

Ideas expressed during the 8th Principle Conversation
4/14/19

One of USG's core functions is to provide spiritual development for our children – which is an investment in our future. This principle seems essential to that function.

The 8th Principle is inclusive of spiritual wholeness which is aligned with the idea and importance of UU Adult Spiritual Development.

There are divisions in the church, maybe the 8th Principle can get people working in the same direction.

It will be helpful to name the oppressions occurring in our congregations.

Do we need to figure out what accountability looks like before we adopt the 8th principle?

Support, voting in favor, is the beginning. The language clarifies our intention.

UUs emphasis on things sounding perfect (“wordsmithing”) has not been a good predictor of actual progress with ideas, so let's not focus on the words as much as the principle itself.

It will say something about us as a congregation if we adopt the principle and it will also say something about us if we don't.

Rather than a lack of support for the concept, there may be a lack of passion for the principle.

It is important that the USG Board of Directors is supportive of the adoption of the 8th Principle.

“Black Lives Matter” provokes reactions in some white people because they interpret it as meaning ONLY Black lives matter. This principle may help clarify the work that needs to be done.

UUs have had 7 principles for a long time and yet 50 years post civil rights, and yet we needed a Black Lives Matter movement to raise our consciousness of the current situation (not enough work has been done.)

The movement to craft the 8th Principle started before there was a Black Lives UU group.

This is the only principle that demands accountability – that may be a point of contention for some and may need to be explained.

We need to be nice to each other as we go through this process; avoid blaming or shaming – approach from a place of love; there is bigger work to do & we need to be unified.

There may be more people who need the opportunity for this type of discussion we are having today before they are ready to vote to adopt it.

We need to move ahead with this now (because of momentum that is building – like marriage equality years ago.)