

At the Annual Meeting in June 2021, UUCF adopted the 8th Principle that reads as follows:

We 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.

Living the 8th Principle 2021-2022

In our efforts to put the 8th Principle into practice, the following are some of the actions taken this past year:

UUCF Worship:

- Worship services have included multicultural music and readings and “Stories for all ages” written by and illustrated by people of color.
- Guest ministers from multicultural backgrounds have led services.
- UUCF youth have taken on leadership opportunities, including serving as worship associates.
- The 8th Principle is included in the opening slides for Sunday services.
- The RJSC proposed to the CT an 8th Principle banner to hang in the Sanctuary.

Activism:

UUCF members have engaged in the following actions:

- Rallied at and participated in Fairfax County School Board meetings to show support for teachers, the school board, librarians, inclusive libraries, LGBTQIA+ students and staff, and teaching truth
- Participated in UU the Vote by sending 1,500 Reclaim Our Vote postcards to voters of color in Virginia prior to the 2022 VA primary in support of voting rights and a strong democracy.
- Provided monthly food, rental support and medical financial assistance to groups serving refugees and immigrants.
- Conducted political advocacy on state and local issues including county and school board hiring decisions, and supported keeping HB1138.
- Attended the Poor People’s March in DC.

Education:

- Created and hosted a panel on “Teaching Truth” attended by over 700 people around the country and the world. The video has been viewed more than 500 times.
- Fostered small group (covenant group) work and offered RE curricula on anti-racism and anti-oppression.

- Shared with the congregation the UUA General Assembly's 2021 Statement of Conscience "Undoing Systemic White Supremacy: A Call to Prophetic Action."
- Prepared an inclusive VA history RE curriculum to be launched at UUCF in fall 2022. The curriculum will also be offered to UU congregations in VA, and others that express interest.
- Set up a committee to research and take action on a land acknowledgement project related to the UUCF campus.
- Held a book study group to discuss "Caste" by Isabel Wilkerson.

Partnerships:

- The Board of Directors appointed a liaison to the UUA tasked with disseminating information to UUCF for leadership development and anti-oppression work.
- Participated in the "Potomac Partnership 8th Principle Project Reflection Circle."
- Participated on the recently formed "Interfaith Partners for Social Justice" committee, composed of several local faith communities collaborating in support of racial justice.
- Formed alliances with numerous pro-public education, pro-inclusive education local, state and national groups
- Collaborated with other local faith communities on projects such as the Teaching Truth and the Afghan Refugee Resettlement program (two families with a total of 11 people resettled and supported)
- Partnered with several local organizations to provide food and other direct services to the local community, prioritizing undocumented families who have less access to social services

Challenges/Questions:

What does it mean to each of us to accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves? It is ongoing soul-searching work that we commit to with humility.

What has been meaningful to you and/or your family in this year that has furthered your journey toward spiritual wholeness by building a diverse Beloved Community?