

Policy Location:	GSFS - 5	Created: 9/19/2018
Title:	Sharing Offering	Revised: 7/11/2025
Policy Owner:	Financial Stewardship Team; Social Justice Team	
Associated Documents:	GSFS – 1 Financial Stewardship Team Policy; GSSJ – 1 Social Justice Team Policy	
Last Reviewed:		

Policy

Purpose

Our Social Justice Team may designate a charitable organization with which to share the offertory plate collection.

Chosen organizations are selected by the Social Justice Team in collaboration with the minister based on the following goals:

- To provide the congregation with an opportunity for donation to a charitable organization that has been designated by the Social Justice Team as one that promotes our principles and values in the community, the nation, or the world.
- To provide a donation opportunity without negatively impacting the First UU Church offering.

Organizations should have broad appeal to members and friends of our congregation, such that it would inspire donations beyond what individuals would normally contribute to the offering. The Social Justice Team uses criteria for selecting recipient organizations that are advisory rather than directive. Recipient organizations need not meet all criteria to be selected:

- Local, especially part of a community initiative beyond the church
- Controversial or otherwise neglected in routine mainstream funding (e.g., environmental issues; Gay Lesbian Youth Services (GLYS), Planned Parenthood)
- Too urgent for routine mainstream funding (e.g., a strike fund for local workers)
- Public policy oriented, with an emphasis on empowerment of oppressed groups (as Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is in its focus areas)

The Social Justice Team is responsible for charitable organization selection, coordination with the minister for appropriate timing of the collection, and for informing the congregation of the collection in advance through standard communications avenues.

Procedure

The Social Justice Team will coordinate with the Minister and other staff as needed. The Social Justice Team will exercise flexibility to accommodate other activities and programming of the congregation.

- The Shared Plate should not substitute for insufficient stewardship of church capital or operational needs.
- The Social Justice Team will consult with the Minister as far in advance as possible so appropriate plans can be made for incorporation of the offering into the service (minimum one month).
- In consultation with the Minister, multiple December Sundays may be chosen on which to split/share the plate. One of the Sundays is designated to support our Human Needs Fund.
- A member of the Social Justice Team or a third party may provide information during services about the organization and the reason it was chosen by the Social Justice Team.



- The congregation will be informed that the offertory plate collection will be given fully between the organization and/ or split evenly with the church.
- The Social Justice Team is responsible for advance communication by submitting information for publication far enough in advance that the collection can be promoted in various church publications. Submissions are sent to the Operations Director according to published deadlines.
- The Social Justice Coordinator will provide the name and address of the organization to the Finance Coordinator.