

The Social Action Committee, later known as the Social Concerns Committee, has been active since the beginning of the Diablo Fellowship, founded in 1951. The fellowship became the Unitarian Church in 1960, and later the Unitarian Universalist Church.

### **1950's Early Fellowship years**

- Networked with other county organizations and congregations working for peace, civil rights and equal housing opportunities
- Sponsored speakers from ACLU and Friends Committee on Legislation
- Made contributions to Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
- Worked with SANE, World Federation, NAACP and other organizations on the elimination of capital punishment

### **1960's The Early Years of the Church, and very active period**

- Participated in the civil rights movement, including
  - Sent Minister Aron Gilmartin and others to Selma for Freedom March
  - Employed Afro-American ministers the Rev. George Johnson and the Rev. Harold Wilson as a church ministers (without salary)
- Sent volunteers to the UU East Bay Project, including tax consultants, recreational leaders, engineers, carpenters, secretaries, journalists, and many more. Contributed food, books, education, employment training, and clothing collections.
- Created World Without War committee, founded by Andy Baltzo and others.
  - Established Mt. Diablo Peace Center
  - Made church a sanctuary for war resisters
  - Did draft counseling
  - Participated in peace demonstrations

### **1970s. Active both locally and in national and international affairs.**

- Local and State Concerns
  - Opposed use of helicopters by sheriff and police as an invasion of privacy
  - Worked with GASP, Group Against Smoking Pollution
  - Created Memorial Garden in harmony with the environment
  - Celebrated Farm Worker Week with fund raising dinner, and program
  - Supported efforts to preserve Shell Ridge as Open Space
  - Opposed death penalty; toured San Quentin, supported for bill to reform California penal system
  - Supported teachers' strike at Mt. Diablo School district.
  - Examined sex role stereotypes and made every effort to put traditional assumptions and language in perspective and avoid sexist assumptions and language
  - Passed resolution calling on Board of Supervisors and City Councils to prohibit use of tax money for public officials and employees to attend states refusing to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment
- National and International concerns
  - Started Peace Registry for conscientious objectors
  - Opposed Vietnam war and invasion of Cambodia with vigils, car pools to San Francisco Peace March
  - Supported Chilean hunger strike for accounting of disappeared relatives.
  - Supported Transfer Amendment to transfer funds from the military to human needs.
  - Sponsored public forum with speakers on both sides spoke on Nuclear Power.

## 1980's Expansion of Social Action into Many Areas

- Peace and disarmament remained a central concern
  - Sponsored a UUA resolution at General Assembly to unite all religions to stop the arms race.
  - Formed a chapter of UU Service Committee, sold its holiday cards
  - Had public forums on nuclear power
  - Became a “nuclear free” zone
- Justice for people both locally and all over the world was emphasized
  - Sponsored a family from Guatemala who lived in a trailer on the church grounds for a year,
  - Received reports from the Rev. Aron Gilmartin, minister, and from Dottie Stone (later church president) on their trips to Guatemala.
  - Aided Vietnamese “boat people”
  - Started a chapter of Amnesty International
  - Sponsored “Miles for Meals” 17 mile walk for food coalition and overseas relief
  - Active in Social Justice Alliance, working for social justice locally
  - Became a “Welcoming Congregation”

## 1990's Work on Social Concerns both locally, and in the world continues

- Locally programs and concerns play a larger role
  - Started shelter program, worked on homeless shelter winter project
  - Tutoring at Meadow Homes School inaugurated
  - Sorting team for Food Bank started
  - Worked on Contra Costa County hunger survey, hosted hunger workshop
  - Participated in community race relations forum
  - Adopted a Social Worker
  - Participated in “Blessing of the Hands” at Kaiser Hospital
  - Supported Peace Center’s Summer Peace Day camp on church grounds with money and staffing
  - Formed an active Interweave Chapter
- Work continues on larger issues of peace and justice
  - Undertook a letter writing campaign to congress on issues of peace and justice
  - Supported Peace Center’s “Season of non-violence” Martin Luther King Jr. Day to Ghandi’s birthday
  - Opposed the Gulf War

## 2000's Continued local work, role of Peace Center expands

- Much emphasis continues to be placed on local work - “Think globally, act locally”
  - Inaugurates “Share the Plate”, with a portion of a monthly collection going to a local program, announced in advance.
  - Continues Tutoring at Meadow Homes School
  - Participated in 9/11 Interfaith memorials and vigils
  - Emphases participation in Interfaith council, supplying personnel to the board and committees.
  - Continued collection of food for Food Bank
  - Provided holiday gifts for shelter families
  - Participated in various community drives: e.i. coats, children’s books, cell phones
  - Supported the work of the Peace and Justice Center (formerly the Peace Center) in high school race awareness program, peace leadership camp, non-violence training, and “not in our town.”
  - Participated in home building with Habitat for Humanity
  - Co-sponsored Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebrations with Interfaith Council and City of Walnut Creek
  - Became involved in the “Green Sanctuary” movement