



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
PITTSBURGH • JUNE 21 - 25, 2023

Article II Proposal (amendments listed separately below)

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, support and train leaders both lay and
6 professional, to foster lifelong faith formation, to heal historic injustices, and to advance our
7 Unitarian Universalist values in the world.

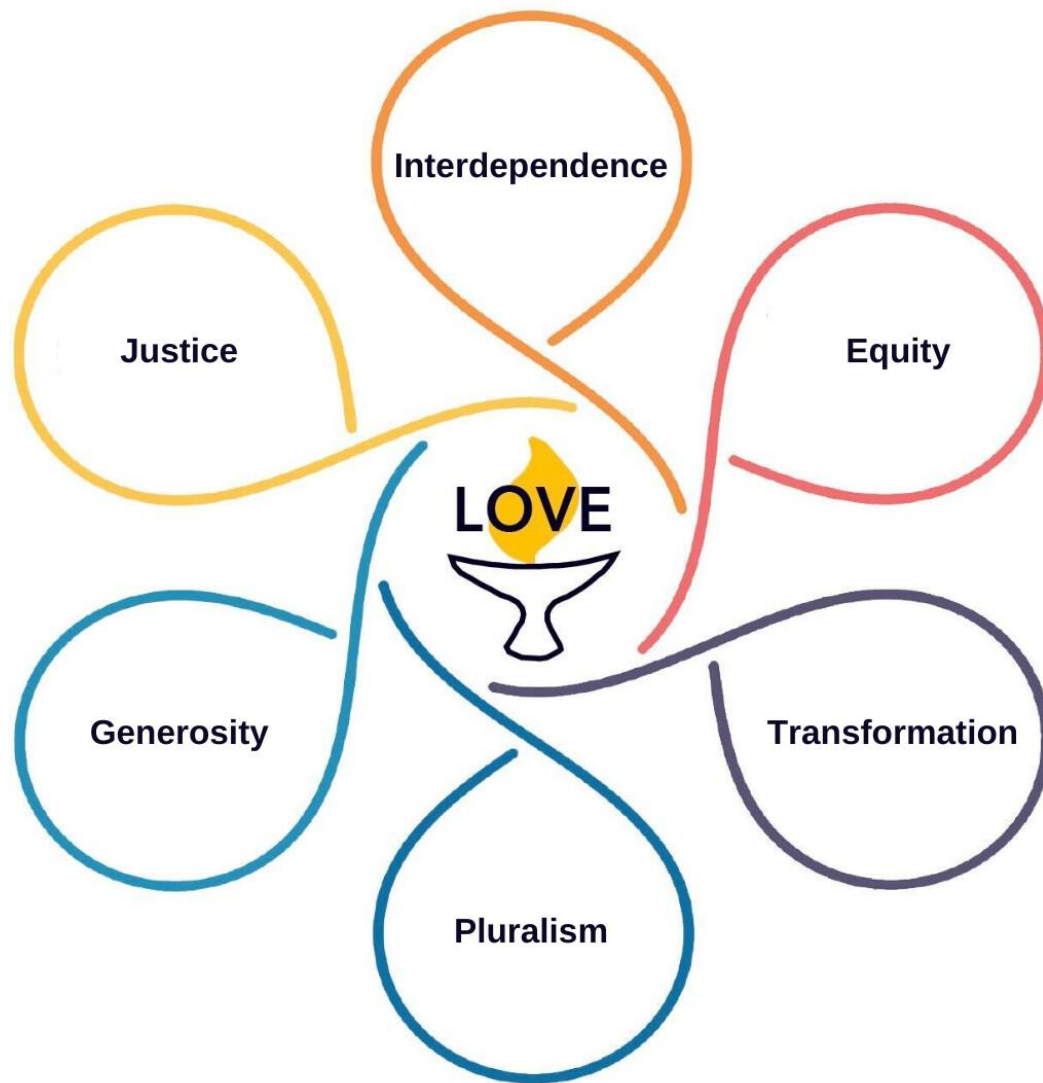
8 The purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Association is to actively engage its members in the
9 transformation of the world through liberating Love.

10 Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant.

11 As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our
12 association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of
13 freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love.

14 Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are
15 accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual
16 discipline of Love.

17 Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:



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

23 **Interdependence.** We honor the interdependent web of all existence

24 We covenant to cherish the Earth and all beings by creating and nurturing relationships of care
25 and respect. With humility and reverence, we acknowledge our place in the great web of life,
26 and we work to repair harm 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.

34 **Transformation.** We adapt to the changing world.
35 We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change
36 is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

37 **Generosity.** We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.
38 We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our
39 generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

40 **Equity.** We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and
41 worthiness.
42 We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully
43 accessible and inclusive communities.

