



FAQs about the 8th Principle

1) I have issues with the wording of the proposed 8th Principle. Can we change the wording?

We are being asked to adopt the proposed wording of the principle as it stands, and many other UU congregations are also adopting it with the same wording. This is intended to show a groundswell of support for the 8th Principle from many congregations. It would not show unified support if individual congregations change the wording at this point. The wording will probably change as it moves through the UUA process before it is voted on at a General Assembly (GA). There will likely be opportunities for GA delegates to change the wording as well. Because questions about the wording of the final principle will be deferred to the GA, we can focus on what the principle asks of us to do.

2) Doesn't the first principle of the UUA covenant address this concept?

Although the first principle affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person, it does not call us to action specifically to address white supremacy, racism, or other oppressions that are destructive of human worth and dignity. In addition, the first principle has existed for many years, and yet racism persists within our minds, within our congregations, and within our denomination.

3) Why is it important for the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to adopt an 8th Principle?

The most compelling reason is that members of color have asked the association to adopt the principle to commit us to take action in dismantling racism and other oppressions. Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) and Diverse Revolutionary UU Ministries (DRUUM) have urged the UUA to adopt the 8th Principle. Adopting the 8th Principle makes it clear that all UUs strongly support the long-term work of ending white supremacy.

4) Why is it important for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington (UUCA) to adopt the 8th Principle?

The time needed for the UUA to fully adopt the resolution could be reduced by a strong show of support from individual congregations.

Congregations that have adopted it include All Souls Unitarian in Washington, DC, First UU Church of Richmond, the UU Church of Annapolis, and UU Church of the Restoration in Philadelphia. We would be adding our voice as one of the largest congregations to the voices of the others.

Adopting the principle at UUCA would represent an important step in our ongoing journey to dismantle racism in our own congregation. Members of UUCA have been working on promoting racial justice for decades. In 2016, many of our members signed a Pledge to End Racism and participated in Living the Pledge training and in allyship workshops to build our knowledge and skills. The 8th principle will serve as a guide for all the ways we shape the life of our congregation both internally, in ensuring all our decisions are welcoming and inclusive of people of diverse backgrounds, and externally, in our relationships outside the church walls.

*Reference: <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>

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