

The Inherent Worth and Dignity of Every Being

Chalice Lighting

*All too often, we pace the geometries of our walled gardens,
Believing we are traversing the whole of creation.
With spirits of discovery, let us uncover the mysteries nested in our
routines,
With the eagerness of children, let us seek out the secrets unfolding in
our peripheral vision.
Let us behold each fellow creature with reverence;
Let us greet each day with praise and thanksgiving.
For life is a gift of incomprehensible magnitude;
Our lives are voyages with unknowable destinations.
Along the way, let us meet, kiss, challenge, and support one another,
Let us fashion a network of mutuality and extend it into
the larger world
In these ways, we know the life of prayer
. - Rev. John Millspaugh*

Check-In

How is it with your body, mind, spirit and heart?

Silence

Holding ourselves and each other in silent support

Deep Sharing/Deep Listening

1. How have other species enriched your life? Any instances or stories in particular you would like to share?

2. How do you currently care for or think about other species?
3. How do you define "being?" "worth?" "dignity?"
4. Would the proposed change to the First Principle impact your actions towards humans or other species, or how you care for or think about them?
5. What benefits and challenges might the process to change the First Principle mean for you, your congregation, or your communities?
5. What benefits and challenges would the actual change the First Principle mean for you, your congregation, or your communities?
6. Some question time and resources spent advocating to reduce suffering of nonhuman animals when there is so much human suffering in the world. How do you respond to this concern?
7. How do you think the First Principle relates to the Seventh Principle - *respect for the interdependent web of existence of which we all are a part?*
8. What more do you or do you think your congregation needs to reflect and act further upon this change to the First Principle?

Check Out

*How are you leaving this gathering? Gratitudes?
Mournings?*

Closing Words

May every creature abound in well-being and peace.

May every living being, weak or strong, the long and the small, the
short and the medium-sized, the mean and the great,
May every living being, seen or unseen, those dwelling far off,
those living near by, those already born those waiting to be
born,
May all attain inward peace.
Let no one deceive another.
Let no one despise another in any situation.
Let no one, from antipathy or hatred, wish evil to anyone at all.
Just as a mother, with her own life, protects her only child from
hurt, so within yourself foster a limitless concern for every
living creature.
Display a heart of boundless love for all the world in all its height
and dept and broad extent.
Love unrestrained, without hate or enmity.
Then as you stand or walk, sit or lie, until overcome by
drowsiness, devote your mind entirely to this: it is known
as living the life divine. - Buddhist

Background

Current First Principle: We, the member congregations of the
Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote...

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Proposed change:

*The inherent worth and dignity of **every being***

To get connected

First Principle Project Facilitator: Rev. LoraKim Joyner, DVM -
amoloros@gmail.com

Google group: [First Principle Project](https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/first-principle-project)
(<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/first-principle-project>)

Facebook page: [First Principle Project](https://www.facebook.com/groups/648805055153160/)
(<https://www.facebook.com/groups/648805055153160/>)

First Principle Discussion Guide

*The Inherent Worth and
Dignity of Every Being*



The First Principle Project