

# Resolution on Black Lives Matter

**WHEREAS**, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst strives for “justice, equity and compassion in human relations”;

**WHEREAS**, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst works toward “the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all”;

**WHEREAS**, allowing injustice to go unchallenged violates these principles we hold dear;

**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;

**WHEREAS**, mass incarceration fueled by for-profit prisons, along with documented cases of 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 Society of Amherst recognizes the interconnected nature of racism coupled with systems of oppression that impact people based on class, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability and language;

**WHEREAS**, a system of fair, transformative, and restorative justice is something to which each of us has a right;

**WHEREAS**, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst recognizes that the fight for civil rights and equality is as real today as it was decades ago, and that no matter who you are, *black lives matter*;

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst engage in an intentional and ongoing process of dialogue and education, acknowledging how affluence and privilege in our own lives affect our perspective on issues of race and equality;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst speak truth to power by openly supporting the Black Lives Matter movement and that as a concrete symbol of their support the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst display a banner indicating their principled and public call for authentic and enduring racial justice; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that by standing on the side of love, the Unitarian Universalist Society of Amherst seeks to harness love's power in the struggle against oppression.