

## ***"Anti-Racism and Reparations via Restorative Justice"***

**Whereas** the free labor, egregious punishments, and inhuman sufferings of Americans of African descent during the chattel enslavement era, were the impetus that catapulted America into a world power, financially and militarily and,

**Whereas** the full reality of this violence and free labor of Americans of African descent has not been taught, discussed, nor acknowledged, has given rise to a belief and practice of white supremacy that condemns Americans of African descent to a second-class citizen, without equal protection under the law,

**Whereas** throughout chattel enslavement, the Jim Crow Era and into this 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Federal Government wrote divisive policies in housing, education, policing and taxes which differentially penalized persons of African descent,

**THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that the 2022 General Assembly move to encourage and support its member congregations to engage the principles of Restorative Justice and truthful American history, to fully understand and reject white supremacy, and

**The General Assembly asks** all Unitarian Universalists to address and engage Restorative Justice with local school committees to present a comprehensive explanation/curriculum of the dynamics of Restorative Justice to all levels of public schooling.

**First:** Create study groups in our UU Congregations, that embrace Restorative Justice. Our Congregations need to take the initiative, by embracing the principles of Restorative Justice and reparations,

**Unitarian Universalists** are called to engage compassionate learning programs and process the facts, diverse perspectives and paths forward as we seek to heal our spiritual and material traumas of stolen lands and chattel enslavement and their ongoing repercussions for individuals and our nation.

**Second:** Support diversity in leadership, teaching and in learning environments,

**Our congregations** need to teach from models of diverse teams, as models of a comprehensive approach to change,

**Our congregations** need to insist that local school districts include in graduation requirements civics and the true history of the realities experienced by peoples of color

**WHEREAS** no group has escaped the teachings of White Supremacy in our “entertainment media,” research has shown higher educational levels do not diminish the influence of white-supremacy learnings from our media. Consequently, postsecondary education must be included in this AIW initiative.

**Third:** encourage Unitarian Universalist congregations to become advocates for reparations initiatives

**Fourth:** Respect the needs of teachers and other workers in education.

**Teachers and all other workers** need adequate protection, compensation, and representation. We condemn politically motivated and religious censorship in public

education. Academic freedom must be protected. The free and responsible search for truth is essential for all nations.

**Unitarian Universalist congregations** are on the frontlines in education. September is proposed as Unitarian Universalist History Month.

**WHEREAS** the General Assembly wants to ensure that Unitarian Universalists are aware that New York State Assembly has passed a Reparations bill, Reparations are being paid in Evanston, Illinois, and by Georgetown and Harvard Universities, and that a Task Force is deliberating in California,

**THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED** that all Unitarian Universalists are encouraged to be a part of these powerful events. Our team is convinced that this AIW will begin healthy conversation in our denomination about the controversial subject of Reparations and Restorative Justice, the issue we consider to be The Soul of Our Nation. It is our strong belief that ALL citizens of America have been harmed by the consciousness that created and gave rise to our Chattel Enslavement past.