



White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church

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Dear Gini and Peter,
and members of the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Association,

Thank you. For responding swiftly, boldly, faithfully and thoughtfully, with open minds and open hearts, we thank you. We wholeheartedly applaud the decision of the UUA Board of Trustees to present to the Minneapolis General Assembly a business resolution directing the GA Planning Committee to recommend an alternate location for the 2012 Assembly.

With many Unitarian Universalists, and with many, many others, we received news of the passage of SB 1070 in Arizona with sadness and with deep concern. We were proud when Chris Coleman, the mayor of St. Paul here in Minnesota, was among the first to declare that no city employees would attend work-related events in the state of Arizona, and no conferences or meetings would be scheduled there until the law is repealed. We have been inspired as one public witness after another has called forth a chorus of voices from so many communities (including the UUA's own *Standing on the Side of Love* campaign) to denounce the law and dispel the dangerous fear behind it. We agree with Peter that this law "undermines everything our nation stands for."

As congregational leaders, we know it is difficult to discern in the moment which issues may require bold, decisive action and the weight of prophetic speaking. We are mindful that clear and careful arguments against the boycott and against removal of the 2012 Assembly have been made on behalf of the very people who will be most injured by this law: workers (particularly in Arizona's hospitality industry), the poor, the disenfranchised, all those without voice for whom our principled presence could be a sign of hope. And yet – we believe that in this moment the boycott will speak even more powerfully, and more effectively, to those within and beyond Arizona. We believe that it is right, and justified, and that through this witness we will stand side by side with long-time partners and with new allies, affirming the worth and dignity of all.

We understand that if our delegates in Minneapolis affirm this resolution, the cost may be high, yet we applaud your intention to ask our members to contribute funds not only toward moving GA, but also toward ongoing work for justice in Arizona, and renewed efforts to become a truly multicultural, anti-racist Association. We will engage this struggle with you.

With gratitude for your leadership and vision, and in faith,

Marcia Yanz, President

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White Bear Unitarian Universalist Church, Mahtomedi, Minnesota

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