

8th Principle at the May 2022 NUUC Annual Meeting

The Neighborhood 8th Principle Steering Committee will be submitting a resolution for the May 22, 2022 Annual Meeting that reads as follows:

“At the Annual Meeting in June 2021, we as a congregation committed to taking a year of reflection and learning to further explore the 8th Principle into practice at NUUC. The charge of the 8th Principle Steering Committee is to guide the exploration of the 8th Principle over the 2021/ 2022 church year, creating opportunities for education, discussion, and discernment. The goal of the committee’s work was to be ready as a community for a vote at the May 2022 annual meeting.

During the fall of 2021, the 8th Principle Steering Committee hosted a series of conversations to explore the 8th Principle and examine what affirming and adopting the 8th Principle would look like for our congregation. A summary of these conversations can be found [here](#). In the Spring, the Committee collected input, via an electronic survey, from 109 respondents of which 95 are members. A summary of those responses can be found [here](#).

The 8th Principle Steering Committee has concluded that the members of Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church are in a place of understanding the meaning of the 8th Principle and have shown a commitment to the work that the 8th Principle calls on us to do as individuals and as an institution.

Resolution:

Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church adopts the 8th Principle:

We, the members of Neighborhood Unitarian Universalist Church, covenant to affirm and promote: **journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountability dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions. The Board will ensure the development, implementation, and monitoring of a specific measurable action plan to bring the 8th principle alive throughout our congregation.”**

BACKGROUND

Neighborhood People of Color (NPOC) put forth a resolution at our last annual meeting that recommended that Neighborhood Church take a year of reflection and deep learning to

further explore the 8th Principle into practice. The Black Lives of UU (BLUU) Organizing Collective has encouraged all Unitarian Universalists to advocate for the formal adoption of an 8th principle, articulating a commitment to the dismantling of white supremacy, within the stated principles of our faith. As of April 24, there have been 160 congregations that have adopted the 8th Principle.

LEARNING AND REFLECTION

As mentioned in the resolution preamble, the steering committee held five congregational listening sessions in the Fall of 2021. The members of the steering committee have also engaged in conversations with individual members and have also attended meetings of other committees to provide more information on the 8th Principle.

Following the congregation wide survey, steering committee members followed up with emails and/or one-on-one conversations if requested.

On February 20, 2022, the 8th Principle Steering Committee led a service that centered the 8th Principle and addressed concerns of our members. Video of the service can be found [here](#).

SURVEY RESULTS

The committee received ninety-five responses from members who voted 93.3% in favor of the resolution. The remaining 6.3% were not in favor of the resolution as written.* There were three main themes that were found in the concerns of those that do not support the adoption of the 8th Principle at Neighborhood:

- 1) The current seven principles already imply working against racism and other oppressions
- 2) The wording is too vague or challenging
- 3) Why should we center working against racism in lieu of other oppressions?

All three of these themes are common concerns that have been raised nationwide in other congregations that have put forth a resolution to adopt the 8th Principle and have successfully affirmed the adoption.

We have developed an FAQ for these and other questions that can be found [here](#).

DISCUSSION OPPORTUNITIES

There continue to be discussion opportunities for those who would like to speak with members of the 8th principle task force.

In person

Sunday, May 8th in between services at 10:15 a.m., room 21

Sunday, May 15th in between services at 10:15 a.m., lawn outside the sanctuary

Online

Wednesday, May 18th from 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m., via [zoom](#)

LOOKING FORWARD

Voting on the adoption of the resolution will take place on May 22 at NUUC's annual meeting. This resolution requires a vote of support of 80% or more to pass. We hope that you will be present or send your proxy to the annual meeting.

After the vote and our final report is given to the board at the Board's June 29th meeting, the 8th Principle Steering Committee will merge with the Truth & Reconciliation Committee and Brave Space to continue our 8th principle work.