

Exploring the 8th Principle: Beloved Community

We will explore the concept of “Beloved Community” as used in the proposed UUA 8th Principle (“We 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.”)

The authors of the 8th Principle explain “Beloved Community happens when people of diverse racial, ethnic, educational, class, gender, sexual orientation backgrounds/identities come together in an interdependent relationship of love, mutual respect, and care that seeks to realize justice within the community and in the broader world.”

Possible discussion questions for reflection:

- What would be required to create the interdependent relationship described by the authors quoted above? Is it achievable at all?
- Is there a level of Beloved Community we should have achieved in our own congregation before looking to the broader community and world? If so, how?
- How might adopting the 8th Principle at First U encourage awareness and action that will move us along the long arc leading to Justice for All?