

Faithful Defiance of Authoritarianism: A Call to Action by the First Unitarian Society of Westchester

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists affirm and promote the use of the democratic process in society at large, as enshrined in our Fifth Principle and expressed in our newly adopted commonly held Religious Values;

WHEREAS, democracy in the United States faces unprecedented challenges from rising authoritarianism, including efforts to undermine free and fair elections, suppress the vote, spread disinformation, erode civil liberties, and concentrate power in the hands of the few;

WHEREAS, the imposition of authoritarianism threatens the worth and dignity of all people, particularly those already marginalized by systemic racism, xenophobia, misogyny, economic injustice, and other forms of oppression;

WHEREAS, our faith calls us to act in solidarity with those defending democratic norms, institutions, and rights;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this congregation:

1. **Affirms its commitment to democracy** as a moral and spiritual imperative and as essential to the realization of justice, equity, and compassion in human society;
2. **Condemns efforts** to subvert democratic institutions, suppress voting rights, intimidate public servants, manipulate the judiciary, and spread authoritarian ideologies;
3. **Commits to nonviolent action** in defense of democratic values, and to active resistance against authoritarian encroachment through legal, ethical, and peaceful means;
4. **Supports local, state, and national efforts** to protect and expand voting rights, ensure election integrity, and hold leaders accountable to the rule of law;
5. **Encourages education and civic engagement** within and beyond the congregation, including hosting forums, supporting nonpartisan voter registration efforts, engaging in public witness for democracy, including non-violent protests, strikes, and disruptive events (non-cooperation) as needed;
6. **Partners with other faith communities and civic organizations** to build a broad-based movement to uphold democratic principles and resist authoritarianism, in our local area, one that can help feed a national movement of similar character;
7. **Create a task force, working group, or leadership team** to guide, coordinate, and report on these efforts, ensuring that our actions remain grounded in our Unitarian Universalist values and inclusive of all members of our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT:

- This resolution shall be shared with our regional and national Unitarian Universalist bodies, as well as other faith-based organizations that share our moral concern for inclusive democracy and our freedoms.
- Our congregation remains steadfast in love, courage, and commitment as we work to build a just, democratic, and compassionate society for all.