

Handout for Article II Teach-In Videos

This teach-in was hosted by the Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT on Jan 21, 2024.
The edited three-part video is available at Savethe7Principles.org.*

CURRENT ARTICLE II	PROPOSED REVISION TO ARTICLE II
<p>ARTICLE II Principles and Purposes Section C-2.2. Purposes.</p> <p>The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to and exercise its corporate powers for religious, educational and humanitarian purposes. The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions and implement its principles</p>	<p>1 Article II Purposes and Covenant 2 Section C-2.1. Purposes. 3 The Unitarian Universalist Association will devote its resources to and use its organizational 4 powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. Its primary purposes are: 5 • to assist congregations in their vital ministries, 6 • to support and train leaders both lay and professional, 7 • to foster lifelong faith formation and spiritual development, 8 • to heal historic injustices, 9 • to support and encourage the creation of new Unitarian Universalist communities, and 10 • to advance our Unitarian Universalist values in the world. 11 The Unitarian Universalist Association will actively engage its members in the transformation of 12 the world through liberating Love.</p>
<p>Section C-2.1. Principles.</p> <p>We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The inherent worth and dignity of every person; • Justice, equity and compassion in human relations; • Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations; • A free and responsible search for truth and meaning; • The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in 	<p>13 Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant. 14 As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our 15 Association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of 16 freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love. 17 Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are 18 accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual</p>

society at large;

- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

19 discipline of Love.

20 Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:

21 **Shared Unitarian Universalist Values**

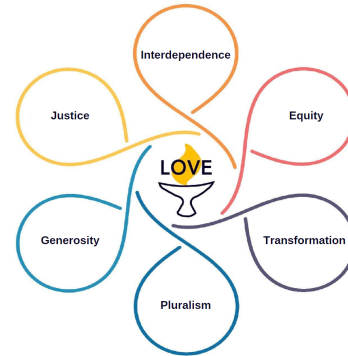


Image Description: This image is of a chalice with an overlay of the word Love over the flame, with six outstretched arms that create a circle around each of the core values and form a six-petal flower shape. Each arm is a different color, and clockwise they are: Interdependence (Orange), Equity (Red), Transformation (Purple), Pluralism (Blue), Generosity (Green), and Justice (Yellow).

[Suggested shift to Rule and recommended edits] The UUA may create visual representations of the values, which put love at the center and interconnect each value, and may periodically update that image. A version of this image shall be included, with image description, after “Shared Unitarian Universalist Values” in the published version of these bylaws.

22 **Interdependence.** We honor the interdependent web of all existence. With reverence for the

23 great web of life and with humility, we acknowledge our place in it.

24 We covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation. We will create and nurture

25 sustainable relationships of care and respect, mutuality and justice. We will work to repair harm

26 and damaged relationships.

27 **Pluralism.** We celebrate that we are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and

28 theology.

29 We covenant to learn from one another
in our free and responsible search for
truth and

30 meaning. We embrace our differences
and commonalities with Love, curiosity,
and respect.

31 **Justice.** We work to be diverse
multicultural Beloved Communities
where all thrive.

32 We covenant to dismantle racism and all
forms of systemic oppression. We
support the use of

33 inclusive democratic processes to make
decisions within our congregations, our
Association,

34 and society at large.

35 **Transformation.** We adapt to the
changing world.

36 We covenant to collectively transform
and grow spiritually and ethically.
Openness to change is

37 fundamental to our Unitarian and
Universalist heritages, never complete
and never perfect.

38 **Generosity.** We cultivate a spirit of
gratitude and hope.

39 We covenant to freely and
compassionately share our faith,
presence, and resources. Our

40 generosity connects us to one another in
relationships of interdependence and
mutuality.

41 **Equity.** We declare that every person
has the right to flourish with inherent
dignity and

42 worthiness.

43 We covenant to use our time, wisdom,
attention, and money to build and
sustain fully accessible

44 and inclusive communities.

(Principles and Sources continued. . .)

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic people which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.
- Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

45 **Section C-2.3. Inspirations.**

- 46 Direct experiences of transcending mystery and wonder are primary sources of Unitarian
- 47 Universalist inspiration. These experiences open our hearts, renew our spirits, and transform
- 48 our lives. We draw upon, and are inspired by, sacred, secular, and scientific understandings
- 49 that help us make meaning and live into our values. These sources ground us and sustain us
- 50 in ordinary, difficult, and joyous times. We respect the histories, contexts, and cultures in which
- 51 these sources were created and are currently practiced. Grateful for the experiences that move
- 52 us, aware of the religious ancestries we inherit, and enlivened by the diversity which enriches
- 53 our faith, we are called to ever deepen and expand our wisdom.

<p>Section C-2.3. Inclusion.</p> <p>Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons and groups with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge to replace such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect. We strive to be an association of congregations that truly welcome all persons and commit to structuring congregational and associational life in ways that empower and enhance everyone’s participation.</p>	<p>54 Section C-2.3. Inclusion.</p> <p>55 Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons</p> <p>56 and groups with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge to replace</p> <p>57 such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect. We strive to be</p> <p>58 an Association of congregations that truly welcome all persons who share our values. We</p> <p>59 commit to being an Association of congregations that empowers and enhances everyone’s</p> <p>60 participation, especially those with historically marginalized identities.</p>
<p>Section C-2.4. Freedom of Belief.</p> <p>Nothing herein shall be deemed to infringe upon the individual freedom of belief which is inherent in the Universalist and Unitarian heritages or to conflict with any statement of purpose, covenant, or bond of union used by any congregation unless such is used as a creedal test.</p>	<p>61 Section C-2.5. Freedom of belief.</p> <p>62 Congregational freedom and the individual’s right of conscience are central to our Unitarian</p> <p>63 Universalist heritage.</p> <p>64 Congregations may establish statements of purpose, covenants, and bonds of union so long</p> <p>65 as they do not require that members adhere to a particular creed.</p>

Notes

*A *Teach-In On The Revision of Article II*, hosted by the Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT, on January 21, 2024. Judy Robbins (Unitarian Society of Hartford, CT) and Carol Lacoss (Unitarian Universalist Society East of Manchester, CT) present an overview of the changes and a text analysis to a live audience and Zoom attendees. The videos in three parts are here:

<https://savethe7principles.org/videos/teach-in-on-revision-of-article-ii-index/>



UUA Bylaws - <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/bylaws>