

Unity Church—Unitarian Community Outreach Ministry Program

Community Outreach Ministry Team (COMPT) Application Form

Note: Please read the Unity Church-Unitarian Ends, Values, and Vision Statements for 2014-2019 (also available at www.unityunitarian.org) and let that be your guide in filling out this application. Whenever possible, the people interested in forming a ministry team should discuss and form the answers to these application questions together.

MINISTRY TEAM INFORMATION

Name of Ministry Team: Gun Sense Ministry Team

Date of Application: September 22, 2017

1. Organization and Coordination of Ministry Team

Team Leader Sue Conner **Phone:** 651-271-9844 **E-mail** sue.conner@comcast.net

Address 980 Hampden Ave. St. Paul 55114 **Fax** _____

Team Leader Joan Duke **Phone:** 651-644-3371 **E-mail** joanduke@comcast.net

Address 2377 Valentine Ave. St. Paul, mn. 55108 **Fax** _____

Typical meeting frequency (e.g., weekly, monthly, quarterly): once every two months

List the names of persons who are committed to this team:

Karen Abraham , Sue Conner, Joan Duke, Sherman Eagles, Barbara Ford

MINISTRY TEAM PURPOSE (Discuss with interest group)

2. What is the purpose or vision for this ministry? What needs will the project address? How will the work of the team make a difference? What are some of the ways this ministry reflects the Unity Church-Unitarian End, Values, and Vision Statements?

PREMISE

Our American society, including our state of Minnesota, suffers from a high level of gun violence tragedies. In Minnesota more than one person is killed by a gun and one person injured by a gun every day. 82% of the gun deaths in Minnesota are suicides, disproportionately among white rural and suburban communities. 1300 children die from guns annually in the United States. (www.protectminnesota.org/resources for a topical index of gun facts with citations.) The fact is that ALL Minnesotans are affected by the level of gun violence in the state as well as the nature of the gun rhetoric. A level of fear and anxiety around this issue has been increased in everyone in recent years.

Regardless of gun ownership, we believe that most people want to reduce gun violence. Many citizens of goodwill, Unity membership included, have been silent about their thoughts and feelings on the issue of gun violence, gun safety and gun policy. In the face of heated rhetoric many citizens become inarticulate. Polarization increases when there is an inability to articulate one's own views or a lack of understanding of the other side of an issue. We believe that there is a need for citizen dialogue on this issue. We believe that there is a need for citizens to involve themselves in creating policies aimed at mitigating the problems of gun violence, and the related fear and anxiety in Minnesota.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this ministry is to empower Unity-church Unitarian and its membership to be active citizens in this process of dialogue and creation of policy.

Relationship to Unity's Mission, Values, and Ends Statements.

This proposed ministry will support Unity members in their desire to live lives of fuller integrity and service. By being willing and able to express one's thoughts and feelings on an important issue in a respectful manner, one experiences and demonstrates integrity. This behavior is an aspect of mutual respect in dialogue. Working toward the end of a more peaceful, safer society is a service to all.

We believe that this ministry reflects **Unity's Ends:**

Within: Principal #5, #6, #3. By being open to dialogue, by working to educate ourselves and our community with the goal of a safer Minnesota for all, we are addressing these ends.

Among: b,c,d. We believe that by working to address the loss of innocent lives in Minnesota and by aligning with other faith groups across the state, we will be addressing these ends.

Beyond: d: We believe that by supporting civic responsibility with regard to this issue, partnering with groups of other faiths as well as other UU's, we will be fulfilling this end.

3. Please state how this ministry will address the following dimensions:

a. Service in the community:

The team will be participating in a statewide effort to reduce gun violence and increase citizen engagement with regard to the issue of gun safety. We will encourage and support and train citizens to engage in the formation of policies with regard to this issue.

b. Education with team, congregation and community:

A major focus will be education of our team and congregation with facts about gun violence and gun policy in Minnesota. An outgrowth of this activity will be sharing with others outside of our church, including lobbying efforts at a city and state level.

c. Advocacy in the community:

This ministry hopes to bring our congregation into a relationship with an Interfaith Alliance for Gun Safety.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION (Discuss with interest group)

4. Describe in detail how the ministry will look. What will it do? Where will it take place? When will it take place? Etc.

