

"Anti-Racism and Reparations via Restorative Justice"

Whereas, the forced labor, egregious punishments, and inhuman sufferings of Americans of African descent during the chattel enslavement era, were the impetuses that catapulted America into a world power, financially and militarily and,

Whereas, the full reality of this violence and free labor of Americans of African descent has not been taught, discussed, nor acknowledged; therefore, it has given rise to a belief in and practice of white supremacy that condemns Americans of African descent to second-class citizens, without equal protection under the law,

Whereas, throughout chattel enslavement, the Jim Crow Era and into this 21st century, the Federal Government wrote divisive policies in housing, education, policing and taxation which differentially penalized persons of African descent,

Whereas, the escalation of political polarization has resulted in widespread education censorship bills and voting rights restrictions that are clearly anti-African American and pro-white supremacist and have taken hold in national politics,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the 2022 General Assembly move to encourage and support its member congregations to engage the principles of Restorative Justice and truthful American history, to fully understand and reject white supremacy, and

The General Assembly asks Unitarian Universalists, in alignment with our faith values, to address and engage Restorative Justice through allying with representatives from the most affected communities, to take action employing those dynamics at all levels of public engagement in the political and educational spheres.

First: Create Study/Action Groups in our UU Congregations, that engage in Restorative Justice. Congregations would take the initiative, **by embracing the principles of Restorative Justice and partnering with marginalized communities to seek societal repair/reparations as an essential underlying aspect of our social justice work.**

Second: Promote and support cultural and gender identity in leadership and in learning environments,

Our congregations can model diversity in their teams, as models of a comprehensive approach to change: individual, congregational, city: wherever their interventions occur,

Our congregations can support local school committees to include, as graduation requirements, civics and the true history and realities experienced by peoples of color.

WHEREAS no group has escaped the dominant narrative of White Supremacy in our educational and entertainment media, teaching a people's history of America is imperative. Consequently, postsecondary and higher education must be decolonized as part of this AIW initiative.

Third: encourage Unitarian Universalist congregations to become advocates for reparations/repair initiatives in their local communities.

Fourth: The current mischaracterization of true, demythologized history as “critical race theory” represents the intersection of teacher-welfare and our social justice work. We must condemn such political and religiously motivated censorship. The needs of teachers and other workers in education and academic freedom must be protected.

WHEREAS the General Assembly wants to ensure that Unitarian Universalists are aware that New York State Assembly has passed a Reparations bill, Reparations are being implemented in Evanston, Illinois, and Georgetown and Harvard Universities have set aside millions of dollars for reparations to those enslaved who built and contributed to the success of those institutions, and a reparations Task Force is currently deliberating in California,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that all Unitarian Universalists are encouraged to be a part of national and local initiatives and organizations, such as the National Coalition of Blacks for Reparations in America (N’COBRA), the National African American Reparations Commission (NAARC). Grassroots Reparations Campaign, Coming to the Table. It is our strong belief that **ALL** citizens of America have been harmed by the consciousness that created and gave rise to our Chattel Enslavement past. The Reparations Task Force of the Unitarian Universalists' for a Just Economic Community is convinced that, taking action to learn about and support the controversial subject of Reparations via Restorative Justice, we can repair The Soul of Our Nation.