



April 2017 UNlverse

NWUUC NORTHWEST
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION

Join Us on April 16 for the Annual Flower Communion, Easter Egg Hunt and Potluck

Things will be hopping on April 16 at Northwest with three of our favorite annual traditions—the flower communion, Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Potluck. There will be something for everyone to enjoy!

Flower communion: 20th century Unitarian Minister Norbert Capek started a ceremony of flowers, which is celebrated this time of year by many Unitarian Universalist congregations. Capek, the founder of the modern Unitarian church in the Czech Republic, was an outspoken opponent of Nazism during World War II, which led to his imprisonment and death. His flower communion celebrates the uniqueness of each individual and the beauty of diverse community.

What to do: Bring one or more flowers with you to worship and add them to the large vase at the front of the Sanctuary before the service begins. During a special ceremony, you will be invited forward to take a different flower home with you.



Easter Egg Hunt: It wouldn't be spring without the Easter Bunny. And, it wouldn't be Easter without an Easter Egg Hunt! Be sure to join us on Sunday, April 16 for both. The Easter Egg hunt for children begins

on the front porch immediately following the 10:00 am service.

P.S. We're expecting a very special guest to hop in for a visit. Don't miss it!

Help Wanted: The Northwest Middle School students and Youth will be stuffing hundreds of plastic Easter eggs on April 9 in the lower level of the Chalice House during Second Hour. Please come by if you can help or contact Melissa Niedermeyer at Melissa.niedermeyer@gmail.com.



Easter Potluck: After the Easter Egg Hunt, join us for a festive potluck lunch. Please bring a food item to share. (Adding an identifying food label and putting your name on the container is much appreciated!)



Worship Services for April 2017

Sunday services start at 10:00 am

Reflecting on Blessings and Promises

Our Sunday worship services are led by our minister Rev. Terry Davis, guest ministers or members of the Northwest Worship Associates team. The Nursery is staffed and available during services and fellowship. The weekly NeUUs has additional information about the coming week's service. Contact our Office Administrator at office@nwuuc.org or stop by the Greeter Table on Sunday to sign up for the NeUUs.

¹ cov · e · nant

: a formal and serious agreement
or promise

April 2 – A Covenantal People

Worship Leader – Rev. Terry Davis

Worship Associate – Constance Dierickx

Music – William Fowler

Unitarian Universalists have been known to sometimes say that we embrace “deeds, not creeds.” Yet, while we may not all believe the same thing, it is our covenants that bind us to one another. Why is the concept of covenant so central to our faith? What are its blessings and its challenges?

This Sunday ends Northwest's 2017-18 Pledge Campaign! Today, we'll celebrate our vision and generosity. If you have not received your pledge packet or have questions, please contact Stewardship Ministry Team Leader Constance Dierickx.

April 9 – Because We Care

Worship Leader – Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey,

The Religious Institute

Worship Associate – David Morgen

Music – Northwest Passage

In 2016, Northwest adopted a comprehensive policy that reflects our value of keeping our congregation healthy and welcoming and our children safe. How are we doing with our commitment? What else do we need to know? Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey, president and CEO of The Religious Institute, an Episcopal priest and national expert on creating sexually healthy congregations, will share her insights with us.

Rev. Alford-Harkey is president and CEO of the Religious Institute, a multi-faith organization that advocates for sexual health, education and justice in faith communities and society. The Religious Institute has emerged as the national leadership organization working at the intersection of sexuality and religion.

An educator with 20 years of classroom experience, Rev. Alford-Harkey holds a Master's in Divinity from the Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, MA. She has spoken on faith and sexuality issues at seminaries and rabbinical schools, the Wild Goose Festival, Creating Change, the Sex Ed Conference, the General Convention of the Episcopal Church as well as from Episcopal, United Church of Christ and Unitarian Universalist pulpits.

Rev. Alford-Harkey will also lead a Second Hour program following the service. See page 6.



Continued on page 3

Worship Services for April 2017, continued

Sunday services start at 10:00 am

Reflecting on Blessings and Promises



April 16 – Easter and Flower Communion Sunday (Multigenerational Service)

Worship Leaders— Rev. Terry Davis and
Rev. Joan Armstrong Davis

Music – The Northwest Choir

Spring flowers, Easter bonnets, a children’s egg hunt and the retelling of stories of hope and love from our Judeo-Christian heritage . . . join us for this day of beauty, memory and community.

