

THE WIDENING THE CIRCLE COMMITTEE REPORT TO THE UUCB BOARD OF TRUSTEES JUNE 1, 2022

The Widening the Circle Committee thanks the Board for this reporting time. There are four parts to this report listed below. We are asking for the Board's consideration and vote.

1. Request to the Board to read an abridged version of the Board's Widening the Circle Vision statement. And for a continuous (evergreen) publication of the abridged vision statement in the monthly Beacon newsletter and the weekly "The Week Ahead."
2. Request for revisions to the Board's Widening the Circle Vision Statement.
3. Information on a Widening the Circle congregational activity for June 2022 called "Widening the Circle Sharing Sessions."
4. A message of appreciation to the Board.

**Request to the Board to read an abridged version of the Board's Widening the Circle Vision statement.
And for an evergreen publication of the abridged vision statement in the monthly Beacon newsletter and the weekly "The Week Ahead."**

The Widening the Circle Committee (WTCC) feels that the Board's vision statement is so powerful and inspiring that we would like an abridged version to be read at the beginning of each Board meeting and included at the end of each monthly Beacon Newsletter and the weekly "The Week Ahead" email. The committee proposes the following for the abridged version.

We, the trustees of UUCB, commit ourselves to championing racial justice, embodying anti-racist practices, and confronting and dismantling white supremacy culture and all forms of oppression (including but not limited to racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, ageism, xenophobia and religious oppression, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia) in everything we do.

In summary we are requesting your consideration and vote:

- 1) To read an abridged vision statement at each Board meeting; and
- 2) To publish, continuously (evergreen), the abridged vision statement within UUCB's primary two communication channels: the monthly Beacon and weekly "The Week Ahead."

Request for revisions to the Board's Full Widening the Circle Vision Statement.

The Widening the Circle Committee requests two revisions to the Board's wonderful Widening the Circle Vision statement. These revision requests are in **red** below.

UUCB Board Widening the Circle Vision Adopted by the UUCB Board of Trustees on 12/1/21

We, the trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Berkeley, have heard the urgent call to Racial Justice. We commit ourselves to championing racial justice, embodying anti-racist practices, and confronting and dismantling white supremacy culture and all forms of oppression (including but not limited to racism, sexism, ableism, homophobia, transphobia, classism, ageism, xenophobia, **and religious oppression, including anti-Semitism and Islamophobia**) in everything we do. We commit ourselves to working towards "Widening Our Circle" by embracing the following principles:

Congregational spiritual practice and actions of anti-racism and anti-oppression are essential to our congregational life.

Continuous learning and healing are necessary on this journey toward Racial Justice because racism and oppression are persistent, ever-changing and embedded in our psyches and societal structures. In our search for truth and meaning, we grow in awareness, recognizing that our actions have consequences.

Accountability and responsibility for eliminating white supremacy, racism and oppression are crucial to all we do personally and as a congregation and church organization.

Brave perseverance guides us. We know the way forward will not be easy. As we face hard truths about ourselves and within our current congregational culture, we stay in the room when things get difficult.

Worship supports spiritual growth and radical inclusion and is a time for reflection and introspection. We recognize that not every worship service will speak to all.

Broadening our perspective brings joy as we see a world opening us up to new possibilities, new partnerships and change we never could have envisioned.

We strive to lead our children by example so that they too will become anti- racism and anti-oppression agents of change. **We also commit to following the lead of our children and youth, as they are often closer to the growing-edge of new practices for inclusion.**

White supremacy culture is pervasive, personal, and abhorrent. It is not “out there,” somewhere else, in someone else. We strive to remain vigilant in acknowledging the effects of white supremacy culture in ourselves and our congregation, that we may heal and grow toward our chosen values.

Doing the work is vital—educating ourselves, creating inclusive worship services, developing emotional tools for responding to criticism and change, and becoming consequential in the wider community.

We always ask ourselves, “How will we widen our circle? How will we matter to the world?”

Information on a Widening the Circle congregational activity for June 2022 called “Widening the Circle Sharing Sessions.”

The Widening of the Circle Committee has been working hard and wants to go deeper by inviting congregants to share their thoughts on how UUCB can widen its circle of concern.

In June 2022, we will be offering two “Widening the Circle Sharing Sessions.” These sessions will allow our committee to hear from congregants and allow congregants to engage with each other on this topic.

Below is the announcement we will be sending out:

Would you like to engage with your fellow congregants to explore Widening the Circle of Concern topics? Are you ready to go a little deeper?

This June, your Widening the Circle Committee (WTCC) is hosting two sharing sessions.

- You will have an opportunity to dive in and share, chalice circle style, with a few questions given in advance as prompts.
- There is nothing you need to study beforehand, and there is no commitment as these are one-time only sessions.
- Space will be limited to give ample time for each participant to share, so registration in advance is required.

Off-site via Zoom: Wednesday, 6/15/22, 7 - 8:30 pm, and Wednesday, 6/29/22, 7 – 8:30 p.m. Zoom link will be provided to registrants in advance.

To let us know you're able to come, email Lonnie Moseley (lonniemoseley@hotmail.com) or email "WidenTheCircle@uucb.org" with any questions.

Hope to see you there!

A message of appreciation to the Board

Finally, the Widening the Circle Committee would like to thank the Board for their continued commitment to the Widening of the Circle recommendations in their support to financially assist a diverse group of congregants to attend the UUA General Assembly.

We also thank the Board for their commitment to the Widening of the Circle recommendations in their selection of congregants for the Ministerial Search Committee.

Sincerely,

Members of the Widening the Circle Committee:

Cynthia Asprodites

Elizabeth (Liz) Der

Suzette Anderson-Duggan

Dorothy Herzberg

Frances Moulton

Lonnie Moseley

Melissa Rosales