

## Why vote no on Article II

[Unitarian Universalist Multiracial Unity Action Council](#) is advising all UU congregations to register delegates **who plan or are directed** to vote No on final passage of proposed revision to Article II of the UUA Bylaws at virtual GA 2024. We make this recommendation because we feel that the revision's changes will harm/undermine rather than further the cause of multiracial unity, both within our churches and in society at large.

There is general agreement that the Civil Rights movement of the 1960s succeeded because it was, by intention, multiracial. Dr. King repeatedly asserted that in defining the goal of beloved community, saying: "our aim is not to defeat the white community, not to humiliate the white community, but to win the friendship of all of the persons who had perpetrated this system in the past."

**It** succeeded in passing laws because it was, at its core, aspirational rather than coercive. King also said that in pursuit of civil rights we must avoid not just "external physical violence but also internal violence of the spirit" and he worked hard to instill in his followers a spirit of agapic love. His goal was reconciliation, not "decentering."

Dr. King advocated being "strongly aggressive spiritually." And he recognized that "a solid realism" must temper a "superficial" optimism. This approach to multiracial unity (**deletion**) is rightly the province of a liberal religion such as ours. We are the faith of lofty aspirations tempered by a solid realism that in the end our values must go out from our churches and into the community.

We urge a No vote on changes to Article II because they:

- Threaten the independence of our churches through changes to the UUA's purposes
- Turn from inspiration to mandate through the use of covenants **and accountability**, casting us down rather than lifting us up
- Turn from agape to shaming and blaming
- Divide rather than unite our congregations, association, and society, flying in the face of history and social science
- **Seek to replace our Principles and Sources with wording less clear**

There is always a need to keep UUism relevant to changing times. The UUA's Article II Study Commission was charged with proposing "revisions that will enable our UUA, our member congregations, and our covenanted communities to be a relevant and powerful force for spiritual and moral growth, healing, and justice." While UUMUAC supports the GOAL of "spiritual and moral growth, healing, and justice" we feel that the proposal the A2SC has brought forth will make us less of "a relevant and powerful force" for inculcating those liberal values within our congregations and having them manifested in our society.

Our faith as UUs is that multiracial unity, Dr. King's beloved community, IS achievable, even if a solid realism means that it will take longer than any of us would prefer.

Vote No on the Article II revision.