

MARCH 3, 2022

# THE OUUC



WEEKLY WISDOM AND INSPIRATION  
FROM THE OLYMPIA UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CONGREGATION



## BECOME AND BECOMING REV. MARY GEAR

Our spiritual theme for the month of March is “become” one of the words in the new OUUC mission to welcome and wonder, embrace and empower, bridge and become. We complete the first W-E-B this month with “become” after exploring “welcome” in January and “empower” in February.

Everything about our existence points toward change, flexibility, and dynamic re-creation.

And it's hard because change involves loss. Can we hold the losses well while not holding ourselves back?

- *Rev. Manish Mishra-Marzetti*

Become is a word with such possibility! There is the possibility of change, of transformation. The possibility of unfolding, uncovering, opening to who or what we are. There is the possibility of more or perhaps less.

The thing about spiritual journeys is that they aren't only about uncovering our true self, but about letting go of what we have been. Organizational consultant William Bridges says that every beginning starts with an ending. To become, we must let go of who we have been. Not that our history does not impact us, it sure does, but it cannot keep us from changing and growing.

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# BECOMING (CONT.)

This month we also have our first Spring stewardship drive. Last May the congregation voted to change the congregational fiscal year from the calendar year to July-June to match the program year. So, we are doing another stewardship drive just 6 months after the last one.

As we embrace this change, I invite you to consider what OUUC is becoming. What is unfolding in our community? What is unfolding in you? What is possible? What are we letting go of? What are we moving toward? Can we hold the losses and not hold back?

I think we can. How about you?

Blessings on your week,

Rev. Mary

Minister@ouuc.org



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## UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST EFFORTS FOR RACIAL JUSTICE REV. MARY GEAR

This past Sunday, I spoke about the history of Unitarians, Universalists and Unitarian Universalists in the work for racial justice. You can access the service recording [here](#).

In the service, I mentioned two great resources about the “empowerment controversy” of 1968-1970, which divided the new denomination and caused many black UUs to leave. The first is an [article by UU minister and historian, Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed](#). The second is a documentary by the Unitarian Universalist Association collecting voices of those who were part of the historic events of that time, called [Wilderness Journey: The Struggle for Black Empowerment and Racial Justice within the UUA 1967-1970](#)

I also mentioned the current 8th principle project. If you would like more information, check out the re-run of a post Sara Lewis made in April, 2021.

There is a group at OUUC exploring the 8th principle. If you are interested in the group, please reach out to me and I will get you connected. We have work to do!

**[Click here to read this on OUUC.org.](#)**

# PONDERING OUR PRINCIPLES

SARA LEWIS

(ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED APRIL 22, 2021)

Two weeks ago we had a worship service that reflected on the 7 Principles of UUism ([The Seven Principles | UUA.org](#)). Where did these Principles come from?



They originate in the 1961 consolidation of the Unitarians and the Universalists. In that process, both denominations felt the need to come to agreement about what they commonly stood for. After much debate, they arrived at 6 Principles, and they were included in the bylaws of the newly formed Unitarian Universalist Association. In 1987, riding a wave of grassroots activism from women seeking more gender parity and earth-based spirituality, the 7th Principle was added.

Now there is a proposed 8th principle ([The 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism \(8thprincipleuu.org\)](#)) generating similar grassroots support. It was largely the work of Paula Cole Jones, as she explains in this video: [Conversations with Satya Mamdani: The Eighth Principle Project | Article II Study Commission | UUA.org](#) The 8th Principle was proposed to the General Assembly of the UUA in 2017, and has also been adopted locally by over 30 congregations.

Nationally, the UUA Board of Trustees has appointed a study commission to look at the entirety of Article 2 of the UUA bylaws, which contains the 7 Principles and the 6 Sources. The charge to the commission is to consider all proposed changes to the principles and sources, which includes the 8th Principle as well as proposed changes to the 1st principle to reflect respect for all living beings. The Article II Commission will deliver their final recommendations in January of 2022, so this should all come to a vote at General Assembly in June 2022.

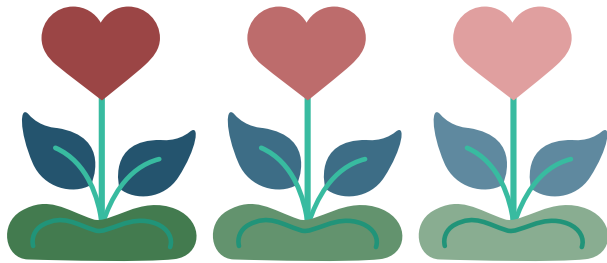
In the meantime, congregations can still adopt the 8th principle on their own, and this grassroots support can only help the momentum of change. Personally, I'm excited by all this activism around our commonly held aspirations and beliefs. It is an example of what we mean when we say this is a living tradition!

**[Click here to read this on OUUC.org.](#)**

# THE WIDER UU WORLD: SUPPORTING UKRAINE

## “WE DEMAND AN END TO THE BLOODSHED”: UUSC RESPONDS TO VLADIMIR PUTIN’S INVASION OF UKRAINE

An article from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. [Read the full piece here \(link\).](#)



## RACISM IS MAKING THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT EVEN WORSE

An article from Mic.com. [Read the full piece here \(link\).](#)

## UU NATIONS: UKRAINE AND OUR COMMITMENT TO PEACE

An article from *UU World*. [Read the full piece here \(link\).](#)

## GLOBAL PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE: A MULTI-FAITH SERVICE FOR PEACE AND FREEDOM IN A HURTING WORLD

This prayer service will feature prayers from diverse faith expressions upholding peace and freedom, share reflections of solidarity with Ukraine and the Ukrainian community around the world, call for a peaceful resolution to this conflict, and hearing from our sisters and brothers in the Ukraine. [Watch on YouTube here \(link\).](#)





## SAVE THE DATE!

Celebrate OUUC's 70th anniversary and  
the Installation of Rev. Mary Gear  
Saturday, June 4 at 2 p.m.

The Lutheran Church of the Good  
Shepherd, 1601 North St SE, Olympia, WA  
98501

## SOME WORDS BY ELLEN QUAADGRAS

When we encounter calls to defund the police  
When we encounter calls for reparations  
When we hear "follow our lead" from people of color  
May we listen, may we learn, may we be open...  
Even if it means rethinking everything  
you thought you knew about the world.  
We have, all of us, as humans  
An enormous opportunity  
To change one of the oldest injustices  
In history,  
To change everything.  
May we stay vulnerable  
May we stay tender.  
May we take action.  
Eyes and hearts and minds,  
Open.

This is an excerpt of a song included in the February 27, 2022 worship service.  
You can view the [full service on YouTube here \(link\)](#).