



THE CHALICE NEWS

Unitarian Society of Menomonie
A Welcoming Unitarian Universalist Congregation

February 2024 Newsletter

SEVEN PRINCIPLES

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations
3. Acceptance to one another and encouragement of spiritual growth in our congregations
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

CALENDAR

**10 AM IN OUR MEETING ROOM
(ZOOM CONNECTIONS WILL BE PROVIDED)**

Feb. 4 – Second and last session of book discussion.

“Happiness Is A Choice You Make,” by John Leland

Feb. 11 – Service with Dennis Peters, World View: A Discussion of Science and Faith

Unitarian Universalism represents many views, sometimes views that conflict with each other. I’m going to stick my neck out here and present some views that I espouse. I look forward to the discussion!

Feb. 15 – Programming Committee Meeting

All are welcome, 9 a.m. at Golden Leaf Café. Contact Juliana at 715-505-3525 for more information.

Feb. 18 – Officer Aaron Bergh, Menomonie Police Department

Officer Bergh will speak to us about the MPD’s outreach program and homeless folks.

Feb. 25 – Service with Dennis Peters, Middle East Conflict: A Short History

As I write this, the Middle East is out of control. Hamas attacked Israel from Gaza, killing 1,200 Israelis. Israel has declared war on Hamas, and in the process, has killed 25,000 Palestinians in Gaza, mostly women and children. Where did this come from? Where is it going? Prepare to participate in thoughtful discussion.



DAVE WILLIAMS, Time to Think about Article II

The Unitarian Universalist Association General Assembly will be held this coming June 20-24 in a virtual format. The UUA's website describes the General Assembly as the time when participants worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through the democratic process. Congregations like our Unitarian Society of Menomonie must certify annually to have voting delegates. We are allowed two delegates because of our small size.

A significant topic to come before this year's General Assembly for an up-or-down vote will be the proposed revision to Article II of the UUA bylaws, which would replace the seven Principles, the only Principles most of us have known during our affiliation with Unitarian Universalism. Those seven Principles grace the cover page of this newsletter. Last year's General Assembly saw the introduction of the first draft of the new Article II, which engendered much review and discussion. The final draft of the new Article II is now available for review on the UUA website, uua.org.

Why change Article II now?

Our seven Principles and six Sources — which we know and love — were adopted in 1985. They offered a substantial (even radical) change from what preceded them. The changes came through years of effort by UU women, particularly the UU Women's Federation, to push for gender equality in UUism, support for women in the ministry and to eliminate sexist language from our bylaws, hymns, and yes, from the version of Article II passed in 1961 at the time of the merger of Unitarians and Universalists.

But the changes didn't just address gender, they made significant language changes that reflected the times. It removed language of God, man and brotherhood, but also added the language of interdependence and added sources reflecting the growing theological diversity shaping our tradition.

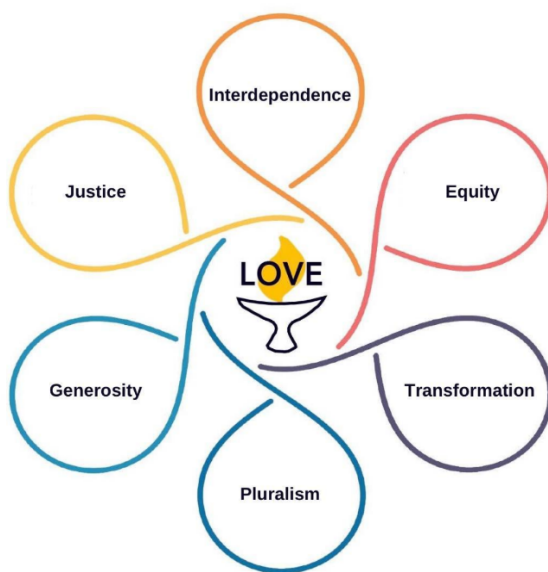
Today, the digital age has shifted our interactions with community and truth. The Covid-19 pandemic has highlighted our interdependence, and where individualism falls short. There is a rise in global autocracies and attacks on democratic institutions, and climate catastrophes and mass extinctions threaten the delicate balance of the web of life. These are just a few of the major struggles our living tradition must face today and in our future. With the articulation of our shared UU values, we can be better equipped to make values-based decisions in facing these new and evolving realities.

Why did the proposal do away with the word "principles?" If this passes, what happens to the principles?

The Commission spent a long time studying and analyzing the current version of Article II. What became clear was that we don't explicitly name the values that we share, and that our covenant does not have enough verbs. Shared values are what hold any organization together, and we often speak of our shared values without naming them. We (the UUA Study Commission) asked Unitarian Universalists what were the values we shared. We took the many answers we received and synthesized them into the values in our draft. After our first draft was released we changed one of the named values from Evolution to Transformation.

We created a covenant related to each of our named values, as well as a very brief description of the values. The covenant has many verbs and is stated in broad enough language so as to allow congregations to find their way to live into our shared values.

If the revision of Article II is adopted as currently written, the UUA Principles will no longer be incorporated in the UUA bylaws. We anticipate congregations and individuals will continue to utilize the UUA Principles alongside the newly articulated shared UUA Values, as previous covenants and statements of commonly held beliefs are used within their historical context today. (This information was printed in part from the UUA website, uua.org.)



Perhaps our small fellowship should spend a meeting again reviewing the new Article II and thus provide our delegate(s) to General Assembly with knowledge of where we stand as they are called to vote on this major change?

[USM Website](#)

The USM website is on track to be updated this year. If you have ideas as to what should be different about this important tool, contact a member of the board.

[Book Discussion: "Happiness is a Choice You Make," by John Leland](#)

Sunday, Feb. 4 is the second and last session of the book discussion.

"Love Is Hard"
by Carey McDonald & Terasa Cooley

Love is hard.

Love for people, especially those who are different from you.

Love that says "I see you as a person."

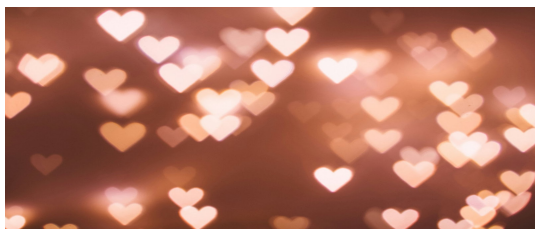
Love that says "let your unique light shine in the world" because each of our souls touches the divine mystery.

Love that says "we're on a journey together, and my fate is tied up with yours."

Love that grabs you and won't let go until your whole life is dedicated to siding with love.

Love that changes the world.

Love is hard. Do it anyway.



[MPD Needs Blankets and Quilts](#)

Once again, the Menomonie Police Department needs gently used or new blankets and quilts to distribute to folks in need. Drop off at the cop shop on Stout Road/Highway 29, Stepping Stones, or leave some in our office, and they will get to where they need to go.

[New Moon & Full Moon Drum Jams Followed with Tarot Readings](#)

New Moon — Please contact Sherry or Jack for date and time.

Full Moon — Sunday, Feb. 25 at 6 p.m.

Sherry and Jack Hagen's house

Some drums are available. Feel free to bring drums and a tarot deck. We have one elderly cat. Questions? sherryhagen0115@gmail.com

[Have Content for the Next Newsletter?](#)

Please email events, news, poems, and stories by the 25th of the month to be included in the next newsletter to Cassandra Kyser at kyser.cassandra@gmail.com