

Seven Principles and the Article II Study Commission (A2SC)

Article II of the [UUA bylaws](#) contain the core of our faith — the principles and purposes. The UUA Board of Trustees selected an [Article II Study Commission](#) to review and propose revisions to this article. Its [two-year report](#) is approved for consideration at GA 2023.

The A2SC proposal to repeal principles and replace them with values is being debated nationally. We are delegates to GA who follow the conversation. The example below is a compromise substitute motion we'd like to submit to the A2SC for consideration. We seek your feedback; please send it to Susan Riegel Harding (ssrh41@gmail.com) or Kathleen MacLeod (kmacleod1@cox.net) by April 15th. Thank you for your comments.

The UUA Board of Trustees' [extravagant charge](#) (pg. 6) to the A2SC doesn't fit current bylaws, which lack due process to repeal and replace *original text*. Congregations voted for the initial Article II wording in [two plebiscites](#) (pg. 11) to adopt *principles* as the core of our new religion in 1961.

The bylaws need a higher standard -- a [formal amendment process](#) -- before GA ought to consent to repeal and replace Article II. Until congregations vote to repeal principles, GAs should only consider proposals that *interpret* them, like was done with prior Article II amendments.

UU principles cover life's quest for purpose and meaning individually (1), relationally (2), spiritually (3), rationally (4), communally (5), globally (6) and existentially (7). In support of the A2SC's charge (pg. 8) *to consider framings of our principles that allows them to be brief and poetic*, a compromise example of amending them to add [values language](#) (pg. 20) is offered:

- Unitarian Universalists covenant to affirm, promote and act on seven Principles:
- 1st: **Equity** for every person to flourish in their inherent worth, dignity, right of conscience and inclusion in society.
 - 2nd: **Compassion** in human relations, acceptance of one another with empathy, generosity, atonement and forgiveness.
 - 3rd: **Transformation** through spiritual growth with openness to life and change.

- 4th: **Pluralism** through culture, experience and theology, learning from one another in a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
- 5th: **Democracy** practiced in the denomination and society at large, building Beloved Community -- while mindful of minority rights -- centered in Love.
- 6th: **Justice** for a diverse world community, dismantled of racism and all forms of systemic oppression, where all thrive with peace and liberty.
- 7th: **Interdependence** cherishing Earth, all beings and our place in the great web of all existence.