

Resolution in Support of Black Lives Matter Movement
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville
June 2016

Whereas our mission as a Unitarian Universalist faith community is to “nurture individual search for meaning as we work together for freedom, justice and love;”

Whereas The 2015 General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association passed an Action of Immediate Witness to “Support the Black Lives Matter Movement” (<http://www.uua.org/statements/support-black-lives-matter-movement>) calling congregations to take action to support the Black Lives Matter movement and to take initiative in fighting for racial justice;

Whereas racist rhetoric is on the rise and the Southern Poverty Law Center found that the number of hate groups operating in 2015 was 14 percent higher than in 2014, including 13 KKK, white supremacist, and anti-immigrant groups in North Carolina;

Whereas the campaign rhetoric of some political candidates in the 2016 elections at the national and state level promises to further inflame racial tensions and re-energize white supremacist groups;

Whereas our respect for the rights and dignity of every individual demands that we stand in solidarity with all of those who are victims of racial, ethnic and religious hatred and bigotry in this society;

Whereas we believe that Black Lives Matter; and

Whereas our Ends Statements call us to work beyond our congregation and "act meaningfully and visibly in community service, advocacy, and education; serve as a beacon of liberal religious thought and action; offer our space for events which serve a varied audience and inspire community dialogue" and "partner with other congregations and organizations in support of shared objectives;" now, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Asheville:

1. affirms unequivocally our support of the UUA Action of Immediate Witness to “Support the Black Lives Matter” movement;
2. commits to educating ourselves about and deepening our understanding of white privilege and oppressive systems; and
3. commits to partnering with local organizations, such as the Asheville chapters of the NAACP and SURJ (Showing Up for Racial Justice), to harness the power of love to combat racism and oppression at all levels within our communities.