

Faithful Defiance for Democracy: A Call to Action

WHEREAS, Unitarian Universalists affirm and promote the use of the democratic process in society at large, consistent with our shared Values of Justice and Equity;

WHEREAS, democracy in the United States faces unprecedented challenges from rising authoritarianism, including efforts to undermine free and fair elections, suppress the vote, spread disinformation, erode civil liberties, and concentrate power in the hands of the few;

WHEREAS, the imposition of authoritarianism threatens the worth and dignity of all people, particularly those already marginalized by systemic racism, xenophobia, misogyny, economic injustice, and other forms of oppression, including LGBTIQ communities and immigrants and refugees;

WHEREAS, our faith calls us to act in solidarity with those defending democratic norms, institutions, and rights;

BE IT RESOLVED THAT this congregation:

1. Affirms its commitment to democracy as a moral and spiritual imperative and as essential to the realization of justice, equity, and compassion in human society;
2. Condemns efforts to subvert democratic institutions, suppress voting rights, intimidate public servants, manipulate the judiciary, and spread authoritarian ideologies;
3. Commits to nonviolent action in defense of democratic values, and to active resistance against authoritarian encroachment through legal, ethical, and peaceful means;
4. Supports local, state, and national efforts to protect and expand voting rights, ensure election integrity, and hold leaders accountable to the rule of law;
5. Encourages education and civic engagement within and beyond the congregation, including hosting forums, supporting nonpartisan voter registration efforts, engaging in public witness for democracy including non-violent protests, strikes and disruptive events as needed;
6. Partners with other faith communities and civic organizations to build a broad-based movement to uphold democratic principles and resist authoritarianism;
7. Create a task force or working group to guide, coordinate, and report on these efforts, ensuring that our actions remain grounded in our Unitarian Universalist values and inclusive of all members of our community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT this resolution be shared with our regional and national Unitarian Universalist associations and other faith-based organizations. And further, that our congregation remains steadfast in love, courage, and commitment as we work to build a just, democratic, and compassionate society for all.