

## **Black Lives Matter Resolution of the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church March 2017**

**WHEREAS**, Unitarian Universalists strive for justice, equity and compassion in human relations;

**WHEREAS**, Unitarian Universalists have a goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;

**WHEREAS**, our Unitarian Universalist principles call us as individuals and as a congregation to challenge injustice;

**WHEREAS**, the Black Lives Matter movement has gained powerful traction in conjunction with recent tragic events involving, in particular, police brutality and institutionalized racism that target the black community;

**WHEREAS**, people of all ages and races are killed by law enforcement, yet black people ages 20-24 are seven times more likely to be killed by law enforcement than any other group;

**WHEREAS**, mass incarceration fueled by for-profit prisons and racially biased police practices drive the disproportionate imprisonment of black and brown Americans;

**WHEREAS**, the school-to-prison pipeline is an urgent concern because 40% of students expelled from U.S. public schools are black and one out of three black men is incarcerated during his lifetime;

**WHEREAS**, the Unitarian Universalist Association's 2015 General Assembly passed a resolution in support of the Black Lives Matter movement;

**WHEREAS**, the 'Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism' organization and other Unitarian Universalist People of Color organizations and leaders have asked Unitarian Universalist congregations to support the Black Lives Matter movement and black-led racial justice organizations; and

**WHEREAS**, our Unitarian Universalist Church stands in support of members of our congregation who are directly affected by acts of racism that have occurred in our community,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that we, the Board of the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church, vote to raise our Black Lives Matter banner which states 'All Lives Won't Matter Until Black Lives Matter' and display it on the facade of our church until the end of the church year in 2018. In doing so, we mean

- to affirm our commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- to affirm our commitment to justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- to affirm our commitment to racial justice;
- to affirm our commitment, as a predominantly white congregation to study and reflect on white privilege and our own complicity in institutionalized racism;
- to raise the consciousness of the broader community, our Town government, and the leaders of our public schools on issues of racial justice and to encourage appropriate policy changes to address institutionalized racism in our community;
- to remain mindful of the interconnected nature of racism and other systems of oppression that impact people based on class, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, age, culture, religion, and language.