

Resolution Regarding the Designation of First Universalist Church as a Water Protector Congregation

Whereas, the principles of Unitarian Universalism call us to justice, equity, and compassion in human relations and respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part; and

Whereas, our Unitarian Universalist roots remind us of our moral responsibility toward environmental justice; and

Whereas, First Universalist Church, through the efforts of Justin Schroeder, Senior Minister, and members of the Environmental Justice Team starting in 2015, worked with the LaPointe family of the Lakota tribe to educate the congregation and Minneapolis community on the desire of the Lakota people to change the name of Lake Calhoun back to the original Lakota name, Mde Maka Ska; and

Whereas, ministers and members of First Universalist Church traveled to the Standing Rock Indian Reservation in North Dakota in 2016, to stand in unity with many Indigenous people to oppose the Dakota Access Pipeline, which would cross Indigenous land, endangering water sources along the way; and

Whereas, members of First Universalist's Environmental Justice Team have also testified in hearings before the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission and participated in rallies and marches in opposition to Line 3 replacement, Sandpiper, and other Minnesota crude-oil pipeline projects that would jeopardize our precious water resources; and

Whereas, the First Universalist Environmental Justice Team has continued in Mde Maka Ska Community Conversations with the LaPointe family to learn more about the issues surrounding water protection and the actions needed; and

Whereas, the First Universalist Environmental Justice Team was instrumental in assisting the LaPointe family in planning and starting the Mini Ki Wakan: World Indigenous Peoples Decade of Water Summit, which began in August of 2017, was continued in August of 2018, and will be held in the Black Hills of South Dakota in August of 2019; and

Whereas, First Universalist Church has been invited to consider joining the Water Protector Congregations Initiative, which is sponsored by Minnesota Interfaith Power and Light; and

Whereas, there exist many dangers to all waters in our country which would result in pollution and lack of clean drinking water for humans and animals.

Therefore, be it resolved that we, the members of First Universalist Church, publicly declare our intent to become a member of the Water Protector Congregations Initiative, with periodic reports from the Senior Ministers to the Board of Trustees regarding actions taken pursuant to this resolution. And further, that we dedicate ourselves to educating and activating our congregation in protecting all water resources from the dangers of pollution in all areas where they may appear.