The Flower Communion is a beautiful and moving annual tradition at Northwest and among Unitarian Universalist congregations around the world. You bring a flower to the service to share . . . and take a different flower home. Please see page 1 for details on the Flower Communion and on our Easter potluck brunch, to be held after our Easter Egg Hunt.



April 23 – You Are What You Eat

Worship Leader – Rev. Terry Davis

Worship Associates – Tom Couch

Music – Northwest Passage

On this Earth Day Sunday, we will take a look at one of the most basic ways we engage with the bounty of the Earth: food. Where does it really come from? How is it produced? Are we helping or hurting the Earth by our practices? Let’s discover together what we can do to raise, grow and eat food that sustains our planet and us.

Stay after the service for our Earth Day Food Fair. See page 7 for details.



April 30 – Our Promise, Our Message

Worship Leader – Glenn Koller

Worship Associates – Lynne Dale

Music – William Fowler

As UUs, part of our promise is that we embrace diversity in most forms. Our message to the world relates in great part to that promise. Are we living our promise? Is our message clear? Is our message getting out and is it effective? We’ll explore this and more.



Spring Has Sprung

Dear Friends,

This is the time of year when Atlanta seems to put on its finest show. Dogwood flowers, cherry blossoms, azaleas bursting in all possible shades of pink. There's that fine green pine pollen too, of course, that coats cars, yards and everything in sight. Nevertheless, spring in our city offers a time to connect to beauty and the joy that it can bring to our spirits.



My very first visit to Atlanta was in April when I was college shopping. I was deeply moved by the natural beauty that seemed to be waiting for me at every turn. My grandmother was with me, and she was also thrilled by the generosity of flowers and colors we encountered. I remember sitting on a bench with her under a tree in the quadrangle of Oglethorpe University. There was a lovely breeze. We noticed the tulips gently swaying and chipmunks chasing each other across the lawn.

"I like this place," Grandma exclaimed, as she leaned back and closed her eyes. It was the natural beauty, not the academics, that made her mind up about the school I was considering. Admittedly, this is what won me over, too. I imagine that the admissions department knew exactly what it was doing by inviting us to come in April.

The same might be said about the timing of Easter. The timing of its message of hope and new life seems no more appropriate than amid the glory of green buds and fragrant blossoms. Whether the story of the resurrection

is real or metaphor, I find that my spirit needs this annual invitation to push past the winter of tumult and pain and rediscover beauty and joy.

Unitarian Universalist minister Rev. Max A. Coots acknowledged our soul's need for a springtime and a salvation time when he wrote:

We need a celebration that speaks to the Spring-inspired word about life and death.

We need the sense of deity to crack our own hard, brown December husks

and push life out of inner tombs and outer pain.

Unless we move the seasons of the self,

and Spring can come for us,

the Winter will go on and on.

And Easter will remain a myth,

and life will never come again,

despite the fact of Spring.¹

Spring has sprung . . . in our city and in our souls. Let's celebrate the season.

Warmly,

Terry

Rev. Terry Davis



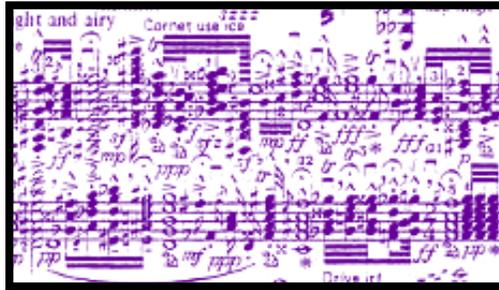
¹ #627, "Seasons of the Self," *Singing the Living Tradition*.

The Hard Thing

It only takes one or two lessons for my private music students to realize that I'll let them play their easiest songs, but not before we play the hard stuff. Even if a short, difficult section is near the end of the music, most of my students will try to start at the beginning again, but I'll insist on starting at the hard part, usually saying something like "You don't need to practice that part. You're already good at it. You need to start at the place in the music where it gets hard and practice that a few times until it's as easy as the rest of the song." Then I'll show them how to improve the difficult section.

