

8th Principle Resources for Sunnyhill Members

This guide is split into the following sections to help answer the questions the Sunnyhill Beloved Conversations Team set out to answer during the August 7, 2022 Service (“Time for the 8th Principle?”): “Why?”, “What is it?” and “Why Now, Why Us, What Next?”

History of the Unitarian Universalist Principles, Article II Information (the Why?)

Evolution of UUA Principles: 1961-2000

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/how-uu-principles-purposes-were-adopted>

Article II Information

“Article II of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) Bylaws, Principles and Purposes, is the foundation for all of the work of our UUA and its member congregations and covenanted communities. It is the covenant to which all of our congregations and covenanted communities pledge themselves when they become members of our UUA.

Our current Principles and Purposes were last revised in 1987. At General Assembly (GA) 2017, there was discussion of amending the Principles to add an 8th Principle, addressing racism, and an amended 1st Principle, addressing non-human life. The 5th Principle was the subject of a report in 2009, which dealt with the ways in which GA and other Unitarian Universalist (UU) gatherings do and don’t embody an inclusive democratic process. The 7th Principle has also been the subject of discussions about possible amendments.

There have been many projects, resolutions, task forces and other strategies that have come from the Board, Commission on Appraisal and grassroots groups which encourage us to take a look at our principles, purposes, bylaws and rules. It is time for us to do a review and make changes so that we are living into the Unitarian Universalism of the future, a Unitarian Universalism that holds us in times of great need and ethical, moral and spiritual crises. We are in one of those times now.

In response to those discussions, the UUA Board committed to establishing this Article II Study Commission to consider possible amendments to this Article.”

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>

Article II Study Commission Information:

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>

Charge to the UUA Article II Study Commission:

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/charge>

Getting Involved with the Article II Study: Congregational and Community Resources

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/blog/get-involved>

The UUA Article II Study Commission and the 8th Principle:
Article II Study Commission's 8th Principle Statement

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/blog/8thprinciple>

The 8th Principle Project (the What?)

The 8th Principle Project Website

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

The Eighth Principle Project and Article II

“Commissioner Satya Mamdani, of the Article II Study Commission, hosts a series of conversations with members of our Unitarian Universalist community about what brings us together as a religious community and how we commit to being together. In this first interview Satya interviews her fellow commissioner, Paula Cole Jones, on the history of the 8th Principle Project, and how it impacts the work of the Article II Study Commission.”

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/blog/conversation-eighth-principle-project>

"The 8th Principle: Building the Beloved Community" by Paula Cole Jones

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1PR1Vy3oRE> (Sermon starts at 35 minutes)

Ministry and the 8th Principle (Webinar)

<https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/ministry-8th-principle> (88 minutes)

2021 UUA 8th Principle Debate (40 minutes)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6jy1PWSYBI>

8th Principle Congregations and Other Organizations Map

https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/0/viewer?fbclid=IwAR3Ra1JDbyZaEfB-_1NJ_Ksm0jbtOY_QjMgjXAFhYwb08ERFMHBKAKd5kc&mid=1wy8PXall5SYDcxtXPm3BUJLEAhTDv1G7&ll=38.84798088639156%2C-91.427383940625&z=5

Resources Created by other UU Congregations

FAQ (River Road UU Church, Bethesda MD)

<https://www.rruuc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/FAQ-for-8th-Principle-May-1-2021.pdf>

■ 8th Principle Online Resources _1_.pdf

Other (Why Now? Why Us? What Next?)

Critics see white supremacy in UUA hiring practices

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/critics-challenge-uua-hiring-practices>

UUA president steps down amid outcry over hiring practices

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uua-president-steps-down-amid-outcry>

Further updates to UUA resignations and controversy over hiring practices

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/developments-2017-04-07>

UUA General Assembly: Pittsburgh 2023

<https://www.uua.org/ga>

Film Screening

“Who We Are: A Chronicle of Racism in America”

<https://thewhoweareproject.org/>

Watch the film (~2hours) and then discuss with the group

Options:

1. September 23, 2022, 9:30am - 1:00pm in the Choir Room at Sunnyhill (Hosted by Janie and Tim)
2. October 6, 2022, 1pm - 4pm in the Choir Room at Sunnyhill (Hosted by Carol and Pat)
3. October 25, 2022, 6pm-9pm, in the Choir Room at Sunnyhill
4. Virtual Screening- Watch the film on your own time, then join a Virtual Discussion!
October 13, 6:30-8:30 pm via Zoom

Sign Up for these and other offerings: <https://sunnyhill.breezechms.com/form/7fb851>

Stay Tuned for more to come from the Beloved Conversations Team!