

Justice Ministries Service Area goes District-wide and Receives \$15K Grant for its Development

The JMSA became truly district-wide after a year and a half of visioning and networking. Over Memorial Day weekend, UUs from eight of the newly forming geographic clusters across the Mountain Desert District represented their cluster of congregations at the Justice Ministries Steering Team retreat: Jana Rossier, Colorado Mountain Congregations; Jack Runnels, Northern Plains; Rudy Clarke, Border; Andrea Globokar, West of the Rockies; Tyler Mason, Rio Grande; Sally Magers, Metro Denver; Barry Johnson-Fay, Southern Colorado; and Jean Gillman, Montana. Andie Lyons, although unable to attend the retreat, has accepted responsibility as Young Adult representative. Rev. Ellen Johnson-Fay, Colorado Springs, our liaison to the Trustees joined in as well. The Team is now working to recruit cluster representatives from Four Corners and Northern Wyoming-Montana to complete the district-wide JMSA Steering Team. Over the summer, they've agreed to gather the social justice folks in their cluster region and determine a schedule for program opportunities in the coming church year. Justice Ministries will assist in the implementation of those programs.

Deborah Holder and Becky Vanderslice have served as the co-chairs of the JMSA for the last year and have developed the infrastructure for this work with the initial steering team of Barry Johnson-Fay, Kim Varney, Rebecca Booher, and Ellen Johnson-Fay.

Justice Ministries Service Area (JMSA) received the exciting news that the *Fund for Unitarian Universalist Social Responsibility* awarded us a grant of \$15,000 and a challenge grant of \$2500 for the development of the Justice Ministries Service Area. If we raise the \$2500 over the coming year, the UU Funding Panel will match it for a total award of \$20,000! The award letter from Boston included the following message:

“As Unitarian Universalists, the Review Panels believe strongly in supporting work for social justice, in increasing the involvement of Unitarian Universalists in social responsibility, in linking Unitarian Universalists with the larger community and in making Unitarian Universalism more visible in the world. We believe your work exemplifies these values in action.”

Along with the support of the MDD Board of Trustees, the District Executive and the MDD Service Council, the Justice Ministries Service Area is well placed for progress toward our mission of engaging and empowering congregations in their social justice work and our vision of integrating justice into all aspects of congregational life.