

## 2018-19 CHARTER P-Patch

### Section A: Name

1. What is the name of your group? P-Patch Ministry Team

### Section B: Purpose

1. What is the purpose of your group?

The main purpose of the P-Patch team is to cultivate and protect a specific area of tillable land on the East Shore campus by using sustainable gardening methods, to inspire the congregation (adults and children) to grow and eat locally grown produce, and to donate revenue each year to an earth/food friendly cause.

2. How is your work related to one or more of our Unitarian Universalist Seven Principles? They are listed in the Overview Section above.

The work of the P-Patch team is most closely related to the 7<sup>th</sup> Principle: *"Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."* The P-Patch functions with the seasons, being active in mid spring through mid-fall, and going dormant in the winter. The P-Patch gardeners become aware of the many factors that affect the growth and production of the plants, and they learn how they can play a part in providing the needed variables for health and harvest. These concepts can be applied to the church as a living entity and to the earth as a whole through the offering of fresh healthy food to improve the lives of congregants, who in turn donate to promote food justice in the larger community.

In addition, the P-Patch work is related to 3rd Principle, "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations"? We practice acceptance of one another in working together as a team, honoring each member's unique talents and skills; we encourage spiritual growth through connection with the earth and the bio-community we co-create here.

3. How does your group connect with East Shore's Mission and Vision? Please see the Mission listed in the Overview Section above. The full Vision based on the Mission can be found at [www.esuc.org](http://www.esuc.org) under Governance and Bylaws.

1. Love is expressed by gardeners in the very act of growing and tending their gardens and sharing their produce with the congregation and supporting a food justice related non-profit. 2. A spiritual feeling comes from connection with the earth and gardening. The joy and awe of creation is experienced when members

are in touch with "...taking care of the earth.." 3). Builds community when members work together to create the overall garden - weeding, tilling, etc. and when community of members offer produce to the congregation. 4). Promotes justice by offering any member or visitor organic produce if requested and by supporting local and international organizations that help end hunger and poverty through self-reliance and sustainability.

4. In order to intentionally live our mission in our daily team work, a set of Right Relations guidelines is recommended for all Committees and Teams. Do you have an agreed upon set of guidelines? If not, please develop one this year. The Right Relations Committee will assist you as needed.

The P-Patch does not have Right Relations guidelines but will establish some this year.

5. What relationship does your group have, if any, to the 2018/19 Ends? Ends are East Shore's goals.

The P-Patch Team work relates most closely with Goal 4 Strategic Campus Plan, bullets 1 and 4:

- The church property and infrastructure resources used for the P-Patch is being leveraged for earth and social justice needs in our community—specifically for food justice. The team promotes and provides healthy organic produce to our members. The funds collected from the P-Patch produce table contribute to community food justice non-profit work.
  - This helps East Shore become a hub of earth and social justice activity that is affiliated with outside organizations. We make connections with these community organizations and seek ways we can collaborate with them.
  - We can measure the impact of our donations by asking the organizations to report to us how our donation was used---what difference it made for whom. This can be reported in the church's annual impact report.
6. What are your group's specific goals for the next year? What impact do you expect from your efforts? If an activity is listed, what result do you expect from it? How will you evaluate the impact of your efforts?

1. Team membership is increased, including home gardeners and especially those gardening in the P Patch at church.
2. A more permanent leader is in place who is willing and able to keep the P Patch moving forward.
3. Produce tables are held at least five times during the summer and early fall. They serve the congregants with fresh organic vegetables and generate between \$500 and \$1,000 in donations, which is given to a food related justice non-profit.

4. The future location of the P-Patch is determined and implemented when the Holly House area is no longer available.

The impact we expect from our efforts is a stronger team with greater ability and energy to grow and share organic food for the congregation, to interest them in health and food justice causes, and to make a transition to a new location on the property. We also expect our contribution to food justice causes to increase economic equality in the wider community.

We will evaluate the impact of our efforts by assessing the membership and leadership strength of the group, by comparing data on produce tables, member participation at tables and donation amounts from previous to current years, by determining the economic improvements from our donation, and by noting any plans/progress toward relocation of the P-Patch.

### **Section C: Group Structure, Leadership & Decision-Making**

1. Where does your group fit into East Shore's organizational structure – as a Board Committee, Ministry Team or Core Team? Who is your staff liaison or partner?

The P Patch was originally created as a social justice Ministry Team and is now a subgroup of the Grounds Core Team working with its liaison, the Facilities Manager, Dianne Upton, and with the Executive Director, Jason Puracal. It is also a Ministry Team being supported by the Earth and Social Justice Coordinating Council because it promotes Food Justice with the proceeds of its produce table.

2. What are the minimum and maximum number of participants? To ensure community representation, no fewer than five members is recommended. If you have fewer than five members, please explain. Who are your current team members?

