

The 8th Principle

Building Beloved Community
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF ARLINGTON-VA

Information Meeting about the 8th Principle

Sunday, September 30 in the Center (following both 9:15 and 11:15 services)

The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is considering the addition of an 8th principle to the 7 principles of the UUA Covenant. UUCA members will vote on whether to adopt the principle at a congregational meeting later this church year. The text of the proposed principle says:

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

To learn more, follow the 8th Principle Task Force on Facebook @UUCA8thPrinciple.

The principle encompasses several key concepts:

- “Journeying toward spiritual wholeness”
 - A fully mature spirituality extends beyond oneself –to others and includes a vision for transforming the world.
 - In our congregation, there is growing awareness of the ways in which our church and society as a whole are complicit in maintaining white supremacy.
 - We need to dismantle white supremacy in order to grow in our own spiritual journeys.
 - We need to do this work for our own future and that of our children.
- “Building a diverse, multicultural Beloved Community”
 - A Beloved Community happens when people of diverse racial, ethnic, educational, class, gender, and sexual orientation backgrounds and identities come together in relationships of love, respect, and care, and seek to realize justice in the world.
 - We have aspired to build Beloved Community in the past, but our efforts have fallen short.
 - We need to renew our commitment to this work in a public and forceful manner.
- “Actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions”
 - This is the only principle that specifically calls us to action.
 - This is the principle that holds us accountable to ourselves and each other.
 - This principle can help us fulfill the potential of our existing principles.