

A Motion for Faith's Continued Study of Becoming an Economic Justice Congregation.

As a part of the United Church of Christ, we believe we can remain unique, but we also accept our responsibility to the larger body of the Church. When we receive sacraments, when we worship and pray, and when we interpret the teaching of Jesus and the Bible, we are participating in a community where we uphold one another and we feel a unity with Christians from all times and in all places.

In this affirmation we acknowledge God's presence in the human affairs of today, as God has been involved throughout history. We believe that God also calls us to reach out beyond ourselves in love for neighbor. We see our stewardship at Faith United Church of Christ as an expression of our beliefs. We are the flesh and blood of its body, the strength and weakness of its spirit, the life and death of its soul. We, as Christians, accept this calling to carry out the vision of Jesus Christ for our age.

Faith United Church of Christ By-Laws, Article III, Statement of Purpose.

After seven months of formal study of the economic injustices in the world, in our nation and in our community, the Congregation of Faith United Church of Christ hereby agrees to continue its study of economic justice. We further agree to bring the results of the study to bear on the question: do we, in keeping with our Statement of Purpose, as members of the United Church of Christ, and according to our many previous commitments to work to alleviate suffering and improve human and environmental conditions, wish to bind ourselves in an Economic Justice Covenant. To pursue that study with the widest possible congregational participation, we authorize the following procedures utilizing the techniques of Faith's uniquely organized Shared Ministry to accomplish the most desirable results:

1. Continue to employ the Faith Works Committee as a committee of the congregation of Faith UCC, Iowa City, working as an economic justice coordinating committee that will assimilate and disseminate information relevant to becoming an economic justice congregation. Faith Works will report to Council at all regular and special Council meetings on the current status of such plans. That committee will be composed of the current members of the Membership Committee and Faith in Action. It is further recommended that additional members be aggressively recruited and encouraged to join their ranks.
2. That a monthly bulletin be sent to the congregation reporting on the current status and of proposed programs and developments dealing with economic justice. That this communication be fashioned so that members of the congregation can both contribute and/or respond to relevant issues.
3. That Faith Works, with such help as they shall request, plan monthly public programs utilizing speakers or other forms of external expertise that address topics relevant to economic justice. That these programs be designed to inform the congregation and attract like-minded individuals from the community at large. These programs should in no way be construed as inhibiting being open to new areas of endeavor which may be discovered through the discernment of the congregation as they go through the process of learning, exploring what's needed in the community, and through prayer about what they're called to do.
4. That Faith Works, while pursuing this study, formalize for the congregation, with the congregation's regular input, the means and techniques necessary for formatting a Covenant of Economic Justice in order that the congregation may consider, at some future date, with knowledge and discretion, becoming a covenanted Economic Justice Congregation.