

December 11, 2020

Unitarian Universalists of Charlottesville
717 Rugby Road
Charlottesville, VA 22903

Dear Unitarian Universalists of Charlottesville,

You all are in my heart. I send you my love and care in this difficult time.

We at the UUA have been following the courage and leadership of your congregation as you confront the systemic patterns of injustice and racial profiling in your community. I recognize the courage of your Board of Trustees and Interim Minister Linda Olson Peebles in filing a profiling complaint with the Charlottesville police.

I, too, am deeply disturbed by the reaction and escalation from the Chief of Police and the efforts to intimidate you and your leaders. I want you to know your UUA is with you in solidarity and support. Congregations around the country are sending you their love and deepest care. You are not alone. Unitarian Universalism reminds us of our interdependence and calls us to show up for justice and for each other.

It is difficult to be a faithful community, committed to equity and to confronting historic patterns of racism, oppression and abuse. It takes courage and a willingness to take risks for what you know is true and right. It is also an expression of love, the kind of love that our faith calls us to, to live robustly into our values in an uncertain and troubled world. Our abiding commitment is to create systems and communities where the inherent worth and dignity of every person is honored and where justice, compassion and equity guide our relationships.

I am incredibly proud of the leadership your congregation is offering to the wider Charlottesville community and to Unitarian Universalism. The UUA is available as your partner as you continue the work of anti-racism and beloved community in Charlottesville. We are with you in care as you lead alongside your interfaith partners. We are with you in community as you confront these deep-seated and corrosive patterns--and as you continue to side with love.

In faith,



Rev. Dr. Susan Frederick-Gray
President, Unitarian Universalist Association

