

## **Teri Martin Notes From Article II Forum**

**What appeals to you most about the UUA's revised Article II and the process that has shaped it over the past few years?**

### Article II Proposed Revision

- Incorporates and builds on all current 7 principles.
- Includes love at the center
- Adds emphasis on collective action, working together
- Includes one-sentence statements of covenants with each value that describe ways we can act on those values
- Value and covenant statements are action-oriented and eloquent
- Integrates the 8th principle into many of the values and covenants.
- Emphasizes the importance of inclusion and radical welcoming
- Speaks directly to justice and social justice principles and purposes
- Graphic, visual presentation is a powerful way to illustrate that our values are centered on and flow out from love
- Content likely to appeal to younger members and friends.
- Good to explicitly state that we are accountable to one another for working together to live our shared values.

### Process of Shaping Article II Revision

- National process was very inclusive, including young people as well as those with diverse racial and cultural backgrounds
- Has built on on groundswell of support for the 8th principle in our denomination and among many congregations.
- We have more to learn, and this meeting has been very useful.
- Our discussion process in this meeting was good.

**What concerns you most about the revised Article II and the upcoming process for considering its adoption at the UUA's 2024 General Assembly?**

### Revised Article II

- Revised values and covenant are wordy and complicated, not as simple and clear as 7 principles.
- May need to develop a shorter (two or three sentence) summary statement that covers all 6 values & covenants.

- Incorporating 8th principle language into values and covenants may not be acceptable to some congregations - too much focus on anti-racism.
- Democracy is included within the Justice value rather than standing alone as it does in 7 principles.
- Some feel that Love at the center is a proxy for God, which may not sit well with atheists, agnostics or humanists in our denomination.
- It's not clear what "Beloved Community" may mean to people outside our denomination?

#### Upcoming Processes for Considering Adoption of Revised Article II

- Need to come to a shared understanding of terms like "covenant" and "accountable" through further discussion meetings like this.
- Need more conversations about the 8th principle to increase understanding of why and how it's been woven into the proposed revision of Article II.
- Disappointed that a children's version of the revision has not been developed concurrently with the adult version - UUA will need to pay attention to this ASAP if revision is adopted.
- Should be sure to involve newcomers and young people in our congregation's processes of preparing for GA 2024 and implementing revised Article II if it's adopted.
- Our GA 2024 delegates should participate in additional preparatory meetings prior to the June GA.
- Need to allocate additional denominational and congregational resources to educating members and friends about Article II, especially if this revision is adopted by delegates to 2024 GA.