We'll analyze what makes it hard. It could be any number of things: a faster rhythm, skipping over a string if there is a wide leap from one note to

the next, or a new note. After we figure out why the music is hard, we'll play that section VERY slowly, and then repeat it over and over, gradually increasing the tempo. By the time we get it up to tempo, my student can



usually play the difficult section as easily (or nearly as easily) as the rest of the music.

Although this approach may seem like torture to young students, I explain that this is how I practice guitar. Just

like my students, I play my favorite songs, but I also spend time working on the hard parts, otherwise I won't get any better.

As I teach, I'm keenly aware that each 30-minute session with a young student is also a chance to teach a life lesson: Do the hard thing. I hope that they will learn to apply this not only to their instrument, but also in daily life. Do your homework. Finish your chores. Stand up to bullying. Befriend someone who seems alone. Do the hard stuff first, and the rest is easy.

Tom Godfrey
Director of Music

Northwest 101, April 22

Want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism in general and the Northwest UU Congregation in particular? Wondering if membership might be the right next step for you or would you simply like to meet other seekers like yourself? You're invited to join us on Saturday, April 22, from 9 am - noon in the Chalice House Chapel for our semi-annual Northwest 101, starting with a light breakfast.

The program will include presentations by Rev. Terry Davis, Board President Kristen Fowks, Finance Trustee Michael Dierickx and some of the Ministry Team Leaders.

There will be ample time for Q&A and a chance to meet other newcomers. Child care is provided with two weeks advance notice (by Saturday, April 8, please).

Contact Ruth Subramanian at 770.452.1921 or ruthsindia@yahoo.com with any questions. Please RSVP by Sunday, April 16.



Adult Learning for April 2017

Northwest's adult learning program is offered during Second Hour, 11:30-12:30 on Sunday, immediately following the worship service and a 30-minute refreshment break. This is a great opportunity to explore topics such as spiritual practice, social and environmental justice, community outreach, Earth-based spirituality, Northwest's vision, book discussions, art exploration, seniors group, and much, much more. Sessions are led by our minister, church leaders, members, friends and invited guests.

If you'd like to request the addition of an adult learning session, contact Laura Hall at laurahallatl@gmail.com with the topic, session leader (if not yourself), first and second choice of date and a brief description of the activity. Second Hour goes on hiatus during the summer.

Check out what's happening during Second Hour in April!

April 2, 2017

Share the Plate Recipient Presentation: Partnership Against Domestic Violence

On April 2, we will have a Second Hour presentation by our April Share the Plate Recipient organization, the Partnership Against Domestic Violence. President and CEO Nancy Friauf will discuss PADV's important work and how we can support this outstanding organization. Nancy has worked with families and children in crisis for more than 30 years. She is an exceptional leader, merging deep compassion for those in need with operational and organizational capability. Please join us.

Read more about this vital organization on page 9.



April 9, 2017

Sexually Safer Congregations Policy

Session Leader: Rev. Marie Alford-Harkey

Rev. Alford-Harkey, president and CEO of the Religious Institute, will explore what it means to be a sexually safer congregation and what we can do to continue to educate ourselves on this issue. See page 2 for more information on the Religious Institute and Rev. Alford-Harkey.



Non-violent Communication: Connect vs. Convince

Session Leaders: Sandra Niven and Nina Roark

What if you became curious about why a person thinks or feels the way they do?

What if you saw the other person as having the same needs as you?

What if you could loosen your Western conditioning of shame, blame, tame, hide or harm?

What if you could unlearn some ways of thinking and talking that disconnect you from others?

What if you felt heard and safe when you spoke your true feelings and thoughts?

What if you discovered that you have many choices of how to handle what arises in conversations?

What if no one dominated anyone else and every encounter was a win-win?

Join Sandra Niven and Nina Roark to explore their program on non-violent communication: *Language of the Heart*.

P.S. Sandra and Nina will offer more practice sessions on a Wednesday afternoon or evening or on Thursday evenings at Nina's home in Buckhead. The dates will be determined by interested participants attending this Second Hour session. If you are interested but can't attend the session, contact Sandra Niven at sandraniven@hotmail.com or Nina Roark at nroark@earthlink.net.

