

Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation at White Plains
468 Rosedale Avenue · White Plains, NY 10605
914-946-1660 · cucwp.org



LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION: THE UUA ARTICLE II STUDY COMMISSION

When the Unitarian Universalist Association adopted our current seven principles in the mid-1980s, it was felt that it was an important exercise in articulating our values and what we stood for. At the time, the general feeling was that the principles did a pretty good job of doing that, but it wasn't the last word on the subject. There can be no last word on what Unitarian Universalism is and means. Every 20-25 years the process would need to be repeated. Each generation would have to do the work of re-articulating Unitarian Universalism.

While the delegates at the General Assemblies in the mid-80s understood that their work was important, they would have been surprised at how profoundly the 7 principles they adopted would be embraced. It didn't happen right away. But those 7 principles grew on us. They touched a nerve that few UUs 40 years ago quite grasped that we had.

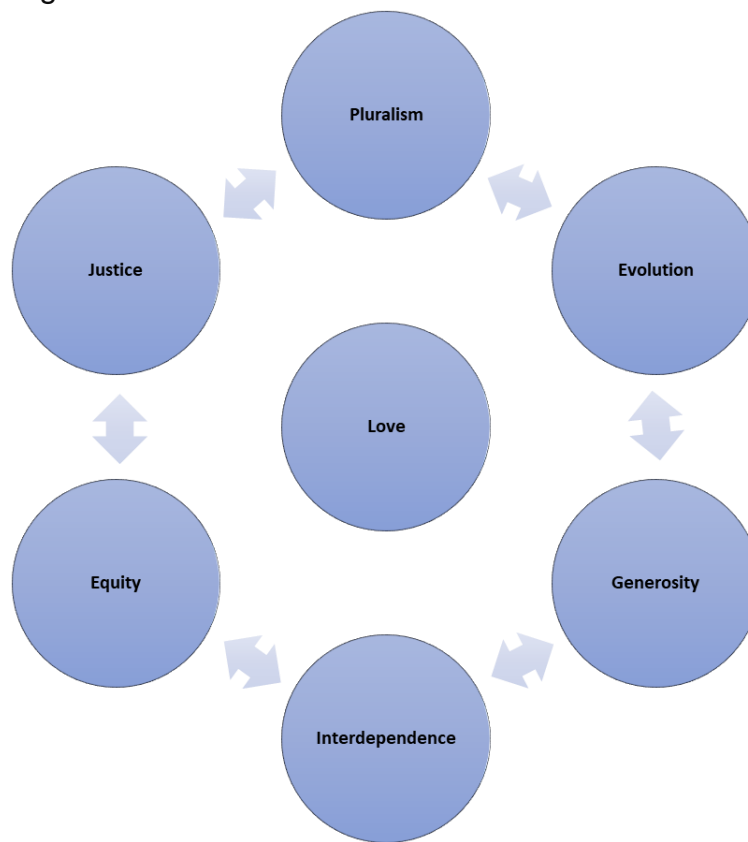
But the need for a subsequent generation to undertake the work of re-articulating for themselves what we are all about has not gone away. And a new proposal is now before us.

We Unitarian Universalists are a people of covenant, not of creed. The covenant is expressed in different ways by different generations. Ultimately, the covenant – the agreement to be together as a people – is beyond words. Each generation must make their own effort at putting into words something that is ultimately beyond words. The covenant itself is timeless; the specific language we use to express that timeless covenant must, necessarily, be rooted in a particular historical moment.

Accordingly, an [Article II Study Commission](#) was formed and has been at work for the last couple years to draft a new expression of our covenant. Their work is now before us, and we are invited – urged – to attend carefully to what it says.

The draft was presented at last summer's GA and has been updated with feedback from the GA.

The updated draft of the principles focuses on seven key values with love being the center holding all together.



Love inspires and powers the passion with which we embody our values. Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:

- **Justice.** We work to be in diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all people thrive. We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of oppression within individuals and our institutions. We are accountable to each other for this work.
- **Generosity.** We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely share our faith, presence, and resources. Compassionate generosity connects us one to another in relationships of mutuality.
- **Evolution.** We adapt to the changing world. We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Evolution is fundamental to life and to our Unitarian Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.
- **Pluralism.** We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, theology, and experience. We covenant to learn from one another and openly explore the depth and breadth of our many wisdoms. We embrace our differences and commonalities with love, curiosity, and respect.

- **Equity.** We declare that every person has the right to flourish with dignity and worthiness. We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain a fully inclusive and accessible community of communities.
- **Interdependence.** We honor the sacred interdependent web of all existence. With humility we understand our place in the web. We covenant to care for and respect the earth and all beings by fostering relationships of mutuality. We work to repair the bonds we have broken

The link to the full draft is: https://www.uua.org/files/2022-10/article2_draft_language_102022.pdf

The Article II Study Commission is holding Zoom sessions to receive feedback. CUUC members are encouraged to attend a Zoom session and provide feedback. You'll need to register to attend a session. When you do, you will receive the Zoom link via email.

Zoom Feedback Session Registration

- [Saturday, 11/05 at 3 p.m. Eastern](#)
- [Sunday, 11/06 at 2 p.m. Eastern](#)
- [Tuesday, 11/08 at 10 p.m. Eastern](#)
- [Wednesday, 11/09 at 8 p.m. Eastern](#)
- [Thursday, 11/10 at 7 p.m. Eastern](#)
- [Saturday, 11/12 at 3 p.m. Eastern](#)
- [Sunday, 11/13 at 2 p.m. Eastern](#)
- [Monday, 11/14 at 9 p.m Eastern](#)

We will be hosting a forum on this important discussion soon. Please check future e-Communitarian newsletters for further information.

In Faith,

Rev Meredith Garmon, Minister
Creighton Cray, Chair, Board of Trustees
Nov 4, 2022