

Explore This Month's Theme: Justice and Equity

The proposed new Article II statement includes both Justice and Equity as core values. The statements read:

Justice

We work to be diverse multicultural Beloved Communities where all thrive.

We covenant to dismantle racism and all forms of systemic oppression. We support the use of inclusive democratic processes to make decisions within our congregations, our Association, and society at large.

Equity

We declare that every person has the right to flourish with inherent dignity and worthiness.

We covenant to use our time, wisdom, attention, and money to build and sustain fully accessible and inclusive communities.

Some Questions for You:

How do you feel about these statements as values and as covenants to which we commit our energies?

What is important to you about justice and equity as it relates to being a UU?

This month as we explore Justice and Equity I invite you to take a look at all the areas of social action engagement that First Parish offers. Which ones you either currently or would like to contribute to?

Are there areas you'd like to see First Parish focus put more energy towards?

Are you ready to be a justice leader here at First Parish (if you are not already)?

From Soul Matters here are some great resources to help you explore the above questions.

Wise Words

I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept.

Angela Davis

I sit on a man's back, choking him and making him carry me, and yet assure myself and others that I am very sorry for him and wish to ease his lot by all possible means—except by getting off his back.

[Leo Tolstoy](#)

If one really wishes to know how justice is administered in a country, one does not question the policemen, the lawyers, the judges, or the protected members of the middle class. One goes to the unprotected – those, precisely, who need the law's protection most! – and listens to their testimony.

[James Baldwin](#)

When we identify where our privilege intersects with somebody else's oppression, we'll find our opportunities to make real change.

[Ijeoma Oluo](#)

If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.

Desmond Tutu

In a racist society it is not enough to be non-racist, we must be anti-racist.

Angela Davis

I learned that racism, like most systems of oppression, isn't about bad people doing terrible things to people who are different from them but instead is a way of maintaining power for certain groups at the expense of others.

[Alicia Garza](#)

You've heard the old saying, "You give a person a fish and you feed him for a day; but if you

teach him to fish and you feed him for a lifetime." [Well...] we've also got to ask, "Who owns the pond? And who polluted the pond? And who built the gates up? And why does a fishing license cost so stinkin' much?"

[Dr. John Perkins](#)

Why is it that if you take advantage of a corporate tax break you're a smart businessman, but if you take advantage of something so you don't go hungry, you're a moocher?

[Jon Stewart](#)

Once poverty is gone, we'll need to build museums to display its horrors to future generations. They'll wonder why poverty continued so long in human society--how a few people could live in luxury while billions dwelt in misery, deprivation and despair.

Muhammad Yunus

This is who we are: the richest country on earth, with more poverty than any other advanced democracy... The American government gives the most help to those who need it least. This is the true nature of our welfare state, and it has far-reaching implications, not only for our bank accounts and poverty levels, but also for our psychology and civic spirit.

[Matthew Desmond](#)

Poverty is the worst form of violence.

Mahatma Gandhi

Music

Two different playlists for each of our monthly

Click [here](#) for the Spotify playlist on [The Gifts of Justice & Equity](#).

Click [here](#) for the YouTube playlist on [The Gifts of Justice & Equity](#).

Videos & Podcasts

What is Transformative Justice?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U-BOFz5TXo>

The Psychology Of Inequality, Hidden Brain

<https://www.npr.org/transcripts/912749547>

Liberal Hypocrisy is Fueling American Inequality

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNDgciVGHlw>

Why Wealth Inequality Should Worry You Much More Than Income Inequality

<https://www.vox.com/2014/5/7/5690976/wealth-in-equality-is-dangerous-for-america>

Why This Economist Wants to Give Every Poor Child \$50,000

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0tSGiQXWx3s>

How 'McMindfulness' Manipulates Us into Coping Instead of Protesting

<https://www.kqed.org/forum/2010101872000/how-mcmindfulness-manipulates-us-into-coping-instead-of-protesting>

AI's Social Justice Problem: It's Amplifying Human Bias

<https://www.cnet.com/culture/ais-social-justice-problem-its-amplifying-human-bias/>

Articles

Ways to Distinguish between Equality, Equity and Justice

[Here](#), [here](#) and [here](#)

The Equity Wars: Equity is everywhere, why is it so controversial?

<https://www.vox.com/policy/2023/5/4/23644810/equity-social-justice-equality-sanders-biden>

Your Brain on Poverty: Why Poor People Seem to Make Bad Decisions

And why their "bad" decisions might be more rational than you'd think.

<https://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2013/11/your-brain-on-poverty-why-poor-people-seem-to-make-bad-decisions/281780/>

To Achieve Racial Justice We Must Save The Planet

<https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/oureconomy/earth-day-olufemi-taiwo-reparations-global-racial-climate-justice/>

Mindfulness for Activists: How to avoid burnout while fighting for justice

<https://tricycle.org/article/mindfulness-for-activists/>

The Mindfulness Conspiracy

<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2019/jun/14/the-mindfulness-conspiracy-capitalist-spirituality>

"It is sold as a force that can help us cope with the ravages of capitalism, but with its inward focus, mindful meditation may be the enemy of activism.."

A rebuttal:

<https://www.mindfulnessstudies.com/mindfulness-response-2019/>

Artificial Intelligence: Threat or Useful Tool for Social Justice?

<https://theglobepost.com/2019/08/22/ai-social-justice/>