

THE METROPOLITAN ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING
The Social Justice Committee Report
April 2026
work since May 2025

As Christians we believe that we're called to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, free the prisoner, and house the unhoused. But also to change the very systems of injustice that create the need for charity in the first place. As such, the Social Justice Committee (SJ) has worked this year to share and support **local and state legislative action, provide training on the resistance of authoritarianism, and sought to deepen connections** to our Metropolitan Association congregations and with our justice partners in New York City and State.

Legislative Action

- **Educated and Led** the passing of the Metropolitan Association's Spring 2025 resolution to support the **NY FOR ALL ACT** (A3506/S2235) in the NY State Legislature. *The Act prohibits state and local resources from being diverted to carry out a cruel and inhumane federal deportation agenda.* In spring and fall of 2025 we made calls and sent emails urging our representatives to vote in favor of this on bill. Since the Legislature has not acted on this bill. We're still calling! **Call your Representative** <https://www.nycic.org/our-work/campaigns/new-york-for-all/>
- **Promoted Awareness and Action** for the passage of the the New York Health Act (NYS Senate Bill S3425 / Assembly Bill A1466) which will provide Universal Healthcare for every New Yorker in the state. [Link to petition and more...](#) [Link to webinar](#)

Resisting Authoritarianism

- **Planned and Delivered The Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Event "Amplify the Dream & Resist Authoritarianism."** Worship commemorating, inspiring, and educating from current struggles. Judson Memorial Church. Monday, January 19th. 35 attendees in 23 degree weather and 173 who watched on YouTube the following days.
- **Participated in Multi-Faith Mondays** at Columbus Circle. **Led One Too!** September 2025, Six UCC Churches participated with prayers, poems, music, and a call to action! Ongoing UCC Church clergy and lay participation continues weekly. (The Interfaith Center of New York is the organizing body). Meet at the USS Maine Statue. These gatherings continue! SJ hopes to host again!
- **Prepared and Distributed Monthly SJ Action Alerts** for our churches, through Constant Contact, for upcoming actions — Hands-Off Events, No King's Days (strong UCC participation across different Metro locations), *Let Freedom Ring* opportunity, and more. This is ongoing work.
- **Stood in Solidarity and Resisted ICE** in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Two Community Ministers and two Metro Metro Clergy responded to National Clergy call from MARCH January 2026! (1 clergy is an SJ Member),

- **Trained and Participated in Singing Resistance.** This is a movement grounded in the protest singing of the Civil Rights Movement to resist authoritarianism non-violently. SJ Team Members and UCC folk from across the Association have trained and attended Singing Resistance gatherings at Middle Collegiate Church and The Riverside Church. <https://linktr.ee/singingresistance>.

Building Relationships

- **Reached Out to Metro Churches** — We're in active conversation with three UCC churches on collective SJ work for this next year. For more information come to SJ's Annual Meeting Table! "SJ on the Road!" Or email sswitzer790@gmail.com
- **Supported and Attended *Glitter & Ash***, *An Inter-Congregational Outdoor Ash Wednesday Service, Stonewall Park, NYC.* (SJ Reps attended from various Metro Congregations)
- **Attended an Upper West Side Town Meeting** on Immigration and Rapid Response to ICE. It included both a report from NYC clergy who attended the clergy call in MN and a mini-deportation defense training. (2 SJ members attended)
- **Expanded and Deepened** relationships with the following justice organizations this year:
 - The Interfaith Center of NY (3 SJ members represent)
 - The Poor People's Campaign (SJ member participation & leadership)
 - Sacred Court Support (UCC participation in Accompaniment Training)
 - The New Sanctuary Coalition (Clergy and Lay Accompaniment Training)
 - The New York State Council of Churches
(Took legislative actions, attended Annual Gala)
 - The UCC Immigration Forum (3 SJ members attend meetings)
 - The UCC New York Conference Commission on Justice (1 SJ member serves)
- **Worked with the Bylaws Revision Committee** to finesse language showing continued commitment to the work of Social Justice while enabling greater committee flexibility to address the most urgent issues of our time!

In closing, this work would not have been possible without the dedication of this amazing committee. We have more to do, without a doubt, as we live in a Good Friday world. Yet, together, with God's help, the impossible becomes possible. May it be so!

Respectfully submitted, on behalf of the Social Justice Committee.

Rev. Susan Switzer, Committee Chair

Committee Members

Phyllis Coachman

Sandi Cross

Mary Dewar

Renee Gibson

Martha Gotwals

Elice Higginbotham

Raquel Irizarry

Benevolence Ng

Terry Todd

Cynthia Rodriguez

Susan Switzer

