

## **RACIAL JUSTICE STATEMENTS FOR APPROVAL AND VOTE**

Proposals for two statements related to racial justice are on the 2020-2021 Annual Congregational Meeting agenda:

1. **“UUCK Statement of Commitment to Racial Justice”**
2. **“UUA Statement of Conscience on Undoing Systemic White Supremacy: A Call to Prophetic Action.”**

All are encouraged to study the statements prior to voting. The proposals will be voted on separately and are described below:

### **1. Unitarian Universalist Church of Kent Statement of Commitment to Racial Justice**

#### **BACKGROUND AND PROCESS:**

In order to create a culture of antiracism within our church, the Race for Justice (R4J) team believes that collective action is as necessary as personal growth. To become an inclusive church that works for justice, R4J believes our actions should be guided by a congregational covenant.

In fall 2020 and winter 2021, R4J (with unanimous Board approval) conducted a process of soliciting congregational ideas about racial justice actions the church should take, drafting a statement based on that input, seeking congregational feedback to the draft, revising the draft and presenting it to the Board. The Board unanimously approved the statement for inclusion on the May agenda. More details about background and process are described in the Congregational Meeting Packet.

#### **STATEMENT:**

As people of conscience, we uphold our Unitarian Universalist values of justice, equity and compassion that call us to recognize the worth and dignity of all. We seek to become an inclusive congregation where everyone finds a sense of belonging. We pledge to do the uncomfortable work of confronting white supremacy and racial bias in ourselves and our institution.

In order to be a catalyst for change, we will follow the leadership of Black, Indigenous and People of Color and will build partnerships with BIPOC organizations. We commit ourselves to bold action in ending systemic racism through uniting in witness, speaking courageously, advocating for institutional change and participating in community action.

We believe that only by liberating our collective souls from racism can the beloved community become reality.

#### **Abbreviated tagline:**

Our Unitarian-Universalist Church of Kent commitment to racial justice:

- Uniting in witness
- Speaking courageously
- Collaborating for Freedom

## 2. Unitarian-Universalist Association (UUA) Statement of Conscience on Undoing Systemic White Supremacy: A Call to Prophetic Action

You will be voting to approve including the following statement on the agenda for the 2021 General Assembly (GA) of the UUA. If GA delegates vote to adopt it, the statement will then guide the collective witness actions of the UUA and member congregations. To learn more about the process the UUA uses to develop a Statement of Conscience, [CLICK HERE](#)

This is an abbreviated version of the statement. To read the full statement, [CLICK HERE](#).

### UUA Statement of Conscience (SOC) Undoing Systemic White Supremacy: A Call to Prophetic Action (Abbreviated)

Seeking universal justice and equity, we call upon the Unitarian Universalist Association and Unitarian Universalist individuals and congregations/groups to actively engage in undoing systemic white supremacy in all of its manifestations. Systemic white supremacy refers to the embedded, institutional, and pervasive nature of racism, white privilege, and racial bias and oppression in our society. We acknowledge the impact of systemic white supremacy is intersectional, meaning it impacts people differently across race, income/class, gender, age, ethnicity, immigration status, sexual orientation, religion, ability, and more. (1) As Unitarian Universalists, we decry the ways in which the intersectional impact of systemic white supremacy divides our human family by privileging some groups over others and thereby generating resistance to the common goal of universal equity and justice. Systemic white supremacy is a direct affront to every one of our principles. (2) Most egregious, we are losing lives of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color all across this nation—from long-standing ills of police violence, to hate crimes, to emerging crises of the pandemic—due to the evil of systemic white supremacy. Therefore, as Unitarian Universalists we must engage in urgent action to confront the moral crisis of our time:

- **Engage with the movement, in our communities and nation, to heal the evil of racism.**
- **Carry forward the recommended healing actions conveyed in “Widening the Circle of Concern”**
- **Build relationships across boundaries of privilege and oppression.**