



**For the Blooming**

**October 14, 2009**  
*2008 Collected Work/KEA*

**Dear Friends of UU, and the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Petoskey,**

**As Religions and as Free Religious Movements, Unitarianism and Universalism share a long history of struggle, as well as periods of great influence in our American pursuit of Democracy's great promises.**

**The History of Unitarian Universalist Principles is also part of our United States' struggle to extend Democracy's Religious Freedoms to all people, with no creedal or status pre-conditions. We are a Free People when we know no form of coercion, sanction, or other restrictions upon Free Religious Faith.**

**Our RELIGIOUS PRINCIPLES are the things that "bind us together" (root, *religio*) in common goal, measure and purpose; that is, our Principles express the Religious values of our Democracy-striving, Faith Tradition. Democracy is a gift to our Selves, by Our Selves, providing us with the Liberty to seek Truth, and the Freedom to experience the Beautiful in our lives each day.**

**Though our story is one of movement rather than certainty, it is a story filled with social initiative and positive social change. And so may that story continue to serve as Beacon and fuel for our way. Here is a part of that story:**

**THE SIX PRINCIPLES (1961)**

The original Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association, as approved when the Unitarian and Universalist denominations consolidated in 1961: “In accordance with these corporate purposes, the members of the Unitarian Universalist Association, dedicated to the principles of a free faith, **unite in seeking**:

**1. TO STRENGTHEN ONE ANOTHER IN A FREE AND DISCIPLINED SEARCH FOR TRUTH AS THE FOUNDATION OF OUR RELIGIOUS FELLOWSHIP;** *(moved to #4, wording from free and disciplined to free and responsible search for truth and meaning.; drop of foundation of our religious fellowship.)*

**2. TO CHERISH AND SPREAD THE UNIVERSAL TRUTHS TAUGHT BY THE GREAT PROPHETS AND TEACHERS OF HUMANITY IN EVERY AGE AND TRADITION, IMMEMORIALY SUMMARIZED IN THE JUDEO-CHRISTIAN HERITAGE AS LOVE TO GOD AND LOVE TO MAN;** *(moved to Sources, individuals as priests and prophets.)*

**3. TO AFFIRM, DEFEND AND PROMOTE THE SUPREME WORTH OF EVERY HUMAN PERSONALITY, THE DIGNITY OF MAN, AND THE USE OF THE DEMOCRATIC METHOD IN HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS;** *(moved from #3 to #1 and #5; words changed from supreme worth of every human personality to inherent worth and dignity of every person; anti-Calvinist legacy retained .)*

**4. TO IMPLEMENT OUR VISION OF ONE WORLD BY STRIVING FOR A WORLD COMMUNITY FOUNDED ON IDEALS OF BROTHERHOOD, JUSTICE AND PEACE;** *(moved to #6; added liberty and for all.)*

**5. TO SERVE THE NEEDS OF MEMBER CHURCHES AND FELLOWSHIPS, TO ORGANIZE NEW CHURCHES AND FELLOWSHIPS, AND TO EXTEND AND STRENGTHEN LIBERAL RELIGION;** *(eliminated.)*

**6. TO ENCOURAGE COOPERATION WITH MEN OF GOOD WILL IN EVERY LAND.** *(moved to #5; to rights of conscious and to democratic process.)*

**THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES The Six Principles Revised in 1985 (from six to seven; addition of Six Sources.**

There are **seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote** (contrasted with proposed 2009 change, “We covenant to honor and uphold”, and with the six Principle’s “dedicated to the principles of a free faith, unite in seeking):

**1. THE INHERENT WORTH AND DIGNITY OF EVERY PERSON;** *(moved from #3; from personality to person; Universalism’s Universal Salvation)*

**2. JUSTICE, EQUITY AND COMPASSION IN HUMAN RELATIONS;** *(added; Universalist roots)*

**3. ACCEPTANCE OF ONE ANOTHER AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO SPIRITUAL GROWTH IN OUR CONGREGATIONS;** *(added – modified #1; Unitarian roots)*

**4. A FREE AND RESPONSIBLE SEARCH FOR TRUTH AND MEANING;** *(moved from #1; Humanism)*

**5. THE RIGHT OF CONSCIENCE AND THE USE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PROCESS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATIONS AND IN SOCIETY AT LARGE;** *(from # 3; change from democratic method to process, society.)*

