

## **A. The Humanist Group at the UUAA**

**B. Author** -Bruce Gibb

## **C. Description of the Ministry**

The Humanist Group (HG) is comprised of members and friends of the Congregation. The group meets twice a month, on the first and third Thursday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00pm. Everyone is welcome.

The HG is the only group in the Congregation that explicitly considers the beliefs and values of the members not with the purpose of changing the beliefs of other members but to understand them. It is a safe group for individuals to share their thoughts and feelings openly without challenge or criticism. The Humanist label of the group means that anything which pertains to human processes of thinking, feeling or behaving is open for discussion. It is not specifically focused on more general humanist doctrine or advocacy but these topics do come up for examination.

## **D. Core Values**

The Humanist group enhances the mission of the UUAA by living the UUAA 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> principles.

## **E. Goals and Objectives**

Some members advocated for identifying and taking the initiative to bring one core social justice concern for the whole Congregation to rally around and take coordinated action toward its solution. The ministers already seem to have reached a decision that this issue be in general, institutional racism, and Black Lives Matter in particular and the Group supports this issue.

## **F. Goals and Objectives Achieved**

The group considered 40 articles and books this year. Implicitly, we are a group that builds and strengthens the relationships among the members of the group. By exploring concepts and issues of importance to the members, each thinks more broadly than before the discussions. Another implicit goal is to engage and apply the understandings, insights, and values we gain in our lives outside of the group, to become better people.