



## **FAQ: First-Cincinnati's Proposed 8th Principle**

### **Q: Why should First-Cincinnati vote for the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle in 2023 if UUA's Article II revision in 2024 rewrites the 7 Principles?**

**A:** The 8<sup>th</sup> Principle applies only to First-Cincinnati and will be permanent regardless of UUA-level decisions. Given First-Cincinnati's 190-year history of antiracism, it is time to officially declare our commitment to antiracism as a guiding principle. The 8<sup>th</sup> Principle serves as a useful reminder that the concrete yet theoretical 7 Principles will always be important to our UU heritage and consciousness as religious liberals.

### **Q: Can we amend the proposed ballot language before voting on it?**

**A:** Technically yes, but Opening Hearts urges no. Many BIPOC individuals, organizations and allies who are most directly impacted by the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle wrote and endorsed the motion. UU congregations are honoring them by preserving their intent and wording. Among them are BLUU (Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism), DRUUMM religious professionals (Diverse and Revolutionary UU Multicultural Ministries) and white-centered ARE (Allies for Racial Equity).

### **Q: Will adopting the proposed 8th Principle require that we all become activists?**

**A:** In any covenantal community, members are expected to pay attention to society's inequities and to act on that awareness within their own capacity. The 8<sup>th</sup> Principle asks each of us to listen to marginalized persons and realize how our own actions or inaction affect their lives.

### **Q: What is the history of the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle?**

**A:** 8th Principle is entirely a grassroots effort. Paula Cole-Jones, a long-time UUA regional racial and social justice consultant and also DRUUMM past president, realized a person can believe they are being a "good UU" by following the 7 Principles without ever thinking about or dealing with racism and other

oppressions at the systemic level. Along with Bruce Pollack-Johnson, she drafted the 8<sup>th</sup> Principle in 2013.

**Q: Where can I go on-line to learn more about 8<sup>th</sup> Principle?**

**A:** 8<sup>th</sup> Principle website <https://www.8thprincipleuu.org/>

**A:** 8th Principle sermon co-author Bruce Pollack-Johnson on May 15, 2022, time marker 24:36-46:36  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Om7ZnWQK3P4&t=1476s>  
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**A:** 8th Principle 6-min. history by Bruce Pollack-Johnson  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqzH9UUhAuU>

**A:** 3-min. video by member Kim Kloke <https://youtu.be/VjDwhFES8kg>

**A:** First-Cincinnati Frequently Asked Questions handout [First-Cincinnati 8th Principle FAQ 050523.pdf](#)

**A:** “The Dream of White Innocence,” William Sinkford, UU World-Winter 2016  
<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/dream-white-innocence>

**A:** “The Empowerment Tragedy,” Mark Morrison-Reed, UU World-Winter 2011  
<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/empowerment-tragedy>

**A:** “Covenant 101,” 28-minute sermon at First-Cincinnati by Rev. Dennis McCarty on March 12, 2023,  
at time marker 42:05-1:10:45 mins.,  
<https://www.youtube.com/live/YCSxEvBsXyI?feature=share>

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