

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST PRINCIPLES HAVE ALWAYS FULFILLED ENDURING VALUES

["We are Unitarian Universalists" Video | UUA.org](#) (link)

This is a video still on the UUA website that speaks to the principles as the engine for the values

At General Assembly in June 2024, UU delegates voted to replace existing seven principles language in our UUA bylaws with language describing Unitarian Universalism through six values. The “new” language depicts what the UUA proclaims to be a modern vision of our core theology. The “new” language asserts that going forward, UU’s are to be guided not by the principles, but by values heretofore considered by the UUA to be unknown to the denomination:

[Shared Values | UUA.org](#) (link discusses the so called "new" values as defined by the UUA)

- **Interdependence:** We honor the interdependent web of all existence and acknowledge our place in it.
- **Pluralism:** We are all sacred beings, diverse in culture, experience, and theology.
- **Justice:** We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all feel welcome and can thrive.
- **Transformation:** We adapt to the changing world.
- **Generosity:** We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope.
- **Equity:** We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love, and compassion.

The advancement of the six values by the UUA suggests that UUism was in dire need of language that could better define our theological roots, our call to righting universal wrongs, our post-modern approach to liberating justice, and an end to our “lack” of values. The principles, to the UUA, failed to do just that.

The fact is that the UUA-adopted values are neither new, nor foreign to Unitarian Universalism. Every one of the values has been at the core of the seven principles:

- 1st Principle: The inherent worth and dignity of every person – **Equity:** every person possesses intrinsic value and dignity and has a fundamental right to be treated impartially, justly and with respect.
- 2nd Principle: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations – **Justice:** All persons are considered to be equal under the law and have rights to impartial application of justice; to be treated with kindness; and to thrive, succeed and flourish.
- 3rd Principle: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations – **Pluralism:** Everyone is to be accepted as they are and welcome regardless of race, ethnicity, gender identity, financial status, political or religious beliefs, and allowed to freely pursue the sacred however they define it.
- 4th Principle: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning – **Transformation:** Everyone has a right to freely seek and share knowledge, apply that knowledge to discerning the truth, and experience personal and spiritual growth.
- 5th Principle: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large – The values of **Justice, Equity and Transformation** are honored and fulfilled when all members of the community participate equally in decision making.
- 6th Principle: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all – **Generosity:** People have the right to expect a benevolent social order that protects individual dignity and worth, that provides open acceptance of differences without judgment within communities that are just and welcoming, and
- 7th Principle: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part – **Interdependence:** We are all connected and in relationship to one another, our communities, and our world.

There never was, or is, a need to abolish the seven principles and replace them with the UUA's shared values. The principles have always been at the root of what is to be a UU; and have always been the engine driving UU values. The principles are inherent, integral, and intrinsic to who we are as UUs. The principles are embedded and etched in the UU soul.