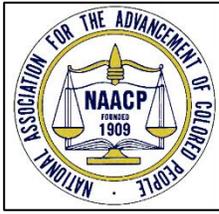


NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE



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Trayvon Martin, Sandra Bland, Eric Gardner, and Mike Brown are just a few of the names when said send mixed feelings of despair, sadness, and anger throughout the hearts and minds of many in our nation. From local citizens acting out in riots of protest to celebrities making bold public statements, the nation is speaking out and making their voices heard.

“The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy.” This quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. embodies the essence of values of the Unitarian Universalist Church. The church has shown their worth and great measure by standing on the side of equality during some of the most difficult times in our country. During the dark, peculiar, and inhumane times of slavery, this church stood in the fight to abolish it. During the cruelty of Jim Crow, this church stood in the path of achieving justice for all oppressed members of the community.

Now, as the country becomes acutely aware of police brutality in the African American community, they stand proudly proclaiming, “Black Lives Matter”. The message the Unitarian Universalist church is sending is when one group of people is under attack we must fight to restore order. We must speak out and declare freedom from persecution for that group. Just as the first principle of the church states all people have an inherent worth and dignity.

With the recent presidential campaign and election erupting in such episodes of violence and displays of intolerance, it is refreshingly beautiful to see a truly diverse group of people rally behind such an important cause. Thank you for service to this community as well as your willingness to stand up for and alongside the righteous in those difficult times. Thank you for not choosing to keep silent or shy away from the charge of creating positive social change. Lastly, thank you for recognizing the need for groups all over the city and all over this country to give a voice of truth to these incidents and not excuse away the actions of those who seek to hurt, oppress and intimidate already marginalized groups.