We plan to use various methods of communication: CommUnity, parish hall tables, email, Wellspring Wednesday events and perhaps other events for our congregation in our efforts at educating and raising awareness. We will work in Partnership with ProtectMinnesota by encouraging participation in their initiatives. We will have our own meetings to brainstorm and plan but much of our team communication may be via email.

5. Participant group-- who will receive goods/services/education/advocacy from this ministry?

Our congregation will be a first level recipient as our efforts to educate and engage will first address our home congregation. The Interfaith Alliance for Gun Safety/Protect Minnesota will benefit from our existence and participation. The state of Minnesota will benefit from our congregational involvement. The state of Minnesota will benefit from a reduction in gun violence.

6. Short and long term goals of specific project area

- 1) Short-term goals for project (broad statements of general outcomes within the next year)**
 - a. build a core group of individuals who will participate in this ministry for two years
 - b. bring factual information about gun violence in Minnesota to the attention of our congregation
 - c. bring factual information about gun policy, current and proposed, in Minnesota to the attention of our congregation
 - d. provide opportunities for congregation members to participate in advocacy with regard to this issue.
- 2) Long-term goals for project. (broad statements of general outcomes beyond the next year)**
 - a. Bring our church into relationship/membership with an Interfaith Alliance for Gun Safety
 - b. Celebrate our congregation's involvement on this issue
 - c. Assess what is needed after two years with regard to our congregation, our denomination the Interfaith Alliance , and the issue itself of gun safety in Minnesota. Assess what we are able and willing to do at that point.

7. What outside community group or organization will the Unity Ministry Team partner with to accomplish and expand its ministry?

Protect Minnesota

8. What are the anticipated church resources and support needed to accomplish this ministry? (Discuss with planning group) Please check those that apply.

- 1) Meeting space? _____x_____
- 2) Room reservations? _____x_____
- 3) Publicity through CommUnity and/or "This Week at Unity"? ___x___
- 4) Computer services? _____
- 5) Copying services? _____x_____
- 6) Member recruitment? _____
- 7) Leadership development? _____
- 8) Meeting facilitation? _____
- 9) Goal setting? _____
- 10) Fundraising assistance? ___we may seek an offering for our partner___
- 11) Web site development? _____
- 12) Other? Advice, counsel upon request

9. What are the anticipated financial resources needed related to above short and long-term goals of project in #6 above?

a. Short-term financial resources needed (within the next year)

None needed at this time

b. Long-term financial resources needed (beyond the next year)

None needed at this time

10. How does this team anticipate generating financial resources?

If we find that we need financial resources, we will address the need with creativity. We will run any such creative ideas by the ET or whoever else may be appropriate, for approval.

TEAM DEVELOPMENT (Discuss with interest group)

11. What are the norms, guidelines or rules of conduct with team members?

To be determined.

12. What are the plans for cultivating ministry team leadership? To be determined with a highly collaborative style.

13. In what areas would the team like training?

We have no identified needs at this time, but we will have this list of available options from the church to use as reference.

Please check those that apply.

- a. Developing team goals_____
 - b. Developing team norms/guidelines_____
 - c. Conducting productive meetings_____
 - d. Facilitating regular meetings and/or communication_____
 - e. Decision making_____
 - f. Balancing spiritual development and social action_____
 - g. Planning fundraising activities_____
 - h. Recruiting new team members_____
 - i. Program evaluation_____
 - j. Team leadership_____
 - k. Other _____
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14. How does the group envision that this shared ministry will contribute to their spiritual development and growth?

The spiritual growth of individuals can be nurtured by the coming together of people on a shared cause that will benefit the health and well being of the greater community we all share. We anticipate that, by working together to learn and to communicate with regard to this issue the group will grow in integrity and compassion. We anticipate that, by working together to take action in the community, the group will deepen their sense of connectedness and responsibility to the larger society.

Note: Each team is asked to reapply every two years.