approve.
- A member of the SJC will attend the board meeting to present the theme for the vigil and respond to any questions or concerns that arise during the meeting.

Each vigil will:

- Offer Opening Circles and Chalice Lightings led by the minister or designated chaplain to set a spiritual tone and presence.
- Utilize our SOSL banner and posters to clarify our values.
- Provide a "Feedback Table" for congregants to share their thoughts and feelings about the vigil.
- Provide Closing Circles inviting participants to "go in peace".

Each vigil or act of public witness may also include:

- moments of silence, meditation, or prayer
- songs
- candles