44 **Section C-2.3. Inspirations.**

45 As Unitarian Universalists, we use, and are inspired by, sacred and secular understandings
46 that help us live into our values. We respect the histories, contexts, and cultures in which
47 they were created and are currently practiced. These sources ground us and sustain us in
48 ordinary, difficult, and joyous times. Grateful for the religious ancestries we inherit and the
49 diversity which enriches our faith, we are called to ever deepen and expand our wisdom.

50 **Section C-2.4. Inclusion.**

51 Systems of power, privilege, and oppression have traditionally created barriers for persons
52 and groups with particular identities, ages, abilities, and histories. We pledge to replace
53 such barriers with ever-widening circles of solidarity and mutual respect. We strive to be
54 an association of congregations that truly welcome all persons who share our values. We
55 commit to being an association of congregations that empowers and enhances everyone's
56 participation, especially those with historically marginalized identities.

57 **Section C-2.5. Freedom of belief.**

58 Congregational freedom and the individual's right of conscience are central to our Unitarian
59 Universalist heritage.

60 Congregations may establish statements of purpose, covenants, and bonds of union so long
61 as they do not require that members adhere to a particular creed.

UUA Bylaws Section C-15.1: If the proposal receives preliminary approval, within six months after the close of the General Assembly, the study commission, taking into account the decisions of the General Assembly, shall prepare the proposal to amend Article II.

Approved Amendments

Amendment #	Proposer	Section	Summary	lines impacted
Amendment 30	Viola Abbitt	C-2.1 Purposes	adds spiritual development	6
Amendment 26	David Schwartz	C-2.1 Purposes	adds creation of new UU communities	6
Amendment 52	John Millspaugh	C-2.2 Values and Covenant	revises value of Interdependence	23-26
Amendment 5	Matthew Johnson	C-2.3 Inspirations	adds language on mystery and wonder	45-49
Amendment 13	Kathi Bayne	C-2.2 Values and Covenant	revises justice/democracy value	33

Amendment 30 by Viola Abbitt: adds spiritual development

Bold underlining indicate insertion ; [brackets indicate deletion.]

I propose the following change to line 6

6 professional, to foster lifelong faith formation **and spiritual development**, to heal historic injustices, and to advance our

[Amendment 26 by David Schwartz: adds creation of new UU communities](#)

Bold underlining indicate insertion ; [brackets indicate deletion.]

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, support and train leaders both lay and
6 professional, to foster lifelong faith formation, to heal historic injustices, **to support and encourage the**
creation of new Unitarian Universalist communities, and to advance our
7 Unitarian Universalist values in the world.

[Amendment 52 by John Millspaugh: revises value of Interdependence](#)

Bold underlining indicate insertion ; [brackets indicate deletion.]

The "Interdependence" value and covenant statement currently reads:

23 Interdependence. We honor the interdependent web of all existence.

24 We covenant to cherish Earth and all beings by creating and nurturing relationships of care
25 and respect. With humility and reverence, we acknowledge our place in the great web of life,
26 and we work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

Our amendments would result in the following:

Interdependence. We honor the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

With humility and reverence, we covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation, creating and nurturing sustainable relationships of repair, mutuality and justice.

Here is the current statement, showing amendments: :

23 Interdependence. We honor the interdependent web of all existence **of which we are a part.**

24 With humility and reverence, we covenant to [cherish] **protect** Earth and all beings **from exploitation,** [by]
[creating and nurturing **sustainable** relationships of [care] **repair, mutuality,**

25 and [respect] justice. [With humility and reverence, we acknowledge our place in the great web of life,
26 and we work to repair harm and damaged relationships.]

[Amendment 5 by Matthew Johnson: adds language on mystery and wonder](#)

Bold underlining indicate insertion ; [brackets indicate deletion.]

Lines 45-49

As Unitarian Universalists, we **proclaim that direct experiences of transcending mystery and wonder are a primary source of inspiration. These experiences open our hearts, renew our spirits, and transform our lives.** **We draw upon,** and are inspired by, sacred, [and] secular, **and scientific** understandings that help us **make meaning and** live into our values. We respect the histories, contexts, and cultures in which these understandings were created and are currently practiced. These sources ground us and sustain us in ordinary, difficult, and joyous times. Grateful for the **experiences that move us, aware of the** religious ancestries we inherit, and **enlivened by** the diversity which enriches our faith, we are called to ever deepen and expand our wisdom.

Amendment 13 by Kathi Bayne: revises justice/democracy value

Bold underlining indicate insertion ; [brackets indicate deletion.]

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 CONGREGATION AND THE SOCIETY AT LARGE.**