

UUJEC Economic Justice Spotlight

Social Action Ministry, Shoreline UU Church--Shoreline WA

The Social Action Ministry of Shoreline Unitarian Universalist Church (Shoreline UUC) of Shoreline, Washington, designed a very comprehensive and interactive six session course on “Escalating

Shoreline UUC



Social Action Ministry

Economic Inequality”. The course syllabus and materials are available on Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community’s [website](#). The six session course begins with a reading from the “father of capitalism, Adam Smith, and discussions regarding readings “For and against income inequality”, then ending the six sessions with readings and discussions about twenty-first century tax issues. The lesson plans for the course are well thought out and developed, making it easy for any congregation or group to implement. “Escalating Economic Inequality” course reflects the commitment Shoreline UUC has made to address income inequality.

The entire Social Action Ministry at Shoreline UUC voted to make economic inequality one of its four top priority issues. The SUUC Social Action Ministry’s [webpage](#) states its commitment to help develop a just economic community. The first listed priority is, “To reduce economic inequality, especially by working to reform [Washington’s] regressive state tax system, securing living wages and protection from unjust treatment for all workers, mending the shredded social safety net, and investing in the common good.”

Through the congregation’s efforts, a real awareness has been built of the structural causes of poverty and of excessive wealth and consumption. Their minister, Rev. Kate Landis, has added a perspective on how racism contributes to economic inequality. Economic inequality has been incorporated into Shoreline UUC’s religious education by addressing issues of the homeless. Aiding the homeless has been a focus for the entire congregation. The congregation has assisted its neighbors in a local homeless encampment and built personal relationships with them.



Photo Provided by Bob Beekman



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Shoreline UUC's Social Action Ministry has also led congregants in political advocacy at the state and municipal level (in Seattle and Shoreline) for changing the state's regressive tax system, raising the minimum wage, and meeting the needs of the homeless and other citizens in precarious and disadvantaged situations.

Truly Shoreline UUC is an example of a congregation working toward economic justice through its leadership and work in a sustainable way. The congregation's value is put into action through charitable giving, volunteer service, education and research, advocacy in the political process, public witness and direct action, and networking and organization.

This article was developed in collaboration between UUJEC Board member Jim Black and Social Action Ministry Communications Coordinator Bob Beekman. Contact Bob at rlbeekman@gmail.com more information on events and materials.

Additional Resources:

Shoreline UUC Escalating Inequality Study Series:

<http://uujec.com/Escalating-Inequality/Shoreline-UU-Study-Series>

Social Action Ministry Info Page: <http://www.nwuujn.org/topics/view/5548de810cf2ab913fd7e70b/>

NWUJJN Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/nwuujn>

Shoreline UUC website: <http://www.shorelineuu.org/>

Shoreline UUC Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/ShorelineUU/photos/?tab=albums>