

# The T. Richard Parker Award for Social Justice

(As approved at the Congregational Meeting of 1/20/1985)

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## I. Brief Description

An award will be given to a person or group in the Jamestown area, who contributes significantly to the cause of social justice during the preceding year.

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## II. Justice Defined

Social justice shall be distinguished from charity as efforts to create social change to assist groups or classes of persons in a permanent way, rather than being temporary assistance to specific individuals.

In this spirit, social justice includes:

- (1) Efforts to protect the civil rights of racial, religious and ethnic minorities,
- (2) Efforts to protect the civil liberties of individuals,
- (3) Efforts to extend economic and political opportunities to the poor,
- (4) Efforts to extend political and economic opportunities to socially disadvantaged groups, such as the physically and mentally impaired and disabled, and
- (5) Efforts to deal with the problems of world peace and world hunger.
- (6) Efforts to protect the natural environment and to stop environmental pollution.
- (7) Efforts to improve deteriorating neighborhoods.
- (8) Efforts to promote gender equity regardless of sexual orientation.
- (9) Efforts to promote the ethical treatment of animals.

In no way should the local popularity or unpopularity of an effort in the cause of social justice be used to evaluate its merit.

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## III. Limitations

The award should be made to local Chautauqua County persons or groups, which direct their efforts toward change in the local community. These efforts must have some local impact, even though the concerns of the recipient of the award may have national or worldwide application. The recipient must not be a current member of the Unitarian Church of Jamestown.

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## IV. Selection Procedure

The award shall be decided upon by a special committee of 5 people, appointed by the Board of the Unitarian Church of Jamestown. Nominations to the committee may be made by any person. Any person or group nominated will be contacted by the committee to inquire whether the nomination is accepted, and if so, they will be asked to provide all necessary documentation and information to the committee, to make a decision. In case there are insufficient nominations, the President of the church shall be empowered to publicize the award in the local newspaper and to local organizations.

The award shall consist of the sum of money based upon the interest of the Memorial Fund, and set by the Board of the Church; and a plaque or certificate with the name of the recipient, title of the award and year. Any money to publicize the award shall be deducted from the amount of the award.

The award shall be made during the first week of October of each year. It shall be awarded in person at a special church service on Sunday, dedicated to a topic of social justice concern, with the recipient as a guest speaker.

Awards should not be given to the same recipient twice for the same accomplishment. If no qualified nominee can be found in a particular year, no award shall be offered that year.

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## V. Financing of the Award

Funds for the award shall come from Church Memorial Fund, which shall be used as an endowment. New contributions can be added to the Memorial Fund at any time. Efforts shall be made to enhance the fund from the church and other local sources.