

**Proposed AIW A:
Consider Divestment from the Fossil Fuel Industry**

BECAUSE the Sources of Unitarian Universalism counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalist congregations covenant, in their Seventh Principle, to respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, and member congregations have demonstrated their commitment this principle in various ways, including by Green Sanctuary Certification, and

BECAUSE, the 2006 Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Statement of Conscience calls on Unitarian Universalist Congregations to “[u]se congregational financial resources to positively address the global warming/climate change crisis,” and

BECAUSE, the “UUA Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines” (2008), state that investments in companies engaged in negative global impact activities are to be avoided;

WHEREAS, the fossil fuel industry currently controls fossil fuel reserves that, if burned, will produce more than five times the amount of greenhouse gas emissions required to raise global temperatures beyond 2°C, the level that leaders of 167 countries, including the United States, have agreed represents a threshold beyond which civilization cannot survive without enormous suffering;

WHEREAS, these reserves are built into the share price of these companies, and therefore responsible climate policy – to leave most of the reserves in the ground – would lead to a sharp drop in the market value of Fossil Fuel Company (FFC) shares;

WHEREAS, a growing and global movement (“350.org”) is calling upon universities, pension funds, public entities and religious institutions to divest their investments in 200 FFCs, and Unitarian Universalists’ participation in this campaign – or refusal to participate – will define us to the public now and for generations to come;

WHEREAS, further information and discussion regarding the divestment movement in UUA congregations is available at divestfossilfuels.wordpress.com or by e-mail at divestment@uumilwaukee.org

THEREFORE, profiting from investments in the fossil fuel industry is morally wrong and violates our Principles and Sources,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the 2013 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association calls upon delegates to begin a denomination-wide conversation within their congregations about divesting from fossil fuels. Congregations might discuss the following:

1. Stopping any new direct investments in FFCs as listed in Carbon Tracker’s reports;
2. Divesting of all direct securities holdings in FFCs within the next 5 years;
3. Investing in diversified, socially responsible, and climate-friendly securities, and securities in the renewable energy and efficiency sector.
4. Investing in making their own facilities more energy efficient, make widespread use of renewable energy, adopt conservation and efficiency measures;
5. Evaluating the effectiveness of shareholder advocacy.

Proposed AIW C:
Support the proposed 28th “WE THE PEOPLE” Amendment to the Constitution:
Corporations are not persons and money is not speech

BECAUSE Unitarian Universalists believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every human person, and in the use of the democratic process in society at large, and because approval of the 2011 AIW opposing Citizens United paved the way for the UUA to take the spiritual lead in the passage of the proposed 28th amendment, which states that corporations are not persons and money is not speech;

WHEREAS a series of U.S. Supreme Court rulings have established corporations as persons, equated money with speech, and eliminated limits on amounts that corporations can contribute to political campaigns and political advertising;

WHEREAS these court-created doctrines have flooded the political landscape with unprecedented amounts of money from corporations and other wealthy interests, corrupting our democratic processes and putting our entire democracy at risk, and

WHEREAS Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides for amendments, a process that has occurred 27 times including seven constitutional amendments that have overturned U.S. Supreme Court decisions; and

WHEREAS the “WE THE PEOPLE” 28th Amendment to the Constitution was drafted by Move to Amend, a national coalition of organizations seeking to establish true democracy of, by and for the people and was introduced in Congress as H.J.R.29 on February 14, 2013 by Representatives Rick Nolan (DFL-MN) and Mark Pocan (D-WI); and

WHEREAS Move to Amend is successfully initiating and supporting needed actions NOW at city, county and state levels necessary to achieve passage of this amendment; and

WHEREAS the UUJEC (Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community), UUA (board of the Unitarian Universalist Association), the UUSC (Unitarian Universalist Service Committee) and various congregations have already endorsed Move to Amend; and

WHEREAS other proposed amendments to the Constitution to overturn *Citizens United* do not eliminate both corporate personhood and money as speech;;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the 2013 General Assembly instructs the Unitarian Universalist Association to make their endorsement formal and public, supporting the efforts of the Move to Amend coalition and the 28th “We the People” Amendment; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the 2013 General Assembly further requests member congregations or their social justice committees to pass resolutions of support and endorse Move to Amend at www.movetoamend.org/organizations , and individuals to sign the petition at

34 www.movetoamend.org and, contact their U.S. Representative to co-sponsor HJR29; and

35 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the 2013 General Assembly encourages Unitarian
36 Universalist Legislative Ministries nationwide (www.uustatenetworks.org) and other affiliated
37 Unitarian Universalist organizations to join this important cause.

38 Working together with other groups and other faith traditions, we can make a significant impact
39 to further the progress of the proposed comprehensive 28th Amendment to preserve the
40 Constitutional rights that our founding fathers intended solely for human persons, restore the
41 effective voice of “We the People” and save our democracy.

Proposed AIW F:

Condemn the racist mistreatment of young men of color by police

Whereas programs such as the “War on Drugs” and “Stop and Frisk” are actively used by police to harass and oppress communities of color.

Whereas Michelle Alexander, at the 2012 UUA General Assembly said, “We use our criminal justice system to label people of color ‘criminals’ and then engage in all the practices we supposedly left behind... As a criminal, you have scarcely more rights, and arguably less respect, than a black man living in Alabama at the height of Jim Crow. We have not ended racial caste in America; we have merely redesigned it.”ⁱ

Whereas this racist harassment has led to a growing list of African-American and Hispanic youth who have been mistreated and incarcerated by police action,ⁱⁱ

Whereas thousands of people, Asian, Latin, Black and White, have been involved in mass demonstrations seeking the ending of this racist mistreatment and violence by police.ⁱⁱⁱ

Whereas We, as Unitarian Universalists have principles that provide us a clear mandate to protest such treatment .

- Unitarian Universalist principles affirm the goal of a just community, representing unity in our multi-racial world;
- Unitarian Universalist principles affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Whereas: The practice mainly targets young men of color and treats them in a racist manner which negates their inherent worth and dignity;

Therefore be it resolved that the 2013 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association affirms to uphold our principles and condemn racist practices displayed in what Michelle Alexander described in her book as “the New Jim Crow” and calls upon member congregations to:

- Condemn the practice of mistreatment through programs such as “Stop and Frisk” which mainly target young men of color in our society which negates their inherent worth and dignity and continues the mass practice of institutional racism within our society

We also call upon our member congregations to:

- Petition local, state, and federal representatives to demand an end to the practice of institutional racism in the form of programs like “Stop and Frisk”
- Actively demonstrate alongside others who are fighting to change the laws that allow police harassment that result in violence against communities of color.

ⁱ Alexander, Michelle. *New Jim Crow, The: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, Author: [Michelle Alexander](#) Product Code: 3693 ISBN: 9781595586438 Publisher: The New Press Publication Date: 1/16/12

ⁱⁱ http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/04/08/drug-war-mass-incarceration_n_3034310.html The Drug War And Mass Incarceration By The Numbers The Huffington Post | By [Matt Sledge](#) Posted: 04/08/2013 7:34 am EDT | Updated: 04/08/2013 1:24 pm EDT

ⁱⁱⁱ <http://www.nyclu.org/june17> Father's Day March in NYC Against Stop-and-Frisk Abuse