

Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene Board of Trustees Statement Against Authoritarianism, Summer, 2026

The Unitarian Universalist Church in Eugene (UUCE) maintains a deep commitment to fighting injustice. Guided by our core value of love, we are prepared to put our faith into action and reject the rise of authoritarianism in our world. We faithfully embrace our values of justice, equity, transformation, pluralism, interdependence and generosity (JETPIG) as visible expressions of Love. Each week we light our chalice for hope, strength and inspiration. Together we pledge to take actions, large and small, to resist attacks on democracy and to expand the culture of inclusivity so that all beings flourish.

We support an equitable justice system, constitutional integrity, meaningful separation of powers, due process, and the freedoms of speech, press and assembly. We believe that freedom of speech, press and assembly are critical to an equitable and interdependent society. We promote diversity and inclusion. Everyone deserves to belong. Everyone's voice matters, and all people must be treated with respect and dignity.

We are all living in a global system—people, plants, animals, water and air. Interdependence means we live in relationship with others through mutual give and take, supporting awareness of, and responsiveness to, the needs of others. We oppose the consolidation of power, corruption and unethical practices in governmental systems. We strive to dismantle these and other systems of oppression. We support the democratic process including independent oversight and checks on power. We also acknowledge the need for separation of powers, including that of church and state. Even so, our faith community is empowered to advocate for our values. Our collective energy, in voices and action, brings about meaningful change.

Justice work is faith in action. UUCE has numerous groups working on food justice, immigration justice, justice in the Middle East, restorative justice, political action and more. We pass the basket and share those offerings with nonprofits that embody our congregation's principles. We have email listservs dedicated to sharing and discussing social justice and political actions, and our UUCE Justice Council meets to plan intersectional justice projects. Our members are participants and leaders in a variety of local, state and national justice organizations. We live our values out loud and in public, and we hope to be a visible force by wearing our yellow "Side with Love" T-shirts at non-violent civil society actions and other pro-democracy events.

Come find us at the next action event and say hi!