

The Promise and the Practice of Our Faith for

Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU)



The Promise and Practice of Our Faith Campaign

What is Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism?

- Formed in the summer of 2015, Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) grew out of the broader Movement for Black Lives.
- BLUU is an independent organization, fiscally sponsored by the UUA, led by an executive director, a community minister, and a volunteer Organizing Collective.
- BLUU provides ministry for, and by, Black Unitarian Universalists, while also working to expand the role and visibility of Black UUs within our faith.

Why did the UUA Board commit \$5.3 million to BLUU?

- The Board's decision reflects an understanding that Unitarian Universalism has benefitted from the system of white supremacy that advantages white people and white institutions.
- In the late 1960s, Unitarian Universalism was asked to take steps to address the silencing and marginalization of Black Unitarian Universalists. Though there was an initial affirmation of this commitment, the commitment went unfulfilled and the promise was broken (resources on this below).
- It is for Black Unitarian Universalists to determine for themselves what is needed and how it will be accomplished.

Where will the \$5 million come from?

- \$1 million has been allocated from the UUA's unrestricted endowment.
- \$1 million has been pledged by longtime UUs Julie and Brad Bradburd to match congregational giving that meets a threshold of \$10 per member.
- The goal for congregational contributions is at least \$1 million.
- Individual gifts will be targeted for the remainder.

Now is the chance for Albany UUs to make a positive difference by contributing to the campaign.

- Make your gift or pledge at the Albany UU service on January 14. Several committed Albany UUs have pledged to match the collection one for one, up to a total of \$4000.
- Checks should be made payable to Albany UU with "BLUU" in the memo line.

More information and resources

On the campaign www.uua.org/giving/areas-support/funds/promise-and-practice

On work of the Albany UU Inclusivity Team, email inclusivity-team-albanyuu@egroups.churchdb.com

On the history of Black Lives and the UUA:

- www.uuworld.org/articles/the-uua-meets-black-power
- www.uuworld.org/articles/empowerment-tragedy
- www.uua.org/re/tapestry/adults/river/workshop15/178882.shtml
- www.uuworld.org/articles/black-hole-white-uu-psyche
- www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=37&v=3DG1A-rjvik