

SO WHAT'S CHANGED, AND SO WHAT?

The UUCJ website, prior to the UUA's 2024 General Assembly, was a mirror image of the UUA's website. That is no longer the case.

At the UUA website, the [Unitarian Universalist Association | UUA.org](https://www.uua.org), you will find the assertion that our core Unitarian Universalist theology no longer centers the Seven Principles and the Six Sources but rather six values, which, according to the UUA, define the essence of who we are as Unitarian Universalists: Interdependence, Equity, Transformation; Pluralism, Generosity, and Justice.

Every one of these values is worthy of and appropriate for a denomination that has historically defined itself as a theologically and socially liberal religious movement that upholds an individual's right to a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. The six values, in fact, have always been understood to be embedded in the Seven Principles and Six Sources that have guided Unitarian Universalist ethical practices from their inception until now.

The assertion that our core Unitarian Universalist theology consists of six values that define the essence of who we should be as Unitarian Universalists was birthed by the UUA leadership. The UUA amended its Bylaws Article II to dissolve the Seven Principles and Six Sources, adopt the values, and reshape the reason for the Association's existence. Among the changes one can now find on the UUA website are:

- Undisputed adoption of the six values thus creating a theological creed.
- Implementation of specific justice pursuits narrowly addressing racism, oppression, and multiculturalism at the possible expense of other local justice issues needing advocacy.
- Religious education programming, that omits the teaching of the Seven Principles and Six Sources and how and why the six values came to be.

SO WHAT CHANGED? The UUCJ congregation respectfully disagreed with the UUA's proposed changes to its Bylaws' Article II and sincerely believed, and believes, the proposed changes to be detrimental to our denomination. At a duly called congregational meeting in April 2024, 95% of those present and voting rejected Article II as proposed by the UUA. In effect, the congregation voted to:

- Remain as a non-creedal congregation and retain the seven principles and six sources as its core theological ethical guide.
- Continue its justice program promoting, beyond racism and oppression, equity in the application of laws, policies, and practices affecting marginalized groups and individuals in relation to: having access to affordable physical and mental health services; reproductive rights; fair and affordable housing; economic wellness; fair solutions to environmental challenges; and the like.
- Ensure successful self-governance grounded in a thriving ministry, religious education, living in harmony with the divine, ethical living, and seeking justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.

The Contrasts:

On the UUCJ website, [Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville \(uucj.org\)](https://www.uucj.org), you will find a portrayal of a non-creedal congregation that is theologically diverse. The UUCJ congregation welcomes everyone regardless of their race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, ability, financial status, political preferences or religious practices. Affirming, promoting and keeping the Seven Principles and Six Sources is the glue that makes our congregation a beloved community.

On the UUA website and in official UUA communications, the following are diminished:

- principle-centered guidance
- transcendent whispers from the sources of wisdom
- assist from reason and logic
- accountability to the self
- pursuit of the examined life
- questioning, searching, probing

The Seven Principles and Six Sources continue as the bedrock foundation and guiding light of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville theology and spirituality.

Seven Principles:

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

Six Sources:

- 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 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.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations, we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.