



Universalist Unitarian Church Riverside, California

In early 2006, The Reverend Dr. John Gilmore, a UU community minister and JUUST Change Consultant began a series of conversations with congregational leaders at the UU Church. Rev. Gilmore visited the congregation and facilitated a

number of interviews, small group discussions, and a workshop to collect and assess the ambitions of the congregation in the area of social action. The meetings and Sunday service helped congregants rethink the way they had approached social action in the past and how to take the next steps to make effective change for themselves and their community.

The JUUST Change Consultancy – UU Church of Riverside, CA

- **Embrace** a critical local social issue such as homelessness
- **Focus** directly on the affected homeless population through face-to-face contact to build relationships and effectiveness
- **Accelerate** activity to include a large number of congregants
- **Increase** level of commitment to affect change on the city-wide level as a member of a community coalition focused on the many issues that intersect with homelessness
- **Leverage** funds from the city and private donors to further the fulfillment of the vision

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Through their work with JUUST Change the UU Church of Riverside was inspired to act from a **theology of abundance**, and from this new theology **justice emerged**.

Previous work for homelessness was confined to providing hygiene packets and ignored the fact that **homeless people are prevalent in their city and neighborhood**.

JUUST Change Consultant Rev. John Gilmore's challenge to members of UUCR enabled them to **connect with people in the community and address public policy**. UUCR has transformed their social justice ministry.

The congregation is beginning to review how they define "membership". They are ready to define and embrace the **next steps in their evolving social justice ministry**.

JUUST Change is not the solution but it is a **process that speaks true to congregational mission, vision and polity**.

UUCR Membership: 104
You don't have to be large
to help your community!