

In the Fall of 2017, the Leadership Council asked our Reimagining Philanthropy Taskforce to develop a Mission Statement for the congregation. The following is a draft that has been viewed and amended by the Leadership Council and many of our members who attended two Second Hour workshops on January 14 and 16. A Statement of Purpose was created rather than a Mission Statement because we wanted this document to embody many different spheres of our life together while also attempting to be specific about what we believe.

The Statement of Purpose will be brought to the congregation's attention during the Annual Meeting on Feb 25 and you will be asked to affirm the Statement then. It is not too late to share your viewpoint. If you are curious about some of the language and wish to either offer affirmations or objections, please do so. Once we get to the Annual Meeting, we will put forth a motion to accept the Statement and hope not to entertain dialogue about tweaks and changes at the Annual Meeting itself. So, now is your chance to offer some input. Please contact Rev. Shaw at 973-744-7424 x 202 or dshaw@unioncong.org. Thank-you.

Statement of Purpose

As Christians and as members of Union Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, we believe it is our purpose and calling to ...

- grow in relationship with God and neighbor through communal worship, fellowship, mutual respect, prayer, and service;
- empower each other, across generations, to discern Christian truth and meaning using a variety of sources;
- welcome and celebrate God's people, and affirm the many images of the Divine manifested in differing abilities and disabilities, ages, gender expressions, gender identities, sexual orientations, faith traditions, social and economic classes, ethnicities, colors, races, immigration statuses, and nationalities;
- minister to others, ethically, mindfully, and creatively, aligning our spiritual gifts and financial resources;
- work to recognize and relieve systemic oppression, individual suffering, poverty, and isolation, through dialogue, action, and partnership with other religious and secular organizations;
- honor the environment as God's sacred creation, wounded and in need of healing, worthy of praise and protection;
- reflect the love and grace of God in all that we are, joyous in Christ, and grateful in the Spirit.