

**TOWSON UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
RESOLUTION ON BLACK LIVES MATTER**

BE it resolved that members of Towson Unitarian Universalist Church stand united with Unitarian Universalist churches throughout the country in response to the call that rose from African-American communities across the United States. A message that was endorsed in 2015 when the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly called for an Action of Immediate Witness concerning social justice and Black Lives Matter. The organizing body Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism also called on congregations to hang Black Lives Matter banners. Supporting the Black Lives Matter movement is consistent with our first, second, sixth, and seventh principles. As a congregation we seek justice, equity, and compassion in our relationships, we respect the interdependent web of existence by striving to create a more just, free, and peaceful society. Openly affirming the dignity and worth of African-Americans is one step towards living in right relationship with the larger community and with ourselves.

BE it resolved that the aim and desire of this congregation is to keep the spotlight on the complex set of issues affecting Black people in this country, dating from slavery and continuing today. Not since the Civil Rights Era has there been such a sustained commitment to make broad change. Black Lives Matter is a statement about that renewed commitment, a vow to keep looking, watching, and struggling.

BE it resolved that when we say "Black Lives Matter" we are making a statement of inclusion, not exclusion. "Black Lives Matter" does not mean that only black lives matter-- proclaiming the value of African-American lives does not negate the inherent worth of all lives. Bearing witness to the systemic devaluing of African-Americans does not exclude us from acknowledging other forms of oppression. The Black Lives Matter movement does, however, ask us to specifically address racial inequality.

And be it further resolved that the Towson Unitarian Universalist Church supports displaying a "Black Lives Matter" banner on our property until such a time as the Unitarian Universalist Assembly, in conjunction with Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism, resolve that the aims of the Black Lives Matter movement have been met and Unitarian Universalist congregations are no longer conscience bound to provide visual support for the Black Lives Matter movement. Displaying the banner is an act of cultural resistance, of public witness, and a spiritual practice of focus and steadiness.

Approved by the Towson Unitarian Universalist Association at its annual congregational meeting on Sunday, June 12, 2016

Claudia B. Sumler President, Towson Unitarian Universalist Association