

A Resolution Authorizing Action for Justice for Black People and People of Color

As members of the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Catskills, we affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. We understand this to mean that Black people and other people of color are people of inherent worth and dignity, entitled to equity, justice, and compassion.

Therefore, we support efforts to safeguard the rights and dignity of Black people and other people of color, including:

- Laws and policies which safeguard the rights of people of color to vote
- Laws and policies which reverse the escalation of mass incarceration, which disproportionately impacts people and communities of color
- Use of force policies for police and law enforcement at every level which reduce the incidence of officer-involved shooting and tasing
- Policies and procedures to create accountability in policing, such as the use of special prosecutors in cases of officer-involved shootings, *and the creation of robust civilian oversight mechanisms*
- School discipline policies which focus on restorative justice and avoid the criminal justice system whenever possible
- Protections for people of color from discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodation
- *Robust protection of access to the ballot at every level of government for people of color*

We also oppose laws, policies, and procedures which discriminate against, disproportionately harm, or unjustly target Black people and people of color, including:

- Law enforcement policies and actions which concentrate arrests in communities of color, such as the Drug War
- The use of racial profiling in policing
- Routinely using the criminal justice system for school discipline
- Policies and procedures within the criminal justice system which lead to disproportionate convictions, lengths of sentences, application of the death penalty, and other punishments for people of color
- The disenfranchisement of people and communities of color through policies which have a disproportionate effect on people and communities of color such as voter ID laws.

- Decisions about the siting of landfills, fossil fuel infrastructure, nuclear power, And other potentially harmful industries which place them disproportionately near communities of color.

To this end, in compliance with UUCC Bylaws Article IV.F, we authorize the Board of Trustees and the minister of the congregation to act on our behalf to further these commitments through any of the following means until June 30, 2021:

- Sign petitions on behalf of the congregation
- Participate or demonstrate in community events to influence public action
- Sponsor or co-sponsor events on behalf of the congregation
- Speak or testify on behalf of the congregation in public forums or legislative hearings
- Write on behalf of the congregation for public readership

In addition, we hereby instruct the Congregation's Board of Trustees to hang a sign or banner with the message, "Black Lives Matter," in a way which shall be visible to those coming to or passing our Congregation.