

Bringing Unitarian Universalist Values to Government

One of the most compelling developments in Unitarian Universalism nationwide is that approximately a dozen states either have formed, or are actively seeking to form, Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministries; such as for example, California, Florida, Maryland and New Jersey.

A Legislative Ministry is a joint effort of the Unitarian Universalist congregations in that particular State that wish to participate to collectively advocate for Unitarian Universalist values in the political arena. The Legislative Ministry organizes the Unitarian Universalists in that State to take political action. For example, it acts as an advocate with respect to pending state legislation and executive action by the Governor or his agencies and appears *pro hac vice* in pending court cases with significant public policy implications.

In New Jersey, fifteen of twenty two UU Churches and Fellowships are part of our Legislative Ministry, officially called the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey (UULMNJ). The UULMNJ has five issue task forces: (a) Health Care; (b) Affordable Housing/Economic Justice; (c) Environmental Justice; (d) Marriage Equality; and (e) Immigration. Individuals from member congregations may join and lead one or more of these task forces. The task forces review proposed legislation and advocate to support or object to its passage. They also work with the organization as a whole to organize petition drives; exchange information; and disseminate to the congregations information on the advocacy for UU values in State government.

[CLICK HERE to visit the Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry of New Jersey website](#)

Our Social Action Committee has supported the Legislative Ministry from the outset. In fact, one of our Committee members chairs the Legislative Ministry's Healthcare taskforce, and another of our members chairs the taskforce on Economic Justice and Affordable Housing. They both report at each of our Social Action Committee meetings on the status of those respective initiatives. They also coordinate fundraising for the Legislative Ministry within our congregation.

To become involved in the Legislative Ministry, you can join any of its taskforces; attend its plenary meetings; or participate in one of the fundraisers our Committee undertakes on its behalf.



Social Action Committee members advocate for our Unitarian Universalist values through the Legislative Ministry of New Jersey