



First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor Resolution to Support the Black Lives Matter Movement

WHEREAS, the 2015 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association has duly adopted a call to member congregations to take action in regard to the Black Lives Matter Movement and its concerns relating to racial justice, police reform and prison system replacement;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor, Michigan does hereby answer said call, and undertakes and agrees as follows:

- 1) to engage in intentional learning spaces to organize for racial justice with recognition of the inter-connected nature of racism coupled with systems of oppression that impact people based on class, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability and language;
- 2) to work toward police reform and take action to replace the current prison system with a system that is just and equitable; and
- 3) to take initiative in collaboration with local and national organizations fighting for racial justice against the harsh racist practices to which many black people are exposed.

Background to the Black Lives Matter Resolution to be Presented at the UUAA June 5th Annual Meeting

Challenging Racism at the UUAA brings this initiative in support of our 1st Principle: “the inherent worth and dignity of every person.”

CRG's focus this coming year will be an emphasis on action: how we can make a difference in the lives of people of color.

The Black Lives Matter movement is the current face of the civil rights movement – which this UUAA congregation has supported throughout the years. Currently there are 147 UU congregations that have gone on record as supporting the Black Lives Matter initiative.

Our resolution is in response to the passing of the 2015 General Assembly's Action of Immediate Witness. Here is a link to that initiative: (<http://www.uua.org/statements/support-black-lives-matter-movement>) and have copies in the back, if you would like to see it now.

The process of preparing for this resolution has included 2-3 years of CRG sponsoring numerous opportunities for reflection, book and movie discussions on racism, information on actions such as marches and demonstrations; and the support for the individual action of wearing the Black Lives Matter buttons.

Recently CRG held 3 open meetings in April and May to discuss this action that we feel is very important: the passing of our own UUAA Black Lives Matter Resolution. We were very pleased with the many and diverse congregants who attended these sessions. This resolution arose out of those discussions.

This resolution is pulled from the UUA resolution and has been revised with input from our own congregation.