

**An Open Letter to the Larger Community  
from First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield**

Recent events have reminded us that racial injustice has existed in this country since before its founding and continues to this day. We at First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield are shocked and saddened by these events as they come to light. We choose to stand with the Black Lives Matter movement and anyone who is working to create a more inclusive future.

Our Unitarian Universalist faith is based on principles that identify our relationship to the world and to each other. As Unitarian Universalists, we cannot be silent or inactive while racial injustice continues to pervade our society. Such injustice runs counter to so many elements of the principles we hold dear.

- Our first principle affirms **the inherent worth and dignity of every person**. Injustices against people of color such as race-profiling, disparities in healthcare and education, environmental inequities, police bias, and racism woven into our legal system starkly violate this principle.
- Our second principle teaches us to **seek justice, equity, and compassion in human relations**. When communities of color are disproportionately impacted by the unequal burden of pollution in minority neighborhoods, excessive incarceration, voting restrictions, financial redlining, and other institutionally engrained obstacles, the second principle teaches us to stand up for change.
- At the same time, our third principle promotes **acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth**, guiding us to be kind to ourselves and each other during difficult times, to encourage spiritual growth in ourselves and others, and to accept one another's differences in our congregation and our world. We pledge to help each other wherever we are on our personal journeys, as we navigate the often heart-wrenching events of our times.
- Finally, our seventh principle asserts the need for **respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part**. We strive to build a world where there is a level playing field and where institutional racism has been eliminated.

We realize we don't have a solution to our society's embedded racial injustices. We believe it is necessary to spend time learning, listening, and acting in accordance with our principles. Our hope is that by educating ourselves, we will be better prepared to effect and participate in positive change. By listening to the voices of those who have been historically marginalized, we resolve to become better allies in the struggle to create a more fair society. By seeking out ways to advocate for and make change, we can realize a more just world.

First Parish will publicize our future actions and invite anyone interested to join with us.

Respectfully,  
First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Medfield