

THANKSGIVING DAY FOR ALL PEOPLE

Whereas the year 2020 marks the 400th anniversary of the establishment of Plymouth Colony in what is now Massachusetts; and

Recognizing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the need for health and healing; and

Noting the need for festivals that celebrate the importance of economic and social justice; therefore

Be it hereby resolved that the 2020 General Assembly calls upon Congress and the President of the United States, with religious and community leaders, to declare that the fourth Thursday of November, in every year, shall be a national holiday for healing, for promoting health and wellness, for environmental protection, and for the giving of thanks for acts of kindness and generosity.

We ask for a multicultural holiday. We request a holiday weekend when Americans can help each other while learning from each other and their natural environment. The American Thanksgiving Day should not be a celebration of white supremacy, colonialism, or commercialism. Thanksgiving Day does not belong to a particular village at a special moment. We need a national holiday that is universal and timeless.

We know that harvest festivals were celebrated in the Americas long before the Europeans arrived. We recognize the importance of harvest festivals in many religions and cultures, in the different regions of the world.

We ask Unitarian Universalist congregations to observe November as Unitarian Universalist History Month. Many of the congregations that were established by Pilgrims and Puritans are now Unitarian Universalist congregations. Unitarian Universalist congregations need to understand their purpose and their theological and institutional roots. We are grateful for opportunities to find enlightenment and to be compassionate.