

March 2023

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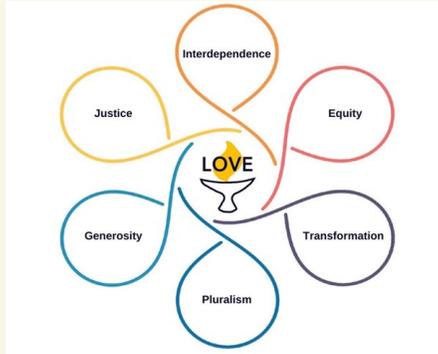
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Article II Study Commission...Yes, Article About UUA Article III!

Hopefully by now, we've all heard that in the Fall of 2020, and in an effort to initiate a mandatory review of Article II of the UUA Bylaws (Article II contains the seven principles and six sources), the UUA Board appointed an Article II Study Commission. The Commission has now completed its work and has issued a report detailing recommendations.

Here is a link to the Commission's report: [Article II Study Report](#)



The most significant alternations that the commission is recommending are the replacement of the current Principles section of Article II, which also includes the Sources, with a section called "Values and Covenant" and the creation of a separate section called "Inspirations."

Here is the proposed "Values and Covenant" section (note that the diagram above is also included in this section):

Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant.

As Unitarian Universalists, we covenant, congregation-to-congregation and through our association, to support and assist one another in our ministries. We draw from our heritages of freedom, reason, hope, and courage, building on the foundation of love.

Love is the power that holds us together and is at the center of our shared values. We are accountable to one another for doing the work of living our shared values through the spiritual discipline of Love.

Interdependence. We honor the interdependent web of all existence. We covenant to cherish Earth and all be-

ings by creating and nurturing relationships of care and respect. With humility and reverence, we acknowledge our place in the great web of life, and we work to repair harm and damaged relationships.

Pluralism. We celebrate that we are all sacred beings diverse in culture, experience, and theology. We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning. We embrace our differences and commonalities with Love, curiosity, and respect.

Justice. We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive. We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions.

Transformation. We adapt to the changing world. We covenant to collectively transform and grow spiritually and ethically. Openness to change is fundamental to our Unitarian and Universalist heritages, never complete and never perfect.

Generosity. We cultivate a spirit of gratitude and hope. We covenant to freely and compassionately share our faith, presence, and resources. Our generosity connects us to one another in relationships of interdependence and mutuality.

Equity. We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness. We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

On Sunday March 5 I will be giving one more sermon on the proposed changes to Article II. During 2nd Hour (11:15 -12Noon) on March 5 & 12, I will be facilitating sessions for those who wish to discuss the implications of the proposed changes to Article II. I look forward to discussing this with you all.

Nurture our spirit. Strive for Justice. Transform the world.

Dave

Recent History of UUMAN Stewardship

Prior to 2019, our budget was less than \$300k. What changed in the 2019-2020 fiscal year? Landscaping and cleaning costs went up by \$1k each. We added \$6k to the Infrastructure Depreciation account bringing up to \$10k. We budgeted \$19k for an interim MCY Director. For our minister and music director, we gave an annual salary increase and added money into professional development and conferences. There was over a \$14k increase in interest payments – about \$5k of this was for a line of credit. Our UUA dues went up by \$1k and we gave a bit more to our ministries.

2018-2019 Pledges = \$212,000

Paid Pledges = \$203,830

% of Pledge Amount Paid = 96.14%

Budget = \$295,400

Rental = \$35,000

Other Fundraising + Back Pledges= \$48,400

Pledge % of Budget = 71.77%

2019-2020 Pledges = \$229,575 + \$30kAngel Fund

Paid Pledge + Angel = \$249,416

% of Pledge Amount Paid = 96%

Budget = \$347,540

Rental = \$44,600 (Premo, Brazilian Faith Rental, Other)

Other Fundraising +Back Pledges = \$43,365

Pledge % of Budget = 74.69%

2020-2021 Pledges = \$230,166

Paid = \$206,542

% of Pledge Amount Paid = 89.7%

Budget = \$349,791

Rental = \$44,600 (Premo, Brazilian Faith Rental, Other)

SBA LOAN = \$31,700

Other Fundraising +Back Pledges = \$43,325

Pledge % of Budget = 65.8%

2021-2022 Pledges = \$240,000 + \$13k COVID Relief

Paid = \$224,691

% of Pledge Amount Paid = 88.81%

Budget = \$351,875

Rental = \$54,500

Other Fundraising + Back Pledges= \$44,375

Pledge % of Budget = 71.9%

2022-2023 Pledges = \$232,500

Paid = \$108,460

% of Pledge Amount Paid = 46.65%

Budget = \$338,340

Rental = \$55,500

Other Fundraising + Back Pledges = \$50,340

Pledge % of Budget = 68.72%

Now that interest payments have decreased and we don't need an interim MCY director, where is our money going? Yes, the price of everything has increased BUT, the main place where this money has gone is employee benefits. We are now able to provide benefits to our Minister, DRE and office admin / bookkeeper! WooHoo!

