

Resolution of Conscience and Statement of Positions of the Unitarian Universalists of Southern Delaware

WHEREAS, the membership of the Unitarian Universalists of Southern Delaware [herein called UUSD] recognizes the importance of continuing involvement in social and environmental justice issues, the right of conscience, and the use of the democratic process; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), UUSD affirms and promotes the following seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides:

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.

WHEREAS, UUSD has adopted as its Mission Statement: Nurture Spiritual Growth, Embrace Diversity, Work for Justice and Strive for a Loving World;

WHEREAS, UUSD supports the social justice agenda of the UUA;

WHEREAS, all members of UUSD should support any social and environmental justice activities undertaken in the name of the church,

WHEREAS, the Minister, the Board of Trustees and the Congregation desire to adopt a Resolution of Conscience and Statement of Positions regarding certain Social and Environmental Justice related issues,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that UUSD affirms its moral commitment to taking appropriate and positive action supporting:

Racial Justice -- Every person has value as a member of the human family. The creation of fair and loving communities requires addressing the suffering caused by racism and ethnic bias. We work to end racial and ethnic discrimination and injustice, starting within ourselves and moving out into the world around us. We advocate for stopping racist policies like mass imprisonment, attacks on voting rights, and racially biased policing and sentencing, including death penalty sentencing.

In support of this commitment, UUSD will continue to provide education for our members and the public on anti-racism, support repeal of the death penalty and other criminal justice reforms

that disproportionately impact people of color, support legislative efforts that expand access to voting, and improve law enforcement accountability.

Immigrant and Refugee Justice – People who leave their countries of origin do so for a variety of reasons. Refugees migrate out of necessity often in fear for their lives. Many immigrants migrate to create a better life for themselves and their families, also escaping political and social strife, gangs, and poverty. Our nation is stronger because of people who have migrated here and their descendants. Their migration does not change their humanity or our obligation to work for recognition of their worth and dignity.

In support of this commitment, UUSD will continue to provide educational and other support services to immigrants, work to help refugees integrate into our area, and advocate for people fleeing oppressive regimes.

Women, Family, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Justice -- Decisions about children, families, gender identity, and sexuality are some of life's most profound. We advocate not only for the freedom of those choices in each person's life journey, but also for the ability of all to realize wholeness with regard to their sexual and reproductive lives. We promote safe and healthy family environments and campaign publicly for just and compassionate laws for family planning and protection, reproductive health, and gender identity and equality.

In support of this commitment, UUSD will continue to be a welcoming community to the LGBTQ community, provide same-sex marriage services, support a woman's right to choose, and support programs that assist victims of gender identity discrimination, domestic violence, and human trafficking.

Economic Justice -- Upward mobility—the American Dream—has become a myth. Concentration of wealth and power in the hands of a few has accelerated. Half of all Americans are impoverished or struggling with debt, as the middle class shrinks due to technological advances, escalating costs for higher education, housing, and health care, and a tax structure that rewards the wealthy. People with poor health and limited education or with huge debts for either have diminished earning and buying power.

In support of this commitment, UUSD will provide education for our members and the public on the issues of escalating inequality, advocate for a living wage so that no one who works 40 hours per week lives in poverty, advocate for affordable health care and higher education, and provide support and services to the poor and the homeless in our community.

Environmental Justice – Sustaining life for future generations requires caring for the environment now. Already those who are most impacted by environmental destruction are

often those with the least power. Creating a sustainable way of life is consistent with our view of a just and compassionate world.

In support of this commitment, UUSD will seek to renew our certification as a green sanctuary, will provide education for our members and the public about the consequences of global warming, and support legislative efforts to expand sustainable energy initiatives.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that UUSD hereby authorizes the Minister, President of the Board of Trustees, Chair of the Social & Environmental Justice Committee and designees to advocate these positions on behalf of UUSD from the pulpit and at any public or other appropriate forum that provides an opportunity to promote and educate on the importance of said Positions.

ADOPTED THIS 11th DAY OF JUNE 2017