Statement by UUJME In Support of the Call by Black Lives of UU
For an Eighth UU Principle
April 13, 2017

Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME) is in strong solidarity with Black Lives of UU (BLUU), with Diverse Revolutionary Unitarian Universalist Multicultural Ministries (DRUUMM) and Allies for Racial Equity (ARE) in enthusiastically endorsing the adoption of an 8th Unitarian Principle which reads as follows:

"We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions."

We call on all Unitarian Universalists to educate themselves and each other with regard to the principle and to advocate for the adoption of the principle at this year's General Assembly in New Orleans. Those unfamiliar with the principle and its history can read the statement endorsing the principle that was issued last week by BLUU. Please read the entire statement from BLUU. The BLUU statement reads in part:

“We will not be satisfied by practices that call for community without full and explicit recognition of the need for equity and justice. We acknowledge that others have come before us in the work to dismantle white supremacy and anti-blackness within Unitarian Universalism and we are grateful for the example of our ancestors and the guidance of elders who, by their legacy, demonstrate that we need not tolerate oppression under the guise of ‘multiculturalism’ or ‘beloved community’.”

UUJME fully recognizes the profound role that racism has long played in the oppression of one human group by another. Racism has been used to justify slavery and colonialism. Racism is a vital component in the oppression of people around the globe including those of African descent, Indigenous people, and those of Latinx, Asian, and Arab backgrounds. Racism is at the root of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia and such systematic human rights violations as those suffered by Palestinians.

There is no partial commitment to justice. Collective liberation is not achieved in only one act of change, but through the efforts and dedication of those who recognize the inherent worth and dignity in all people and will strive for a global village that reflects those values. The commitment starts with every one of us.

Signed by Members of the UUJME Board of Directors.

Dana Ashrawi                        Larry Cooper          Cathy Pfister
Curtis Bell                         Elissa Goss           Amanda Weatherspoon
Stephen Buck                        Pamela McInnes
Abigail Clauhs                      Susan Nye