Continued on page 7

Adult Learning for April 2017, *continued*

April 16, 2017

Easter Potluck

There will be no Second Hour on April 16. Everyone is welcome to the Easter Egg Hunt followed by the Easter potluck lunch. See page 1 for more details.



April 23, 2017

Earth Day Intergenerational Celebration

Session Leaders: Earth Ministry

Join us for a congregational potluck food fair celebration with vegetarian dishes using as much locally grown produce as possible. Please bring a dish and include a label stating the source and ingredients. Information will also be available on Community Supported Agriculture (CSAs).

Northwest Senior Network

Session Leaders: Mike and Renee Burke

Northwest Senior Network will join the Earth Day Celebration this month.

April 30, 2017

Northwest Board Discussion: Moving Our Vision Into Action

Please read the upcoming weekly publications for more information.

CUUPS Beltane Earth-based Ritual

Session Leader: Cynthia Flot

Please join Hawk's Hoop CUUPS (Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans) as we celebrate the Pagan May Day. This is the season of growth, love, and commitment. Bring some colored ribbons and be prepared to celebrate! We will meet on the back porch.



Dining for Women Meets April 9

All women are invited to join Dining for Women for a potluck dinner to support Chicuchas Wasi from 5-7pm on April 9.

The Chicuchas Wasi School for Girls promotes gender equality, self-esteem and human dignity for indigenous girls in rural Cusco, Peru, by educating, empowering and preparing them for economic independence and unlimited opportunity.

The school educates 112 girls who would not otherwise be receiving education as no other organizations provide free primary school education

for rural indigenous Quechua-speaking girls. The money raised by DFW will fund teacher salaries and the school meal project.

Please contact Mary Perloe at maryperloe@gmail.com or 404.217.8201 for more information and meeting location.



The Hungry Ear Coffee House™ Presents BJ Wilbanks, April 1

On April 1, the Hungry Ear Coffee House™ features the delightful BJ Wilbanks. Georgia-based Wilbanks's authentic exploration of love and the pursuit of enlightenment has been referred to as "Back Porch Soul," fusing the musical roots of Americana, Motown and Delta Blues into an intoxicating blend of Southern Rock.

On the first Saturday of each month, our Sanctuary becomes the Hungry Ear Coffee House.™ Doors open at 7:30 pm. Music starts at 8 pm.

\$5 suggested donation and canned goods for the Community Assistance Center (OurCAC.org) are appreciated. Please bring cash to purchase merchandise and refreshments served

during the break and to support the musicians. BYOB, bring a friend, tell a friend, and be ready for a night to remember!



Notes from the March 20 Board Meeting

Here are the highlights of the March Board meeting:

It's budget time! Ministry Teams and staff are working on their financial requests and the board will lay out the budget in April.

The Hungry Ear Coffee House™ has been operating smoothly, thanks to new written procedures and the efforts of the organizational committee as well as new and long-time volunteers. Thanks to all!

The Expansion Committee reviewed snazzy 3-D imagery of the proposed plans. Look for snippets of this 3-D video as well as diagrams/layouts on the monitor in our fellowship space in coming weeks or view all of the materials on the "From the Board" section on www.nwuuc.org. Second Hour sessions to discuss plans will continue and you can always speak to committee members one-on-one.

Sexually Safer Congregation Training—See pages 2 and 6 for more info.

Answer the Call!! Our journey of change, growth and action will be more fun and meaningful with the full involvement of each of our members and friends. We NEED your energy and talents to be successful. Please consider how you can participate in the areas below:

- Declaration of Conscience Next Steps—Thanks to a survey completed during our last Worship Café, we have identified ways we can broaden our reach. We are working with the Social Justice Ministry Team to determine next steps. When those steps are confirmed, help us put our values into ACTION by showing up for events, generating enthusiasm and doing your part!
- Religious Education—Currently, parents with children enrolled in RE volunteer to cover Activity Time and other needs. We need others to get involved, particularly between now and this summer as we manage the DRE transition. No

prior experience is needed, training will be provided and you'll have fun!

