



Article II Study Commission

January 2023 Article II Report to the Board of Trustees



Article II Study Commission

Members of the Commission

Commissioners

- Rev. Cheryl M. Walker, co-chair
- Dr. Rob Spirko, co-chair
- Dr. Paula Cole Jones
- Satya Mamdani
- Maya Waller
- Becky Brooks (2020-2022)

Board Liaisons

- Rev. Meg Riley, Co-Moderator
- Kathy Burek
- Rev. Dr. Gregory C. Carrow-Boyd (2020-2021)

Staff Support

- Rev. Marcus Fogliano, Project Manager to the Office of the President



Charge to the Commission from the UUA Board

We charge this commission to root its work in Love as a principal guide in its work; attending particularly to the ways that we (and our root traditions) have understood and articulated Love, and how we have acted out of Love.

The Commission is charged with reviewing all sections of Article II, and is free to revise, replace, or restructure them as needed to meet the objectives stated above. There is nothing sacred about the number of principles or sources, nor their specific wordings, nor in the way that Article II is laid out. We encourage creativity.



Article II Study Process & Timeline

- Build a shared understanding of the scope of the Study Commission's charge and the history of Article II.
- Design a comprehensive and inclusive feedback process, including:
 - Created Congregational Discussion Resources
 - Engaged with Affiliate Organizations
 - General Assembly Sessions
 - Informational videos reached 7,765 viewers
 - 29 surveys generated a total of 10,925 responses
 - 45 feedback sessions, with 4,611 total participants.





Article II Study Process & Timeline cont'd...

- The finished Article II Study Report is included in January 2023 Board Packet and at uua.org/a2sc-report.
- Article II Forums will be held so people can learn more and talk about the proposal.
- There will be opportunities for delegates to recommend amendments to the proposal including at a mini-assembly at General Assembly.
- General Assembly 2023, Simple Majority Vote to move proposed Article II forward to final vote at General Assembly 2024.
- General Assembly 2024, Adoption of New Article II Requiring 2/3rds Majority Vote.



OUR APPROACH

Mission

Values

Covenant

Inspirations





The Function of the Current Principles

The principles express a shared ethic and imply a certain theology—one that values the individual, growth, the natural world, and diversity. But it does not name these values explicitly, nor does it name many other values important to us collectively.



Values Approach



Single-words that articulate the values we share as Unitarian Universalists. To serve as touchstones for our faith.



Covenant



A2 is an agreement between congregations. We wanted a covenant based on values, **why** we're pledging to these actions.



Sources of Inspiration



Our current format of a list
can never be complete.
We created a statement
that articulates our
inspirations and what they
should do.



Inclusion

- Most recently adopted section of Article II.
- Largely in line with current thinking and future needs of our faith.

Freedom of Belief

- Stated more simply and directly.
- Maintaining our strong commitment to congregational polity and individual right of conscience.



Article II Purposes and Covenant

Section C-2.1. Purposes.

The Unitarian Universalist Association will devote its resources to and use its organizational powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. Its primary purposes are to assist congregations in their vital ministries, support and train leaders both lay and professional, to foster lifelong faith formation, to heal historic injustices, and to advance our Unitarian Universalist values in the world.

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



Article II Purposes and Covenant cont'd...

Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant.

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

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



Shared UU Values

Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:





Article II Purposes and Covenant cont'd...

Interdependence. We honor the interdependent web of all existence.

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

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

We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.



Article II Purposes and Covenant cont'd...

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

We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions.

Transformation. We adapt to the changing world.

We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.



Article II Purposes and Covenant cont'd...

Generosity. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.

We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

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

We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.



Article II Purposes and Covenant cont'd...

Section C-2.3. Inspirations.

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



Article II Purposes and Covenant cont'd...

Section C-2.4. Inclusion.

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 who share our values. We commit to being an association of congregations that empowers and enhances everyone's participation, especially those with historically marginalized identities.



Article II Purposes and Covenant cont'd...

Section C-2.5. Freedom of belief.

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

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



Review the full Article II Study Report!

uua.org/a2sc-report