

Draft Peace Amendment Proposal as of 11/8/23

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A three part amendment

Title: Peace as a UU Value -- Goekler

Section C-2.2 Values and Covenant

Part 1

Add Peace to the graphic.

Line 20 : Delete these and insert our "Inseparable from one another, our shared values are:

Part 2

Line 45 Add Peace as a Value

"Peace. We dedicate ourselves to peaceful conflict resolution at all levels."

Part 3

Covenant (Peace)

"We covenant to promote a peaceful world community with liberty and human rights for all. Whenever and wherever possible we will use nonviolent means to achieve peace."

What is the reason for your amendment idea?

Phrases and terms from six of the current principles appear in the values statements proposed by the A2SC, but the sixth principle's commitment to Peace is not included. Adding Peace as a value with revised language drawn from the sixth principle is critical to avoid the impression that UUs are no longer committed to peaceful conflict resolution at a time of renewed war in Europe and the Middle East. UUs have a distinguished history of international engagement through the UU Service Committee, the Holdeen Project, Partner Church program, UN office and other

initiatives. UU Congregations nationwide affirm their commitment to peace in bylaws mission statements and outdoor poles displaying the word “peace” in different languages.

By affirming a commitment to non-violence “whenever and wherever possible” the proposed value statement, like the 2010 UUA Statement of Conscience “Creating Peace,” also applies to conflicts within the nation, our congregations, institutions and personal relationships. In response to increased politically inspired violence such as the January 6 attack on the U.S. capitol, UUs should reaffirm their commitment to peacemaking rather than remove that value from Article II.

The proposed value does not commit UUs to pacifism; there will continue to be such gross injustices that a majority favors the last resort use of forceful measures to achieve a remedy. When endorsing military action in the past, UUs have been divided. A renewed commitment to peace will support our defense of conscientious objectors, respecting the principled differences among members of our own community.

The proposed value commits UUs to work for “human rights” a significant, timely addition to Article II at a time when innocent civilians have become targeted victims of war crimes.

At the 2023, GA time ran out before consideration of this proposal. It deserves adoption in 2024.