- Nominating Committee—Lay-led Ministry Teams manage most of our operations. Ministry Team leadership positions typically have two-year terms. If you haven't previously considered a role, we encourage you to step up today! Volunteer for a position or say "yes" when contacted by the Nominating Committee.

The Board has made progress on by-law revisions for consideration at our May Congregational Meeting. These will be distributed well in advance of the meeting for members to review.

Rev. Davis informed us that she will postpone her sabbatical, which had been scheduled to begin this fall. With so much going on at Northwest, she is excited about supporting us in the coming months. We are humbly grateful for her willingness to adjust her schedule.

April STP Supports The Partnership Against Domestic Violence

Each month Northwest pairs with a deserving organization and donates half of each Sunday's offering to advance the work of that organization in the community. During April, we are honored to be joining with the Partnership Against Domestic Violence. PADV is the largest nonprofit organization addressing domestic violence in Georgia. It provides professional, compassionate and empowering support to battered women and their children throughout metro Atlanta.

PADV's services includes a 24-hour crisis line; two 24-hour emergency shelters in metro Atlanta with 96 beds; legal advocacy; supportive housing; a teen dating violence prevention program; outreach and prevention programs for battered women and children; workshops on the effects of domestic violence on the workplace; and community education and training. Annually, PADV serves more than 20,000 individuals. PADV's President and CEO Nancy Friauf will lead a Second Hour program on April 2. See page 6.



Northwest Passover Celebration, April 8



Get an early start on your Passover holidays at Northwest with an interfaith Passover Seder, led by Northwest friend and former member Dave Savage and Northwest member Traci Montgomery. Set-up is at 5:30; the program begins at 6:30 pm and will end around 8:30 pm.

Come for the learning, songs, and wonderful food. (When was the last time you had delicious chicken soup and fluffy matzo balls?) We will provide the brisket, matzo ball soup and traditional Seder ceremonial food items; you bring the side dishes!

This a participatory and kid-friendly experience. Friends and extended family are welcome! Tickets are \$15 each for adults and teens and \$5 each for children ages 5-12. Maximum immediate family charge is \$40. For information or to RSVP, contact Traci Montgomery by April 3 at 530.356.0727 or squeek1234@gmail.com.

Spring Programs at The Mountain

Mountain Work Weekend & Easter Program, April 14-16: Many hands make light work for our annual Mountain Work Weekend. Participants ages 14+ can work on projects for all skill levels. We have an Easter program for younger children and a special Easter service on Sunday morning.

Music Week, April 16-21: If you're a singer and fan of folk music, join us for Music Week at The Mountain. Joe Jencks of Brother Sun will be leading with Mindy Simmons and Friction Farm. Children are welcome.

Homecoming Weekend, May 26-29: This intergenerational Memorial Day tradition is a three-night weekend full of fun, family and fellowship with a diverse set of workshops for all ages.



On Saturday afternoon, we will hold The Mountain's Annual Meeting and Report to Mountain Members.

For more information on these programs, contact Guest Services at gsoffice@themountainrlc.org or call 828.526.5838. More information may be found in The Mountain Notebook on the community table in the lobby.

April Birthdays and Joining Anniversaries

Birthdays

Anniversaries

Luna Marroquin	04/01	Charlotte Alyea	04/25/1982
Violet Marroquin	04/03	Jack Edmonds	04/12/1987
Peg Gary	04/04	Karen Edmonds	04/12/1987
Michael Burke	04/05	Phil Mask	04/12/1992
Melissa Niedermeyer	04/05	Donna McComas	04/30/1995
Judi Carter	04/06	Richard McComas	04/30/1995
David Niedermeyer	04/06	David Morgen	04/21/2007
Ruth Subramanian	04/06	Kaye McCall	04/22/2007
Heather Steffin	04/11	Brock Stitts	04/05/2009
Jesse Williams	04/11	Joan Armstron-Davis	04/21/2010
Priscilla Hopkins	04/13	Stephanie Dietz	04/10/2011
David Self	04/13	Bob Thacker	04/10/2011
David Morgen	04/15	Maria Drinkard	04/15/2012
Gene Zanella	04/17	Pam Zenner	04/15/2012
William Fowler	04/19	Charles Boyd	04/29/2012
Penny Orfila	04/24	Susan Hollows	04/29/2012
Sophia DelRisco	04/26	Hannah Cowart	04/06/2014
Susan Hollows	04/27	Roland DeWitt	04/20/2014
		Peter Gillis	04/27/2014
		Paul Payne	04/27/2014



LUUnch BUUnch Meets April 19

The topic of the LUUnch BUUnch gathering on April 19 will be "Spiritual Life after Death?" Rev. Terry Davis will lead the discussion of after-death beliefs of the major religions.

