

**Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church**

**Statement of Conscience**

**Reproductive Justice**

As members of Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church, we affirm our commitment to the inherent worth and dignity of every person. In this spirit, we declare our support for reproductive justice, recognizing that individuals have the right to make decisions about their bodies, sexuality, and reproductive health without fear of stigma, discrimination, or coercion.

Reproductive justice encompasses a wide range of issues, including comprehensive sex education, affordable contraception, prenatal and maternal healthcare, support for parenting, abortion services, and the right to choose whether, when, and how to become parents. It acknowledges the intersections of race, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, and other identities in shaping individuals' experiences with reproductive healthcare.

We believe that everyone should have the autonomy to make decisions about their own bodies and futures, free from judgment or interference. We affirm that reproductive justice is not only a matter of personal freedom but also a matter of social justice and human rights.

We recognize the historical and ongoing systems of oppression that have disproportionately affected marginalized communities, including but not limited to Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, low-income individuals, LGBTQ+ people, and people with disabilities. These communities have faced barriers to accessing reproductive healthcare and have been targeted by policies and practices that seek to control their bodies and reproductive choices.

As Unitarian Universalists, we are called to advocate for justice and equity for all people. Therefore, we commit to:

1. Supporting policies and initiatives that promote comprehensive sex education, access to affordable contraception, and reproductive healthcare services for all, including the teaching of Our Whole Lives (OWL), for individuals of all ages within our community.
2. Standing in solidarity with marginalized communities and amplifying their voices in their fight for reproductive justice.
3. Challenging systems of oppression and working to dismantle barriers to reproductive healthcare, including racism, sexism, ableism, and economic inequality.
4. Providing a safe and inclusive space for individuals to explore and discuss issues related to reproductive health and justice, free from shame or judgment.
5. Engaging in ongoing education and dialogue within our congregation to deepen our understanding of reproductive justice and its intersections with other social justice issues.

In living out these commitments, we strive to create a community that honors the inherent worth and dignity of every person and works towards a world where everyone has the freedom and resources to make decisions about their bodies and lives with dignity and respect.

Approved by the Accotink Unitarian Universalist Church Congregation

Date: June 9, 2024