

SOCIAL ACTION COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT 2004-2005

ACTIVE MEMBERS: Gary Winn, Bill McWilliams, Anne Krieg, Donna Lawrence, David Payne, Henry P. Lewis, Betty Lewis, Jean Bowen, Carl Tichler, Andrew Bloch, Darcy Smith, Chris Halfar, Jurintha Fallon, Anne Marie Farrell, Anne Eigen, Jackie Alexander, Wilder Hoder, Carol Huckabee (Board liaison), Charles Stark (chairman).

ACTIVITIES:

This was a very busy year for the committee. The major activity was the Jubilee 1 program, held at the WesConn Westside campus on March 4 & 5, with Sunday service on the 6th. The planning and organizational work took up the entire year. The event was well received and generally praised. Approximately one-third of the adult members of our congregation registered and participated. We were able to fund the entire program out of the fees received. Through the efforts of Jean Bowen we were able to obtain the space free and food service at a reasonable price.

Another major event, taking place last spring, was the Equality Knocks campaign in Danbury, under the aegis of Love Makes a Family. This event was organized by the committee with the assistance of Adam Nicholson of LMF. Thirty people went door to door in Danbury, speaking to our neighbors to ascertain attitudes toward same-sex marriage. Fifteen of the thirty volunteers were members and friends of the UUCD. Through the efforts particularly of Anne Krieg and Wilder Hoder we were able to secure meeting space at the Congregational Church and food donations for a very substantial breakfast and lunch.

Also on behalf of Love Makes a Family, house meetings with two Danbury legislators were held. Chris Halfar hosted a meeting with Sen. David Capiello. Anne Krieg hosted one with Rep. Robert Godfrey. Both ultimately voted in favor of the civil union legislation. Both the New York Times and the Danbury News-Times ran editorials in which they ascribed the support for the legislation to house meetings such as these.

With the impetus of the committee, the Board voted this year to add the UUCD as a sponsoring organization of Love Makes a Family, Connecticut Votes and the Connecticut Immigrant & Refugee Coalition. We heard from Joyce Hamilton, President of Democracy Works and Connecticut Votes at a meeting.

Members of the committee participated in voter registration efforts prior to the 2004 presidential elections. We were guided in this by Lynn Taborsak.

A congregational holiday food drive on behalf of the Interfaith Aids Ministry of Danbury was held and was quite successful.

We heard from Bill Pierce, a prison reform advocate, at a meeting.

In April, again with the leadership of Lynn Taborsak, the committee sponsored a demonstration to protest the inaugural meeting of a group calling itself Connecticut Citizens for Immigration Control. Over 50 people turned out to demonstrate and we received extensive local news coverage,

Finally, our congregation's ongoing efforts at the Dorothy Day soup kitchen and annual Americares project (under the leadership of Gary Winn) continued under the supervision of the committee.

We would again like to thank Reverend Linda Hansen for her faithful participation in all our efforts and invaluable guidance.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Stark, Chairman