Come one, come all! These informal meetings are an opportunity to have lunch with members, friends, and visitors, and get to know each other better in an informal environment. We have fun, discuss topics of mutual interest, and share recent experiences. Reservations are not required.

Bring your sandwich and gather for lunch at 11:45 am in the Art Gallery.

A round of introductions and check-ins begins during lunch. The topic discussion starts at 12:30 and winds up about 1:15 pm. You can come late or leave early, as your schedule dictates.

Come join the discussion, learn of others' experience, and contribute your two cents' worth.



UNiverse

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April 1

Hungry Ear Coffee House™, 8 pm,
Sanctuary

April 2

Worship Service, 10 am
Activity Time, 10:15 am
Fellowship, 11 am
RE and Second Hour, 11:30 am

April 5

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

April 8

Passover Seder, 6:30 pm, Lobby

April 9

Worship Service, 10 am
Activity Time, 10:15 am
Fellowship, 11 am
RE and Second Hour, 11:30 am

April 11

Book Groupies, 7 pm, Art Gallery

April 12

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

April 16

Intergenerational Worship Service,
10 am
Easter Egg Hunt, 11 am
Easter Potluck, 11:30 am

April 19

LUUnch BUUnch, 11:45 am,
Art Gallery
Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

April 22

Northwest 101, 9 am, Chapel

April 23

Worship Service, 10 am
Activity Time, 10:15 am
**Intergenerational Earth Day Food
Fair**, 11 am

April 26

Choir Rehearsal, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

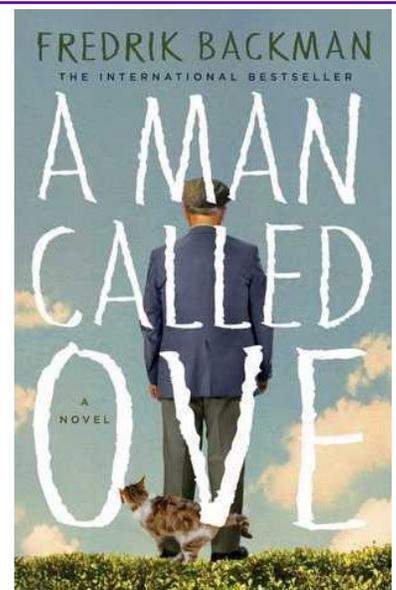
April 30

Worship Service, 10 am
Activity Time, 10:15 am
Fellowship, 11 am
RE and Second Hour, 11:30 am

Book Groupies Discuss *A Man Called Ove*, April 11

If you are ready for a break from all the heavy stuff, join NWUUC Book Groupies Tuesday, April 11 at 7 pm in the Art Gallery to discuss *A Man Called Ove* by Swedish author Fredrik Backman. This novel about a grumpy curmudgeon is also hilariously funny and a reminder that life is sweeter when shared with others. The book is available in our bookstore, Bellwether Books.

The Book Groupies meet the second Tuesday of most months. All readers are welcome. Contact [Penny Raney](#) to learn more.





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1025 Mt. Vernon Highway, NW, Sandy Springs, GA 30327

A Member Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association

April 2017 UNiverse Newsletter

Publications Available Online

If you have a print version of the UNiverse and want more information, please go to our website (nwuuc.org) and access the electronic version under the Publications tab. You can use the live links in these electronic publications to easily contact event organizers and read more about our congregation, its programs and services.

Northwest UUC Mission Statement

Our congregation creates loving community, inspires joy and spiritual growth, and supports courageous action.

Unitarian Universalist Principles

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to 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.