

Roadmap to Justice

The 8th PRINCIPLE:

*Affirm and promote journeying toward spiritual wholeness
by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community
by our actions that accountably dismantle racism
and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.*

Dear UU Friends,

Being a justice-seeking people means opening our eyes and our minds to acknowledge past and present injustices. Once we are aware of these often-painful truths, we can start to make changes in ourselves and our institutions. In that spirit, a subcommittee of the UUA drafted an 8th PRINCIPLE to go with the seven we already know, and is asking that UU congregations study and adopt it. This is an exciting and critical task.

First Universalist Church of Yarmouth created an Anti-Racism Working Group (AWG) in 2020. The AWG will lead the congregation through a series of conversations and experiences with the hope of adopting the 8th Principle at our MidYear Meeting in late January 2021. The text of the 8th Principle is above. Yes, it is long. Here is the essence of it: "to dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions." Please talk with one of us (names are below) if you'd like to know more background.

The AWG's mission is to support the church in adopting and LIVING the 8th Principle. This is a milestone on a much longer journey toward spiritual wholeness. By declaring our intent to dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions, we place First Universalist on a wide pathway, rising up and traveling with many others of faith and hope, believing in a better world.

Goals to achieve our mission include educating ourselves and our congregation, by recommending (in Channels, weeks 3 and 4 of each month) books, videos and actions. During this early education phase, actions include hosting Sunday Morning Learning Hour, recommending racial justice movies and supporting black owned businesses, and naming half-plate recipients such as Northeast Farmers for People of Color.

Once the 8th Principle is adopted, we will focus on deeper education and actions open to all, such as exploring hosting facilitated conversations about race, and advocating for tribal sovereignty. We welcome your recommendations as well.

In peace and friendship,

The AWG: Marge Titcomb, Andrew Tonks, Jane Makela, Steve Thomas, and Sarah Witte