

This Equity Amendment was submitted to and received by the UUA, 11/5/2023

Title: “Equity: Every person is inherently worthy... – Wheeler”

Proposed Amendment to Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant, Equity Value

Existing Value

41 **Equity.** We declare that every person has the right to flourish **with inherent dignity and**
42 **worthiness.**

43 We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully
44 accessible and inclusive communities.

Proposed Amendment (with Insertions & Deletions)

41 **Equity.** We declare that every person [DELETE: has the right to] [INSERT: is inherently
worthy and has the right to] flourish with [DELETE: inherent dignity and
42 worthiness] [INSERT: dignity, love, and compassion].

43 We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully
44 accessible and inclusive communities.

Proposed Amendment (Clean copy)

41 **Equity.** We declare that every person **is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish**
with

42 dignity, love, and compassion.

43 We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully
44 accessible and inclusive communities.

Rationale for 2024 Equity Amendment

First, in response to calls from BLUU and many other UU stakeholders, we needed to remove reference to “inherent worth” from our 7 principles; this phrasing harmed many UUs as it harkened back to the time when African Americans were assigned monetary worth.

Accordingly, this amendment does not use the term ‘worth,’ declaring instead that “every person is inherently worthy...”.

Second, this amendment responds to the [Charge to the Article II Study Commission](#) that “love in action, ... should be centered in any revision of Article II.” In particular, the co-Moderators “**charge[d] this commission to root its work in Love as a principal guide in its work.**”

We fulfill that charge by explicitly naming ‘love’ in our amended Equity Value.

Third, still quoting from the Charge to the Commission: “The Board would like to see an Article II that is inspirational, memorable and poetic.” The UUA Board continued,

We recognize that one steady criticism over decades has been that the language of the principles is not poetic. We encourage the Commission to consider framings of our principles that allows them to be brief and poetic.

The 2023 wording of the Equity value – “Every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness” – is neither memorable nor poetic. By contrast, our 2024 Equity amendment is much more easily remembered and fluidly shared.

In sum, our amendment avoids the problematic word ‘worth’ and centers ‘love,’ all the while calling us to Equity in inspirational, memorable, and poetic terms. Thus, the 2024 Equity Amendment improves on the 2023 language by fulfilling these multiple Charges to the Article II Study Commission.

Please support putting this Amendment on the 2024 GA agenda, so that UU delegates may consider inspirational, memorable language for our Equity Value.