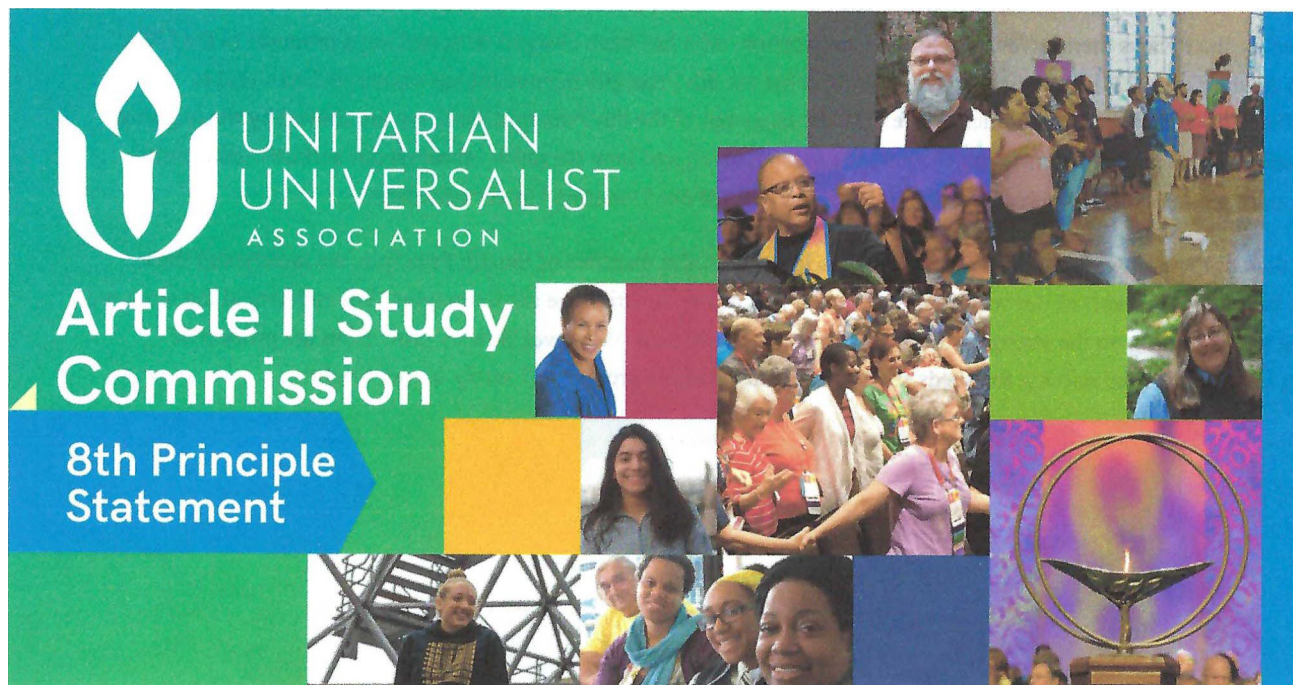


The Article II Study Commission and the 8th Principle



June 24, 2021

From Satya Mamdani: The Article Study Commission's charge makes me think of one word: inheritance. As a UU youth I know that this commission's work will impact the Unitarian Universalism that my generation inherits. Part of the commission's charge involves the 8th Principle Project. As a person of color I am deeply moved by the conversations about anti-racism and anti-oppression that have resulted from the 8th principle movement, as are the other members of the commission. As a young person I am also excited to see the impact this project may have on the Unitarian Universalism my generation inherits. The values that the 8th Principle Project holds are important not just to Unitarian Universalism in the present, but the future of our religion as well. All of this is to say that the following statement, from the commission, excites me as a person of color and a youth because I see our religion working towards meaningful change that is sure to benefit the generations to come.

The Commission's Statement

Unitarian Universalism is no stranger to movements that call for racial justice both within and beyond our institutions. Over and over again, pockets of people have worked to say racism is a problem, racism is a problem *for us,* and that we are committed to fighting racism and other oppressions. In 1997, the General Assembly voted to commit to intentionally becoming an anti-racist, anti-oppressive, multicultural institution. Yet, almost 25 years later, we continue to fall short of our commitments and promises.

When the 8th Principle project began, it addressed something vital that had been missing in our UU movement, namely that anti-racism and anti-oppression must be central to congregational life and our community building. The mammoth project of fostering conversation within congregations and other communities, and then calling on those communities to make an explicit statement in the form of the "8th Principle" has become a frue groundswell within Unitarian Universalism.

The text of the 8th Principle says **"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse and multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."** In this way, thousands of Unitarian Universalists have become part of the real, fundamental work of anti-racism and anti-oppression in our own communities.

The process of examining and possibly revising Article II of the UUA Bylaws is a scheduled effort of the UUA Board, demanded by the bylaws themselves. The Study Commission, who has been charged with making a proposal to the UUA Board in January of 2023, has tremendous respect for what the 8th Principle movement has accomplished—and is accomplishing within UU communities. More than the language of the 8th Principle itself, we are moved by the ongoing conversations about what it means to be accountable to each other, and how we must—through our actions—take on the work of anti-racism and anti-oppression as an inextricable part of our Unitarian Universalist faith.

And so, though the task we have been charged with is larger than the specifics of the 8th Principle, we understand these ideals to be at the very heart of our work and very much part of the direction we are journeying. We understand the work we are doing to be building on the strengths of the 8th Principle movement. Whatever flowers grow from the process of engaging UUs in this reimagining, the seeds sown by the 8th Principle project will surely bloom brightly.



ARTICLE II STUDY COMMISSION

What About the 8th Principle?

THE 7 PRINCIPLES OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

A Covenant & Legal Document



The 7 Principles of Unitarian Universalism, are part of Article II, Principles and Purposes, of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) bylaws. Member Congregations promise each other, in covenant, to affirm and promote these principles.

ARTICLE II STUDY COMMISSION (A2SC)

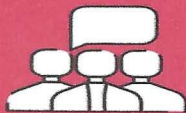
A Formal Procedure



The A2SC is a function of the UUA bylaws, for the periodic review of the Covenant between the Member Congregations. In consultation with the General Assembly, the Board of Trustees charged the A2SC to include the essence of the 8th Principle.

8TH PRINCIPLE PROJECT

A Grassroots Movement



The 8th Principle Project is a grassroots movement started in 2013, aimed at articulating a commitment to dismantle racism and other forms of oppression within the Covenants made between and within the Member Congregations of the UUA.

UU CONGREGATIONS' ROLE

Covenanting & Anti-Racism



Adopting the 8th Principle at the local level is an act of covenant making amongst the members of that Congregation, to be anti-racist. The Covenant between Congregations can be shaped by engaging in the A2SC process, and voting on the amended Article II at the 2023 and 2024 General Assemblies.

LEARN MORE AT UUA.ORG/A2SC