

**UU Principles: 8<sup>th</sup> Principle, What would you add?**

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville, Asheville, NC, Ben Fleming, 2013

This session came out of an exploration of the 7 Principles over seven sessions at the suggestion of my wife, Mame. We gave our members the assignment in advance to consider what principle they would want to add. We also shared the article from *UU World* on the history of the current principles by Warren Ross (see citation at end of this document).

**Opening words/chalice lighting:** Our opening words come from the Rev. Eugene Pickett. He was president of the UUA from 1979 – 1985. It was during his tenure that our current Seven Principles were adopted. The process of replacing the Principles and Purposes, first adopted by the newly merged UUA in 1960, was already underway when he assumed the presidency. In 1979 he spoke to the need to have a clear message to share:

"The deeper malaise lies in our confusion as to what word we have to spread. The old watchwords of liberalism—freedom, reason, tolerance—worthy though they may be, are simply not catching the imagination of the contemporary world. They describe a process for approaching the religious depths, but they testify to no intimate acquaintance with the depths themselves. If we are ever to speak to a new age, we must supplement our seeking with some profound religious finds."

**Check In/Sharing:** How are you today?

**Topic/Activity:** Before we hear your suggestions, let's review the Seven Principles:

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association Covenant to Affirm and Promote:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person;

Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within in our congregations and in society at large;

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

If you could add an 8<sup>th</sup> Principle, what would it be?

**Check out/Likes and wishes:** How was this session for you?

**Closing:**

Our time together is finished, but our work is not yet done:

May our spirits be renewed and our purpose resolved

As we meet the challenges of the week to come.

The chalice flame is extinguished

Until once again ignited by the strength of our communion.

Go now in peace. Martha Kirby Capo