**6. THE GOAL OF WORLD COMMUNITY WITH PEACE, LIBERTY, AND JUSTICE FOR ALL;** *(moved from #4)*

**7. RESPECT FOR THE INTERDEPENDENT WEB OF ALL EXISTENCE OF WHICH WE ARE A PART.** *(added, 1985)*

**THE SIX SOURCES – “The Living Traditions we all share draws from many sources: (From UUA By-Laws, 1985, Rev)**

- **Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;**
- **Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;**
- **Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;**
- **Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to god's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;**
- **Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science; and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.**
- **Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.**

For more information on UU Principles and History see [HTTP://UUA.ORG](http://UUA.ORG)

## **A BRIEF HISTORY OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PRINCIPLES**

### **< 325 PRE-NICEA FREE CHOICE:**

- **ONENESS OF GOD – UNITARIAN**
- **UNIVERSAL SALVATION (NO HELL) – UNIVERSALIST**

### **1517 – PROTESTANT REFORMATION**

- **UNMEDIATED ACCESS TO THE HOLY**
- **AGAINST AN EXCLUSIVE PRIESTHOOD FOR PROFIT**

### **1568 – KING SIGISMUND, TRANSYLVANIA**

- **FRANCIS DAVID’S DEBATES UNITARIAN VS TRINITARIANS (“We need not think alike to love alike”)**
- **EDICT OF TORTA, UNITARIAN STATE CHURCH**

### **1781 – BENJAMIN RUSH, PHILADELPHIA**

- **CONGREGATIONAL POLITY (“Ministry of the Congregation does not belong exclusively to ordained clergy, but to everyone”)**

### **1791 – JOSEPH PRIESTLY (scientist, chased from England)**

- **PRIESTHOOD OF ALL BELIEVERS**

### **1793 - THOMAS STAR KING**

- **UNIVERSALISTS: “God is too good to damn people”**
- **UNITARIANS: “People are too good to be damned by God.”**

### **1838 – RALPH WALDO EMERSON**

- **NATURE, “*OVER-SOUL*” – “*Perception is the heart of religion*”**
- **Empowerment of human spirit to intuit religious truth**

### **1854 – BEACON PRESS Established<sup>1</sup>**

### **1863 – OLYMPIA BROWN – 1<sup>ST</sup> Ordained Woman Minister**

### **1860’s – THEODORE PARKER – inclusion of the marginalized, freed slaves**

### **1900’s - HUMANISM, A RELIGIOUS VIEW ACKNOWLEDGED <sup>2</sup>**

### **1960’s – UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MERGER, PRINCIPLES, SOCIAL WITNESS**

### **1961 – “SIX PRINCIPLES” ADOPTED BY THE NEWLY-FORMED UUA**

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<sup>1</sup> <http://www.uuabookstore.org/showproducts.cfm?FullCat=136&step=2>

<sup>2</sup> By 1900, the Humanist argument for Humanism, as a legitimate *faith tradition*, was simply that people could be religious without believing in God, and that no one person, no one religion, can embrace all religious truths.

**1970'S - UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST WOMEN'S AFFIRMATIVE ACTION**

- Gender Neutral Language, Natalie Gulbrandsen
- Clergy Affirmative Action, Denise Davidof

**1985 – REVISED PRINCIPLES, ADDED 7TH – Interdependent Web of all Existence**

**1985 – 1993 - LANGUAGE and CULTURE WITNESS: INCLUSIVE HYMNAL COLLECTION: *SINGING the LIVING TRADITION*, Beacon Press, Boston, 1993, ISBN 1-55896-260-3**

**1990 – 2010 – EXPANDED RELIGIOUS UNDERSTANDING, EDUCATION, CHOICE**

- **OUR WHOLE LIVES (OWL) RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**
- **UU COVENANT GROUPS**
- **CHURCH OF THE LARGER FELLOWSHIP**

**1996 - GLBT COVENANT – Affirmation of Same Sex Marriage. US-CANADA SPLIT**

**2001-09 LGBTQ AFFIRMATIVE ACTION - G. COURTER, UUA ORGANIZATION**

**2009 – BGLT INITIATIVE – REV. W. SINKFORD, *STANDING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE***

***NOTE: A BRIEF HISTORY OF UUCOP***

**1993 – 1996 – UUCOP FORMATION; UUDOM dissolution; Heartland District formation**

**1996 – 2009 - UUCOP, GROWING ROOTS IN THE FREE-RELIGIOUS TRADITION**

**2009 - UUCOP-COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

- **SPRING, 4-DIRECTIONS RETREAT – We are *GOOD TO GROW!***
- **SUMMER, *The UUCOP Story*, Pulpit Exchange for UUCGT**
- **FALL, The UUCGT Welcoming Message, Pulpit Exchange, Rev. Chip Roush**
- **WINTER, “Community and Religion” FORUM SERIES BEGINS**