

Request that the UUCLB Board of Trustees

Title: Reason and the Responsible Search for Truth and Meaning

Summary: The current Article II changes in Section C-2.2. Values and Covenant include six Values:

- *Interdependence*
- *Pluralism*
- *Justice*
- *Transformation*
- *Generosity*
- *Equity*

*This proposed amendment would add a seventh Value: **Reason**, which would be represented in the flower graphic by an additional petal.*

Amendment:

Reason. We search for truth and meaning, informed by reason, evidence, and the results of science, motivated by wonder, curiosity, and compassion.

We covenant to listen to and respect the views of others, and to remain open to new ideas.

Rationale:

Our UU commitment to a responsible search for truth and meaning sets us apart from other denominations. We are free of dogma. The open mindedness we espouse in our 4th principle is what drew many of us to become UUs; it guided youth and members in developing their faith; and it could be a key factor in attracting new members over the coming years. If our values are now to be the public face of our faith, as the principles have been, then our traditional value of reason should be among them.

Page 8 of the report states that the document should be inclusive. We need to be inclusive of our continuing members as well as the new and potential new members we welcome to our widening circle. In addition, page 10 states the Commission should reach out to the numerous stakeholders, which include philosophical and theological groups, such as UU Humanists. Whether or not they identify with one of those groups, members are stakeholders and many of them

value reason and the search greatly. The current Proposed Revision to Article II de-emphasizes the role of the search and reason. It does state, in the Pluralism, value, “We covenant to learn from one another in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning.” Learning from one another is of great benefit, but it is only one part of a responsible search. We can be more inclusive of our stakeholders by adding the value of reason which is so important to so many of them.

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note: The **UUA** Board and staff will develop procedures for updating the graphic as needed.