

The 8th principle task group is submitting the following for a vote at the congregational meeting in June 2022:

The following motion: “We at UUSD wish to amend the principles we have adopted to add a commitment to love and to dismantling racism and other oppressions.”

- a) Yes, and I prefer:
 - a. “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.”
 - b. “The liberation, transformation and love that comes with dismantling racism and all oppressions in ourselves and in our society.”
- b) No

Explanation: After a year of discernment and study, the UUSD 8th principle task group believes that UUSD is committed to being a beloved community that does not tolerate racism or other oppressions. Therefore, it is appropriate for us as a congregation to make a public statement to that effect and to publicly commit to working toward making that a reality. A grassroots movement within the Unitarian Universalist faith community has proposed language for an 8th principle that would make such a statement. That statement is in (a) below. Some UUSD members agreed in principle but were uncomfortable with the language and developed (b) below.

- a) 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.
- b) The liberation, transformation and love that comes with dismantling racism and all oppressions in ourselves and in our society.

If adopted, either one would be added to the current principles, which state:

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

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part;
8. (New 8th principle).

As a congregation, UUSD has the right to add to the UUA principles, if we so choose. As Rev. Barbara Wells ten Hove explains, “The Principles are not dogma or doctrine, but rather a guide for those of us who choose to join and participate in Unitarian Universalist religious communities.”