During this and every stewardship drive the stewardship committee asks that you pledge what you can. You are asked to try to increase your pledge (as you are comfortable) each year so that UUMAN can keep up with rising costs. These promised pledges are then used to create the annual budget. We depend on these pledges so that the promises made when creating the budget can be kept.

I understand that many of you are unsure where you stand in terms of your pledge contribution for the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Some of you know that your automated payments are no longer functioning as they should. I'd like to offer my assistance. Please email me at treasurer@uuman.com, describe your issue and let me know how you would like to work together to get it resolved – phone, email, virtual meeting, a live session after service. Additionally, if there is other information that you would like to know about the financial health of our church, let me know that too.

Together we can meet our goals, live our values, and continue to build a beautiful and loving congregation.

Jennifer Phillippi

Treasurer, Board of Trustees

Upcoming Event – Honoring our Elders at UUMAN

Sunday April 30: At our worship service, we will pause everything to honor our UUMAN elders. Everyone can participate in making this ceremony something very special.

For Non-elders (Up to 64):

You probably have many elders at UUMAN that you would like to especially honor on that day. Please call them as soon as you can and invite them personally to be with us. Help them physically to come to the service or help make sure they can be with us remotely. Spread the word organically! Our young ones can invite elders too. If you aren't sure they are old enough, just ask. If they are younger than 65, then they are just wise beyond their years! You can ask them for a future ceremony or better yet, take them out to lunch.

For Elders (65+), consider doing the following:

1. Please call anyone younger than 65 that you are especially connected to at UUMAN or even your family members. Invite them as your guests to the ceremony. We need them there too!
2. Please write words of wisdom that you would like to share with UUMAN at this time. It can be a pithy saying, a poem, short story, or a paragraph that illuminates what you are sharing. Stay tuned for details on how and when they will be collected. Think in terms of having them ready to send by mid-March.

Finally, is there someone who thinks it would be so cool to collect these words and put them into a little book called something like "Wise Seed – Sayings from UUMAN Elders 2023"?

If so, contact me.

- Donna Melcher

melcherdonna@gmail.com

UUMAN Chili Cookoff Returns!

Location: Fellowship Hall

3/12/2023 12 noon

Question: What warms the soul on a chilly day?

Answer: A hearty bowl of chili or soup! With a side of cornbread!



Sunday, March 12th, after the second hour, we will resurrect our UUMAN Chili Cook-off. We will have four divisions:

- Chili
- Vegetarian Chili
- Soup (veggie or not)
- Cornbread

All are invited, whether you bring food or not. Everyone gets to taste and vote on their faves! We'll be needing cole slaw, desserts, and sides (that don't require heating), as well as volunteers for setup and cleanup.

Prizes that can only be described as fabulous will be awarded for each category. Due to electrical limitations in Fellowship Hall, we can only accept the first 16 entrants for chilis/soups. Sign up below:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C094CABAE29AAFFC43-uuman>



Religious Exploration News

By Lexie Tangney, Director of Religious Education

The Month of February was a month for planning and rest.

The Jr and Senior RE class has been working very hard to bring UUMAN a youth service to remember. I had the pleasure of sitting in on one of their planning sessions and the enthusiasm is contagious! Please save the date in your calendar as this is a Sunday to remember. Join us at 10 AM on March 19th in Fellowship Hall. The title of their Service is: Who is Gen Z?

Description: Come join us as UUMAN's Youth Group presents their annual Sunday service. This year, they'd like to tell you a little bit about their generation (Gen Z), so you can understand the challenges they face and the things they worry about.

For Valentine's Weekend, the youth decorated heart shaped cards for friends and family. Eventually the playdoo broke out and we crafted along to our favorite tunes.



Clara Romano, Melody and Gabe Andrews, and Avery Zummeman

With help from the ALDT, MCY was able to claim a HUGE bulletin board in Fellowship Hall! And we are over the moon about it!! If you haven't gotten a chance to check it out yet, it can be found next to the membership/carecircles bulletin. It's a great spot to grab a copy of the RE schedule, find out more information about the RE curriculum, OWI, volunteer opportunities, and other youth programming.



Marching on..

UUMAN is hosting its first **Career Fair on March 26** during 2nd hour (11:15AM). The event will take place in front of the sanctuary (weather permitting). There will be booths for different careers hosted by UUMAN members. This is a great opportunity for both youth and adults. The youth can learn about different career paths, what education might be required, and ask questions.

This event isn't just for kids, its for adults too! Get to know your fellow Uumanites and take advantage of networking opportunities. Considering a career change? Look no further. Hoping to recruit some new employees? Don't miss your chance! Use this form to sign up to help host a booth or participate in other ways!

