



## Values

Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote seven Principles, which we hold as strong values and moral guides. We live out these Principles within a “living tradition” of wisdom and spirituality, drawn from sources as diverse as science, poetry, scripture, and personal experience.

The Kentucky UU Justice Action Network places our values within these principles, including the 8th principle, in the following ways:

### 1st: The inherent worth and dignity of every person

#### **KUUJAN Value:** Radical hospitality

##### **What it means:**

- Meeting people where they are
- Valuing the complexity in our congregations - we are not homogenous and we won't take our existing diversity for granted
- Being accessible

##### **What it looks like:**

- Intentionally communicating that identity is an asset
- Utilizing closed captions, providing community- subsidized child-care for in person events; only having in-person events in wheelchair accessible locations; inviting people to share their pronouns; not leaving young adults and BIPOC people to do all the work

### 2nd: Justice, equity and compassion in human relations

#### **KUUJAN Value:** Right relationship

##### **What it means:**

- Having a clear covenant
- Taking an asset-based approach rather than a needs based approach
- Calling in, with boundaries



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### What it looks like:

- Learning to recognize those times when we need to get off the agenda in order to address people's underlying concerns
- Doing our own work - not asking people with marginalized identities to do the work for us without marginalized identities

## 3rd: Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

### KUUJAN Value: Radical Empathy

#### What it means:

- Developing a learning organization, where it is expected that everyone will make mistakes and those mistakes offer opportunities for learning
- Working on developing the ability to notice when people do things differently and how those different ways might improve our approach
- Welcoming people where they are

#### What it looks like:

- Always inviting people to greater, more meaningful forms of participation
- Take time for the human element - check in, light chalice
- Respecting that people need to draw their own boundaries and this may mean they need to step away

## 4th: A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

### KUUJAN Value: This is a journey/openness to growth

#### What it means:

- Education is an important part of what we do
- We look for ways to measure process goals
- Not checking the box: the journey never ends, we are never *there*, we are never *done*



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### What it looks like:

- If we have a goal of inclusivity, we will think about ways we can measure whether or not we have achieved that goal
- We will provide multiple ways of plugging in
- We hold *discomfort* as a value and are willing to be challenged and grow

5th: The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

**KUUJAN Value:** Risk vulnerability

### What it means:

- Transparency in our decision making processes, not a star chamber
- Open communication
- Grassroots

### What it looks like:

- Sharing how decisions are being made
- Getting things in front of people enough time to penetrate the noise
- Volunteer led

6th: The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

**KUUJAN Value:** Center community building

### What it means:

- Create a culture of abundance and generosity
- Impact matters more than intent
- Create a collective voice



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### What it looks like:

- Develop a culture of appreciation - thank people *all the time* in multiple ways
- Never assume that we know what's best for a community in isolation from meaningful relationships with that community

7th: Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part

**KUUJAN Value:** No One Saves Us But Us

### What it means:

- No one is free while others are oppressed
- It is our job, as the dominant species on this planet, to do better

### What it looks like:

- Recognize how our actions affect all existence
- Create Seventh Generation thinking by asking how the actions of the group now will affect people seven generations from now
- Be attentive to our carbon footprint

8th: Journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions

**KUUJAN Value:** Sankofa

*(reaching back to knowledge gained in the past and bringing it into the present in order to make positive progress)*

### What it means:

- Follow the lead of impacted people & communities
- Placing ourselves geographically and in history
- Actively and intentionally countering white supremacy culture



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### **What it looks like:**

- Using the antidotes to white supremacy culture to check ourselves against regularly
- Incorporating land acknowledgements into our events
- Working with organizations focused on liberation
- Providing more than adequate support for people with marginalized identities to participate