# 01 Article II Purposes and Covenant

# 02 Section C-2.1. Purposes.

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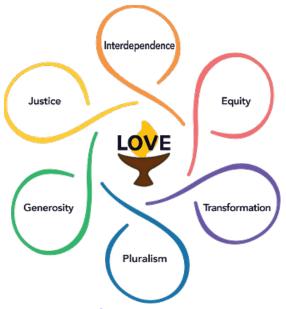
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- 03 The Unitarian Universalist Association will devote its resources to and use its organizational
- 04 powers for religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes. Its primary purposes are:
  - to assist congregations in their vital ministries,
    - to support and train leaders both lay and professional,
- to foster lifelong faith formation and spiritual development,
- to heal historic injustices,
  - to support and encourage the creation of new Unitarian Universalist communities, and
- to advance our Unitarian Universalist values in the world.
- 11 The Unitarian Universalist Association will actively engage its members in the transformation of
- 12 the world through liberating Love.

# 13 Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant.

- 14 As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our
- 15 Association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of
- 16 freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love.
- 17 Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are
- 18 accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual
- 19 discipline of Love.
- 20 Inseparable from one another, these shared values are:

# 21 Shared Unitarian Universalist Values



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

[Suggested shift to Rule and recommended edits] The UUA may create visual representations of the values, which put love at the center and interconnect each value, and may periodically update that image. A version of this image shall be included, with image description, after "Shared Unitarian Universalist Values" in the published version of these bylaws.

- 22 Interdependence. We honor the interdependent web of all existence. With reverence for the
- 23 great web of life and with humility, we acknowledge our place in it.
- 24 We covenant to protect Earth and all beings from exploitation. We will create and nurture
- 25 sustainable relationships of care and respect, mutuality and justice. We will work to repair harm
- 26 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 within our congregations, our Association,
- 34 and society at large.
- 35 **Transformation.** We adapt to the changing world.
- 36 We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is
- 37 fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.
- 38 **Generosity.** We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.
- 39 We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our
- 40 generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.
- 41 **Equity.** We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with
- 42 dignity, love, and compassion.
- 43 We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible
- 44 and inclusive communities
- 45 **Section C-2.3. Inspirations.**
- 46 Direct experiences of transcending mystery and wonder are primary sources of Unitarian

- 47 Universalist inspiration. These experiences open our hearts, renew our spirits, and transform
- 48 our lives. We draw upon, and are inspired by, sacred, secular, and scientific understandings
- 49 that help us make meaning and live into our values. These sources ground us and sustain us
- 50 in ordinary, difficult, and joyous times. We respect the histories, contexts, and cultures in which
- 51 these sources were created and are currently practiced. Grateful for the experiences that move
- 52 us, aware of the religious ancestries we inherit, and enlivened by the diversity which enriches
- 53 our faith, we are called to ever deepen and expand our wisdom.

# 54 Section C-2.4. Inclusion.

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

#### 61 Section C-2.5. Freedom of belief.

- 62 Congregational freedom and the individual's right of conscience are central to our Unitarian
- 63 Universalist heritage.
- 64 Congregations may establish statements of purpose, covenants, and bonds of union so long
- 65 as they do not require that members adhere to a particular creed.