

The 8th Principle and TUUC

Listening Session with the Board – 11/28/21



8th Principle Text

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“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

Origins of the 8th Principle

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After working with congregations on multicultural issues for many years, **Paula Cole Jones** (founder of ADORE) realized that a person can believe they are being a “good UU” and following the 7 Principles without thinking about or dealing with racism and other oppressions at the systemic level.

First Draft

She realized that an 8th Principle was needed to correct this and talked with **Bruce Pollack-Johnson**. Bruce put together an initial draft in **2013**, and they refined it and recommended that the UUA adopt it.

What is the process for the adoption of the 8th principle by the UUA?

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An Article II Study Commission will present its recommendations related to the 8th Principle and the other UU principles to the UUA Board of Trustees in January 2023 for inclusion in the business of the 2023 UUA General Assembly.



How does TUUC fit in?

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Congregations are being encouraged to **adopt the 8th principle**, to send a clear powerful message to the Article II Commission and the UUA Board of Trustees, that our congregational commitment to dismantling racism and other oppression in order to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community is **crucial to our future** and so should be included in our revised UU principles.



Would adopting the 8th Principle change what we do at TUUC?

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The 8th principle

- will provide us with a lens through which to **assess how our actions and priorities** impact people of color and other oppressed groups
- will hold us **accountable** for the work of showing up and fully seeing the humanity in all
- will provide us with an **ethical and spiritual framework** for doing this work

Can we change the wording of the 8th Principle? 7

No, we cannot. At this stage, congregations need to adopt the proposed resolution as written.

- » If each congregation adopted a separate language, it would be confusing.
- » The current wording was written by Black leadership and allies in the UUA and endorsed by BLUU and DRUMM.
- » While it is phrased differently from the more vision-focused language of the other Seven Principles, it was specifically worded to explicitly express the need for accountable action.



Let's take a look at some of the language.

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Beloved Community

Beloved Community” was a term used by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to describe an aspirational and spiritual vision of a society based on justice, equal opportunity, and love of fellow human beings.

Fundamental to Beloved Community is social and economic inclusivity in which all people share in the promises and potential of an equitable existence.



More language used in the 8th Principle:

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Accountability

“White UUs hold themselves accountable to communities of color, to make sure whites do what they say they will do...Black UUs hold each other accountable and help each other see and dismantle signs of internalized racism. We need an *effective* mechanism or structure to ensure this.”

Read more at:

<https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/background>

What questions or comments do you have?

