

Please join us for a discussion about the proposed 8<sup>th</sup> principle:

**Sunday April 14, 2019 at 12 noon**

Or talk to any of the listed ERC members to clarify or answer your questions:

Barbara Dowdall, Lois Murphy, Treva Burger, Eli Scearce, Nancy Anderson, Gail Merson

*We want to recognize Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fairfax (VA), the congregation that worked so hard on many of the phrases in this brochure.*

UU congregations that have passed the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle include:

- All Souls Church, Unitarian (Washington, D.C.)
- First Unitarian Church of Honolulu (Hawaii)
- UU Church of Annapolis (Maryland)
- UU Church of the Restoration (Philadelphia)

## About the Unitarian Society of Germantown

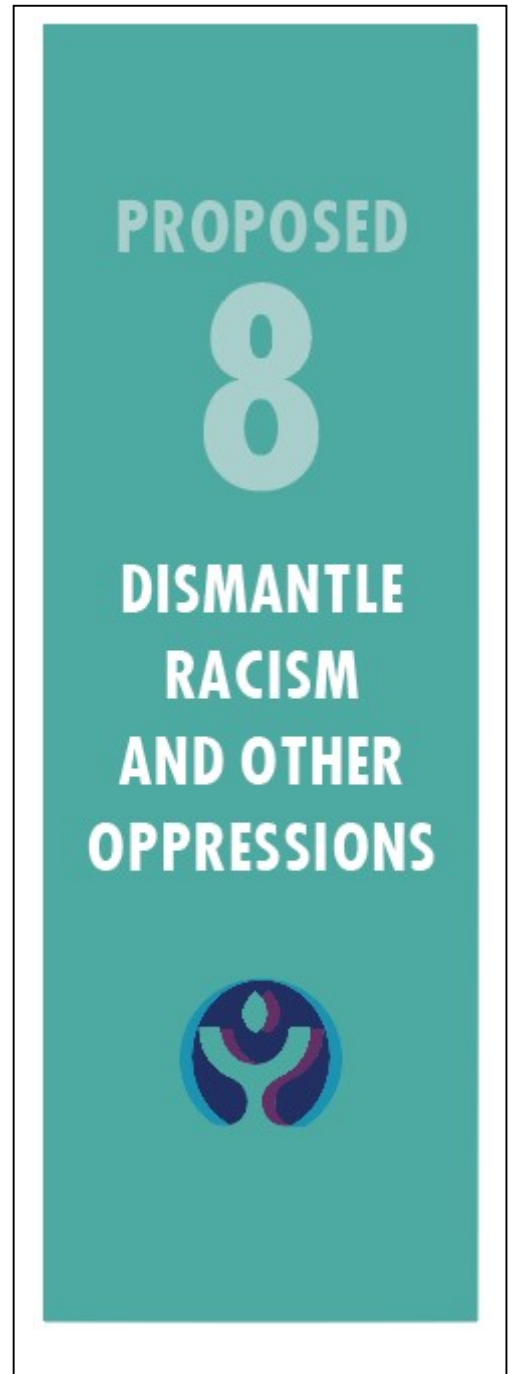
The Unitarian Society of Germantown provides an ideal place for people with a variety of experiences and backgrounds to come together confidently to examine what each has to offer in the search for self and larger meaning. It continues to be a place for love and fellowship, a place for understanding and tolerance for human frailty, a place for growing and improving inwardly, and for living our faith in the surrounding community and world.

**Rev. Kent Matthies, Minister**  
**Ryan Hurd, Director of Spiritual Development**



**Unitarian Society of Germantown**  
6511 Lincoln Drive  
Philadelphia, PA 19119  
215-844-1157

[www.usguu.org](http://www.usguu.org)





**The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is considering an 8<sup>th</sup> Principle**

**The proposal:**

“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.”

At the 2017 General Assembly, the UUA created a study commission to consider adding an 8<sup>th</sup> Principle. There is also a possibility that all the Principles will be examined. When the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church America merged in 1961, they created the first set of Unitarian Universalist Principles. A Bylaw requires that the Principles be reviewed at least every 15 years. They were updated in 1984 and modified in 1995.

The Ending Racism Committee is supporting this proposal. We would like to see USG adopt this Principle as a congregation. We want everyone to be informed as there will be an upcoming congregational meeting to endorse the change.

“Beloved Community” is a term first coined in the early days of the 20<sup>th</sup> century by philosopher-theologian Josiah Royce. It gained popularity through the prophetic work of Martin Luther King Jr. and the Civil Rights movement. Beloved Community happens when people of diverse racial, ethnic, educational, class, gender, sexual orientation backgrounds come together in an interdependent relationship of love, mutual respect, and care that seeks to realize justice within the community and in the broader world.

Our Seven Principles have not been enough to prevent the cumulative impact of implicit bias over time. While we currently recognize the inherent dignity of every person, and are committed to justice, we, who endorse the 8<sup>th</sup> principle, are asking for a commitment to undertake a dedicated journey to achieve justice for *all* oppressions starting with racism. We as UU’s have done fairly well with equality for women and gays and lesbians, not so well with the trans community but racial issues have been problematic within the UUA since literally the beginning. We have not made much progress over the years, which is why we need to be explicit now.

Within Unitarian Universalism our problem is not conscious, aspirational White Supremacy, which seeks to intentionally create a more racist society. Yet, despite our best intentions, living in a racist, sexist, classist, heterosexist, ableist society has caused each of us to internalize and perpetuate systems of oppression in various ways.

We are hoping the 8<sup>th</sup> principle will help us consciously work to end racism and other oppressions while becoming accountable to those within our congregations who are being oppressed.