

VISION 2012 Growing the Beloved Community

Summary of VISION 2012

To build a radically inclusive community, to grow the beloved community by expanding the welcome table and deepening our commitments to countering oppression as an intentional multiracial, multicultural, multigenerational congregation.

To dig deeply into our own religious tradition to recover our own moral, ethical and theological treasures and release them afresh.

To take the conversation about race, identity and moral life to another level and reflect together on how God/Spirit/the Universe/our UU values, Principles and Purposes and our historical tradition call us to embrace a multi-racial, multi-cultural, anti-oppressive future.

To make a commitment to actions that will bring about this future.

To focus on the word *beloved* and on all that this might mean for how we are with one another.

To look at all aspects of our congregational life through the lens of how worship, educational program, justice programs, committees, organizational structure, building use, staff, pastoral care and other aspects of congregational life bring people together in *beloved* relationship? How do our choices create (or not) a place of hope, love and spiritual depth?

Ways We Can Make the Vision Real

- 1) Focus group time to build on this vision for the future: What can clergy, staff and congregation do together and within our many shared ministries to support and manifest this vision?
- 2) Increased internal leadership development, within a multicultural, multigenerational, antiracist context
- 3) Increase the visibility of the Journey Toward Wholeness's (JTW) strategic plan
- 4) Field test *Building The World We Dream About* curriculum.
- 5) Undergo trainings such as Jubilee II and JTW team trainings
- 6) Continue to promote and support and People of Color and White Ally caucuses
- 7) Create worship that is even more multigenerational, celebratory and participatory.

Possible Measures of Success

We will gain a reputation as a “welcoming congregation” as the “friendliest church in town.”

People will experience this as a place where “deep connection and transformative spiritual growth happens.”

We will be known as a church committed to eliminating racism and other systemic oppressions that marginalize members of the human family and harm the earth.

Total strangers, who have never been here, who don’t know anything about UU, will find themselves recommending our church to their friends and neighbors who are looking for a religious community.

Our congregation will experience the transformation of living this vision. We will feel it in our bones, experience it in our hearts and live it in our daily lives.

When we hold up a mirror in our sanctuary on Sunday mornings, we will look into it boldly, unafraid, unashamed, in celebration and joy -- for in that reflection, we will see and know that we have made the beloved community real.