

# Gender Justice

## Team Ministry Proposal

MUUC, November 2018



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## Goals

The goal of this ministry team is to

- Help all of us (and our kids) be more aware and more active around gender justice issues
- Promote gender equality and prevent violence against women with early interventions
- Advocate for a better future for all

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## The landscape is broad...

- Consent
- Power dynamics
- All forms of sexual violence including sexual assault and sexual harassment
- #MeToo movement (and the role of men therein)
- Toxic masculinity
- Media and self-esteem in girls
- Pay equity and transparency
- Flexible work
- Health and reproductive rights
- Affordable childcare
- Equal Rights Amendment
- Civil Rights
- LGBTQ
- Intersectionality

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## Gender and Race

Recent election data indicate how deeply divided Americans are by gender and race

- 53% of white women voted for Donald Trump in 2016
- 94% of black women and 68% of Latino female voters chose Hillary Clinton
- 59% of white women voted for Ted Cruz (TX) for senate in 2018
- 95% of black women and 66% of Latino female voters chose Beto O'Rourke

In addition to advocating for all women, we need to do better to support women of color and deepen our understanding of how women's overlapping identities — including race, class, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation — impact the way they experience oppression and discrimination

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## Activities

- Organize a seminar and possibly a film series on gender justice topics
- Provide a supporting presence at local area rallies and events
- Explore the local gender justice landscape which may then lead to advocacy by working with grassroots community organizations, educational institutions, local government, interfaith and/or community groups

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## How the ministry reflects MUUC values and mission

- The Ministry's work will align with our 1st UU Principle, the inherent worth & dignity of all people by educating & empowering individuals to be their best self & to validate the experience of others.
- To act with compassion for justice is part of our UU mission as well as the root of gender justice teachings. We must address issues that can be sensitive as well as uncomfortable in order to create change and garner compassion for the individuals involved.

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## Core team of organizers, planners

- Carol Farese-Viola
- James Intriligator
- Laura Morin

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## Extended team of supporters committed to carrying out the work (tentative)

- Stella Shanvelnan
- Laura Speare
- Mark Viola
- Other interested parties?

## How the whole congregation may be involved

- Gender Justice has potential for collaboration with Racial Justice and possibly other ministry teams, as well as RE
- The congregation would be invited to take part in a seminar led by an outside expert
- Film series would be open to the general public
- We would organize a supporting MUUC presence at local area rallies and events (eg Women's March)

## How our community beyond MUUC might be engaged

- Film series open to the public
- We are exploring the local gender justice landscape (MORE, MAAV, Melrose Commission on Women etc) with the intention of it leading to advocacy by working with grassroots community organizations, educational institutions, local government, interfaith and/or community groups

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## Potential early intervention initiative

Green Dot Bystander Intervention Program provides schools and communities with programs and prevention strategies that address sexual assault, dating/domestic violence, bullying, and stalking.



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## Potential initiative

Tie in with Men4MAAV, whose objective is to provide both men and boys with the knowledge, the tools, and the opportunities to be actively engaged in transforming our culture to create a community free from all forms of violence



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## What resources (e.g. budget) might be needed

- \$1100 budget request
  - \$800 - seminar / workshop
  - \$300 - film series

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Thank you!