



Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Central Michigan

*Open Arms • Open Minds • Open Hearts*

## **Michigan Unitarian Universalist Social Justice Network 2017 Michigan UU Justice Leader Honor**

### **UUFCM Nominee: *Dr. Vicki Chessin***

The UUFCM is delighted to nominate Dr. Vicki Chessin for the honored distinction as one of Michigan's Social Justice Leaders for 2017.

Vicki is a life-long UU who served as the UUFCM board secretary for 10+ years until her retirement this past July. Her deep wisdom and generous heart as a congregational leader extended beyond the walls of our church as she embodied her faith in the work of social justice, as well as providing encouragement and sponsorship to others in their efforts to heal the world.

Vicki modeled her faith in her work as a family practice physician, providing the full spectrum of women's health counseling when many physicians in the area would not; she welcomed into her care LGBTQ patients, providing hormone treatment for transitioning patients from all over Northern and Mid-Michigan – she was the only physician to do so. She carried her justice efforts for women, the LGBTQ community, and others experiencing injustice and oppression beyond her workplace to activism in the public square, attending numerous marches and rallies over the years at the local, state, and national levels - her last march being the Women's March in Washington, D.C. last January. On behalf of the UUFCM she organized our annual participation in the Alma Highland Festival Parade in solidarity with local LGBTQ activists and led a contingent to march in the UUSC Call to Winston/Salem, NC "Our Selma" Rally in July, 2013 with the Rev. Dr. William Barber.

Vicki served for a period of time on the board of the Gratiot County Community Foundation and has a long history of political activism working with the Gratiot County Democratic Party, helping establish their headquarters during election years and supporting progressive political candidates through financial donations and campaign volunteering.

Vicki Chessin has lived her life in the service of others and for the betterment of the world. We are grateful beyond words for her boundless generosity and the inspiration of her life and work...of her living and being.