

ARTICLE II TEXT COMPARISON: CURRENT vs PROPOSED

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KEY

- **Strikethrough** = Deleted current text
- **Bold** = proposed revised text
- **Green** = Current text/concept/theme found (exact or paraphrased) in proposed text
- **[xx Principle]** = Indicates match (exact concept, theme, or paraphrased) with one of our 8 principles

8th PRINCIPLE

Not part of current Article II. Adopted by First UU San Diego & 238 other congregations.

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, **covenant** to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build **a diverse multicultural Beloved Community** by our actions that accountably **dismantle racism** and **other oppressions** in ourselves and our institutions.

Unitarian Universalist Association: Bylaws and Rules Article II Principles and Purposes

Section C 2.1. Principles:

~~We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:~~

- ~~The **inherent worth and dignity of every person**;~~
- ~~**Justice, equity and compassion** in human relations;~~
- ~~Acceptance of one another and encouragement to **spiritual growth** in our congregations;~~
- ~~A **free and responsible search for truth and meaning**;~~
- ~~The **right of conscience** and the **use of the democratic process** within our congregations and in society at large;~~
- ~~The **goal of world community** with peace, liberty and **justice** for all;~~
- ~~Respect for the **interdependent web of all existence** of which we are a part.~~

The living tradition which we share draws from **many sources**:

- ~~**Direct experience** of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;~~
- ~~Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with **justice, compassion** and the transforming **power of love**;~~
- ~~**Wisdom from the world's religions** which inspires us in our **ethical** and spiritual life;~~
- ~~Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;~~
- ~~Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;~~

- ~~Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.~~

~~Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.~~

Section C-2.12. Purposes.

The Unitarian Universalist Association ~~will shall~~ devote its resources **to and use its organizational powers to and exercise its corporate powers** for religious, educational and humanitarian purposes. ~~Its~~ **The primary purposes of the Association is are to assist serve the needs of its member congregations in their vital ministries, support and train leaders both lay and professional, to foster lifelong faith formation, to heal historic injustices and to advance Unitarian Universalist values in the world.** ~~, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions and implement its principles.~~

The purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Association is to actively engage its members in the transformation of the world through liberating love.

Section C-2.2. Purposes Values and Covenant.

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:

[Image omitted; color name from image added after each of the 6 value names below.]

Interdependence [Orange]. We honor the interdependent web of all existence. [7th Principle]
We covenant to cherish Earth and all beings by creating and nurturing relationships of care and respect. With humility and reverence, we acknowledge our place in the great web of life, and we work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

Pluralism [Dark Blue]. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, experience, and theology.

We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. [4th Principle] We embrace our differences and commonalities [2nd Principle – Equity] with Love, curiosity, and respect.

Justice [Yellow]. [2nd & 6th Principle] We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.

We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. [2nd & 8th Principle]
We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions. [5th Principle]

Transformation [Purple]. We adapt to the changing world.

We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually [3rd Principle] and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

Generosity [Teal]. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.

We covenant to freely and compassionately [2nd Principle – Compassion] to share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

Equity [Red]. [2nd Principle] We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness. [1st Principle]

We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities. [2nd Principle]

Section C-2.3. Inspirations.

As Unitarian Universalists, we use, and are inspired by, sacred and secular understandings that help us to live into our values. We respect the histories, contexts and cultures in which they were created and are currently practiced.

These sources ground us and sustain us in ordinary, difficult, and joyous times. Grateful for the religious ancestries we inherit and the diversity which enriches our faith, we are called to ever deepen and expand our wisdom.

Section C-2.43. Inclusion.

Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons and groups with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge to replace such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect. We strive to be an association of congregations that truly welcome all persons **who share our values. We and commit to being an association of congregations** structuring congregational and associational life in ways that empowers and enhances everyone's participation-, **especially those with historically marginalized identities.** [8th Principle]

Section C-2.54. Freedom of Belief.

~~Nothing herein shall be deemed to infringe upon~~ **Congregational freedom and the individual's right of conscience [5th principle] are central to our** ~~freedom of belief which is inherent in the Unitarian Universalist and Unitarian heritages.~~ **Congregations may establish or to conflict with any statements of purpose, covenants, or and bonds of union so long as they do not require that members adhere to a particular creed.** ~~used by any congregation unless such is used as a creedal test.~~