P-Patch has a minimum of 5 members. Currently there are seven active members—Ann Fletcher, David Kappler, LeRoy and Evelyn Smith, Janice Thomson, Amanda Uluhan, and Lucy Rahman, plus Irene McVey and Shirley Worth (both currently inactive)—and no set number for maximum participants. The only limit would be space for plots in the church P-Patch. Ten to fifteen people could have garden depending on the size of the plot. Occasionally other church members donate produce or flower bulbs from their yards for the table.

3. What are the leadership roles and responsibilities within your group?

Currently P Patch has an interim Chair, Ann Fletcher, who coordinates essential business such as schedules P-Patch Produce Table, communications with members, and the selection of a food justice non-profit as the recipient of the

produce table funds. She is assisted with communications and church P-Patch plot oversight by Amanda Uluhan.

4. How are leaders determined, and what are their term limits? Please explain any differences from the term limits recommended in the Overview Section above.

The chair is selected by group consensus, with a back-up of majority vote if ever needed. Term limit is three years, with possible return to leadership with lapse of two years out of leadership

5. What, if any, are the term limits for your members? Please explain any differences from the term limits recommended in the Overview Section above.

None

6. How are decisions made in your group (consensus, majority vote, officers, super majority percent)? What quorum is needed? Is email vote allowed?

The leader may make some decisions about scheduling of the spring plant sale and the summer produce table, but usually confers with the gardening members. The group determines plot assignment and food justice non-profit recipient by consensus and if needed majority vote, with 50% quorum and email voting allowed.

7. How are records kept and passed on for your group? If you are a Board Committee, what one person on your team will send the meeting minutes to the Chair of the Archives Team?

The chair keeps important records and the brochure electronically and will pass them along to the next chair.

8. How are members recruited and oriented to your team?

Recruited by word of mouth; brochure; P Patch produce table information; meetings, contacts through Membership Development Manager, scheduled ESJ bulletin board and foyer table. They are oriented by working at plant sale and produce table and through mentoring from other gardeners as needed.

9. What, if any, qualifications are required for membership or leadership?

No qualifications for membership other than a desire to garden and "...take care of the earth" and a willingness to learn and cooperate with other team members. The leader of the group should have a commitment to the concept of the P-Patch, some background/skills in gardening and the ability to work with people.

10. How does your group communicate and collaborate with the larger East Shore community?

Contacts Facilities Manager or Executive Director as needed. Distributes brochures and talks with members at the ESJ table and the produce table. Stimulates conversations and learning about nutrition and health by providing recipes and other food related health ideas, as well as food prepared from its produce such as herbal tea, skin cream, baked goods, and sauces. Participates as able in Grounds work party, lunch and meeting. Writes Beacon articles and eblasts to invite participation. Amanda Uluhan uses the garden as a learning tool for the summer RE program.

11. What one person on your team is authorized to approve communications publicized by Staff? Who is the designated back-up person?

The Interim Chair is authorized to approve communications. Back-up person is Amanda Uluhan.

12. What types of decisions is your group authorized to make?

Every day decisions regarding P Patch activities and food justice donation recipient.

13. What kinds of recommendations, if any, does your group make and to whom (Board, Minister, Staff, congregation)?

The group may recommend some details/aspects of the location of the new P-Patch, when that time comes.

14. Does your group plan to sponsor any outside groups to use the church facilities? If so, please see Board Policy 1.16a and the Staff Procedures for Sponsorship of outside groups.

No.

15. What is the expectation for longevity of the group and the plan, if any, for disbanding the group?

The group is not planning to disband. Currently we are dependent upon the home gardeners and desire more dedicated gardeners who want to produce on the East Shore campus.

## **Section D: Finances**

1. Will your group present a budget proposal to the Budget Team next year?

Yes, for needed materials to start a growing season.

2. If the Operating Fund is unable to grant the full amount of your budget request, will the group reduce its expenses or do its own fundraising?

The group will not fundraise. It may, if needed, solicit donated materials or use a portion of the proceeds from the plant start sale in May.

3. If your group plans to do fundraising, please describe how it will go about this. If you plan to solicit donations, use the following wording: "Your donation goes to East Shore's operating funds which supports (name of your team) and other programs."

Offer produce outside the Sanctuary when veggies are in season and collect donations. Hold spring plant starts sale--tomatoes, flowers, or any other offers. Most of the funds raised are donated to Food Justice Non-Profits.

4. What kind of decision process exists for how money is used?

Same as process described in Section C number 6 above.

5. Which one person on your team is authorized to approve team expenses? Who is the designated back-up person?

Approval of Interim Chair. Back-up is Grounds Chair.

6. Does your group have the need for a Prudent Reserve (funds set aside to hedge against a contractual liability)? If so, how much and what for?

No

Initial Board Approval of Charter Template: May 16, 2017

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