

First please read, the final proposed A2 draft

[https://www.uua.org/files/2023-10/a2\\_final\\_line\\_num\\_10312023.pdf](https://www.uua.org/files/2023-10/a2_final_line_num_10312023.pdf)

Every time I read A2 and sit with it, I like it more. I really appreciate how they incorporated language of freedom, hope, reason and love, lifting up respect and care for all beings, holding up justice, repair, openness to change, inclusion and equity.

We are a living faith and are changing the bylaws because there has been no significant changes in 40 years and UUA bylaws say we have to review/study/revise them. Article ii is part of the Bylaws of the UUA and why are we reviewing them

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/80sarticleii>

The charge of the A2 Study Commission in 2017/2018 rooted this work in love, reviewed all sections, was free to revise and replace and restructure them as needed. They were specifically tasked with "...There is nothing sacred about the number of principles or sources, nor their specific wordings, nor in the way that Article II is laid out. We encourage creativity. The Board would like to see an Article II that is inspirational, memorable and poetic. The language should be inclusive and welcoming, and explicitly anti-racist." full text with charge of A2 SC

<https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission/charge>

The UU World interviewed one of the surviving members of the 1981-1985 Purposes and Principles Committee that produced our current Article II. "I am thrilled to see that the work we did is being revisited! It is exciting to see the participation, engagement, and re-working of our core values and purpose." - Rev. Diane M. W. Miller

Last time they were reviewed 15 years ago as the schedule indicates but didn't pass at GA. 1961 had six objectives <https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uuas-original-principles-1961> and were changed to 1985 and folks are more familiar with the 1985 one

<https://www.uuworld.org/articles/uuas-principles-and-purposes-1985> and how we got the version we have had up to now

[https://www.uuworld.org/articles/how-uu-principles-purposes-were-adopted?\\_gl=1%2A1n20fmo%2A\\_ga%2ANDY2NzY5ODAzLjE3MDUzNTI3NzA.%2A\\_ga\\_CN7F7RET4F%2AMTcxMDM3MjYwMy4xMC4wLjE3MTAzNzI2MDMuMC4wLjA](https://www.uuworld.org/articles/how-uu-principles-purposes-were-adopted?_gl=1%2A1n20fmo%2A_ga%2ANDY2NzY5ODAzLjE3MDUzNTI3NzA.%2A_ga_CN7F7RET4F%2AMTcxMDM3MjYwMy4xMC4wLjE3MTAzNzI2MDMuMC4wLjA) .

A2 Study Commission feedback processes included over 13,000 feedback, thousands of surveys, interviews, open feedback sessions, sessions at GA, stakeholder feedback sessions, workshops at GA, articles in UU world, regional outreach, and hundreds of drafts and for example 21 draft language listening sessions 2022, and more sessions in 2023.

A2 draft package with approved amendments passed with 86.3% at GA 2023. Hundreds of amendments were proposed last year which were narrowed to 80some then prioritized to 10-15 so that we would have time to discuss and vote on at GA 2023. This process was explained multiple times in multiple places: open listening sessions, social media, mini assemblies, general sessions, reports, and the UUA discussion site.

It then went through legal and plan language reviews and incorporated the amendments passed at GA 2023, This whole process took years caring and discussing every word with thousands of feedback to get to this point and this draft. And how much time is being made for discussions is

as much as can be and this is because discussion of bylaw changes is very precisely outlined in the bylaws. There will be bylaws refreshing and maybe after A2 we can update them to be more open and less prescriptive on exact days and timing in the future.

Common questions I see pop up are what about the 8th principle and I hope we continue that work because that brings it to the congregational level saying we as a community are committed to doing that work. I can see the 8th principle all over in the draft and some of the language incorporated exactly. Commissioner Paula Cole Jones joined the Central East Region to talk about how Congregations working on adopting the grassroots 8th Principle Project can relate to the work of A2 [https://youtu.be/tnKJU\\_9GEY0](https://youtu.be/tnKJU_9GEY0)

What about the principles: individual congregations can keep all 8 principles posted at their congregations just like our congregation has our congregational statement we say every Sunday. A2 is at the UUA/congregation to congregation level.

In one session I attended, the A2 commission said they are most proud of the many conversations about what it means to be a UU, a member of a congregation and what to expect from our association. A2 is not an individual faith statement but rather an agreement between congregations about who we are. This is a collective statement between congregations and the association.

At WSUU Delegates first reported on Article II Commission after GA 2020. I personally have been attending their listening sessions, discussing it, going to stakeholder sessions and GA sessions about it for 3 years. I loved the diversity on the Article ii Study Commission including young people, BIPOCs including Paula Cole Jones and Sheryl M. Walker, disabled folks, and more. I know I am biased and invested in A2 as I remember being at the first listening session when values were first announced, offering my input and seeing my words in it as one of the 10s of 1000s of UUs who offered feedback, and having attended many many informative theological and historical conversations about UUism. This review process of A2 has helped me grow my own theology and has been a gift to me personally and spiritually whether it passes or not.

Above are my opinions and based on years of participation in sessions discussing A2. More info and resources <https://www.uua.org/uuagovernance/committees/article-ii-study-commission>

Thank you,  
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Couple of my favorite UU values new offerings:

Free UU values coloring book  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1HCqIbLanggzWOfNPxJ7k5CpIHncXZ0N/view?usp=sharing>

and Free Coloring Values Mosaics Book  
<https://www.uua.org/files/2024-05/Jenn%20Blosser%20Article%20II%20Collaborative%20Coloring%20Book.pdf>