

Thanks to the 12 people who participated in the Outreach Committee's attempt to rewrite the principles and purpose statement of the UUA as part of a denomination-wide effort to keep the living tradition alive and moving forward. We felt that we needed to say something stronger about the interdependent web, needed to hold up peace and nonviolence as an important principle (heavy rewrite of #6), and needed to phrase them as a call to action, so we went with verbs instead of nouns.

We also thought that the current purpose statement was truly dreadful and did a major rewrite. You can find the current language in the hymnal or on the UUA website.

Here is what we sent to the Commission on Appraisal:

The Principles and Purpose Reconstructed

We the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to

1. Respect the inherent worth and dignity of every person.
2. Promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations.
3. Accept one another and encourage spiritual growth in our congregations.
4. Nurture and defend a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
5. Affirm the right of conscience and support the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
6. Create peace and practice nonviolence in our communities, our nation and our world.
7. Protect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The purpose of the Unitarian Universalist Association is to implement the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism. To that end, the association shall exercise its powers for those religious, educational, and humanitarian purposes that further those principles, and shall devote its resources to serving the needs of member congregations, organizing new congregations, and strengthening Unitarian Universalist institutions.