<https://uuman.breezechms.com/form/c70c7b>

3-5-23:

PlayGroup @10AM-Discovery Hall

RE Curriculum @11:15AM-Discovery

3-12-23:

PlayGroup @10AM-Discovery Hall

RE Curriculum @11:15AM-Discovery- Youth Service Rehearsal in Fellowship Hall

3-19-23:

NO PlayGroup or 2nd hour youth programming

Youth Service @10AM-"WHO IS GEN Z?" Fellowship Hall

3-26-23:

PlayGroup @10AM-Discovery Hall

Career Fair @11:15PM

The Environmental Impacts of Fast Fashion

Written by Jennifer Phillippi using Chat GPT

As we continue to witness the negative impacts of climate change, it is important to acknowledge the role that fast fashion plays in contributing to environmental degradation. The fast fashion industry is a model of clothing production that emphasizes rapid turnover of clothing styles, low prices, and quick manufacturing. However, this model has come at a great cost to the environment.

One of the primary environmental impacts of the fast fashion industry is the production of greenhouse gas emissions. This occurs through the use of energy-intensive processes such as spinning, weaving, and dyeing, as well as transportation and distribution of the final products. In addition, the production of synthetic fabrics like polyester, which are widely used in fast fashion, creates significant amounts of greenhouse gas emissions.

The fast fashion industry also contributes to water pollution. The industry uses large amounts of water for processes like dyeing and finishing, and this water is often discharged into rivers and other water bodies without proper treatment. This leads to pollution and depletion of water resources, harming wildlife and ecosystems.

Furthermore, the fast fashion industry generates significant amounts of waste. With the emphasis on rapid turnover of clothing styles and low prices, many garments are made to be disposable and quickly fall apart. This creates a cycle of waste that ends up in landfills, where clothing can take years to decompose.

As consumers, we can take steps to reduce the environmental impacts of fast fashion. One way is to choose sustainable and eco-friendly clothing brands that prioritize ethical production, use of natural and organic materials, and fair labor practices. Another option is to buy secondhand clothing, which reduces the demand for new clothes and keeps usable clothing out of landfills.

We must be aware of the negative impacts of fast fashion on the environment and take action to reduce our own contributions to this issue. By making conscious choices as consumers, we can help support sustainable and ethical practices in the fashion industry.

UUMAN's Board of Trustees uses [Covid Act Now](#) to monitor current Covid risk levels. We are thrilled to see that the counties in which the majority of us live are in the Low Risk category. Masks are optional for indoor activities, and indoor congregational singing can occur at this time. We are happy to say that UUMAN's community is highly vaccinated and boosted—thank you for doing your part to keep our risk as low as possible!

March 2023: A Month of Sundays

Date	Topic	Service Leaders
3/5	Interdependence, Transformation, Generosity Interdependence, Transformation, and Generosity are three shared values put forth by the Article II Study Commission. Thinking about ourselves as individuals, and ourselves as a congregation with a specific Mission and Vision, are these values that we share? What does interdependence truly mean? What happens to things that don't transform? What happens when we lack generosity?	Rev. Dave Dunn
3/12	Does Anybody Know What We're Doing? What's going on here? Can "what goes on here" be best described by SNAFU? What are the answers? Who do we think has them? What makes us think they have them? What does all this say about us?	Rev. Dave Dunn
3/19	Who is Gen Z? Come join us as UUMAN's Youth Group presents their annual Sunday service. This year, they'd like to tell you a little bit about their generation (Gen Z), so you can understand the challenges they face and the things they worry about.	UUMAN Youth
3/26	Who's God's Mom? A few years ago, one of our UUMAN young ones asked, "Who's God's mom?" Although some Christians might have a particular take on this, and chicken and egg questions aside, where did God, however one envisions it, "come from?" What are the implications of one's answers?	Rev. Dave Dunn



Life Celebrations

We want to commemorate the happy occasions in the lives of our UUMAN members and other friends of UUMAN. We are looking for Naming Ceremonies, Graduations, Marriages, Anniversaries, Retirements, and Birthdays. Please submit the information about your special day, in the month prior to the event, to

membership@uuman.org.

Date	Celebration
3/9	Rozanne G.(Elizabeth Rohan's mother) is celebrating a birthday.
3/12	Claire C. is celebrating a birthday.
3/15	Judy D. is celebrating a birthday.
3/20	Marc L. is celebrating a birthday.
3/23	Todd W. is celebrating a birthday.
3/26	Lori A. is celebrating a birthday.
	Dirk B. is celebrating a birthday.
	Diantha H. is celebrating a birthday.
3/28	Bev J. is celebrating a birthday.
3/29	Danielle B. is celebrating a birthday.
3/31	Janet L. is celebrating a birthday.

ABOUT THE UUMANTimes: The UUMANTimes is the newsletter of Unitarian Universalist Metro Atlanta North (UUMAN). We go live with each issue by the first Sunday of the month; deadline for submissions is typically on the 22nd of the month preceding the issue date. Please email your news articles and artwork to Becky at newsletter@uuman.org