

Food...

Ethical Eating: Food and Environmental Justice

Do you know that livestock agriculture is the biggest cause of global warming, producing more greenhouse gases than cars, trucks, planes, trains and all other forms of transport combined?

(Source: U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization)

Do you know that oceans are being emptied of life to provide fodder for chickens and other factory-farmed animals?

(Source: Greenpeace International)

Do you know that these same factory-farmed animals are slaughtered under conditions that would constitute a criminal felony if perpetrated against a domestic dog or cat, or other companion animals or wildlife?

(Source: American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals)

Do you know that the animal-centered diet is a leading cause of heart attack, stroke, cancer and other major killers?

(Source: New England Journal of Medicine)

Do you know of the institutional racism fostered by the animal agriculture lobby, such as the USDA dietary guidelines that recommend dairy consumption, even though most people of color are “lactose-intolerant”?
(And “lactose-intolerance” is actually not a disease, but the biological norm after infancy?)

(Source: Sistah Vegan: Black Female Vegans Speak on Food, Identity, Health, and Society)

Do you know that the agricultural/industrial complex is owned by a few large corporations that routinely place profit before human health, animal welfare, and environmental justice?

(Source: Dominion: The Power of Man, The Suffering of Animals, and the Call to Mercy)

**Do you know how much our food choices can lead to harm, or good?
Do you long to nurture your spirit while healing the world?**

We, as a denomination, have been exploring some of these questions through the Ethical Eating Congregational Study/Action Issue.

The reality that is revealed can be startling and sobering.

How shall we respond?

We urge Unitarian Universalists to greet this time as a tremendous opportunity. Please consider our **Invitation to Covenant** on the facing page.

We present it here with love in our hearts and deep gratitude for all that you do already, to eat mindfully and conscientiously.

and Faith

An Invitation to Covenant

As Unitarian Universalists we are called to shed light on the suffering of our world. At times, this prophetic task challenges the spirit, but the way becomes easier and more joyful when we walk together. We therefore invite all Unitarian Universalists to join us in a living covenant which, as part of a Statement of Conscience of our UUA, would guide us in making food choices that courageously manifest our compassion, our mercy, and our loving-kindness.

Whereas we affirm ...

The inherent worth and dignity of all beings;

The interdependent web of existence, which links the well-being of each individual with the well-being of all those who share the home of Earth; and,

The ethical application of religion that recognizes the capacity of humanity to bend the arc of the moral universe towards justice, as the unfolding imperatives of each era reveal themselves;

We are therefore resolved ...

To examine our assumptions, cultural practices, and traditions of dominion that create oppression and speciesism in thought and behavior;

To commit ourselves to integrating our values more meaningfully with the miracle, beauty, and interconnectedness of all life; and,

To move as individuals towards a plant-based diet, and to join together to dismantle the structures and institutions that sanction the exploitation of other beings and the consequences reaped: world hunger, human disease, worker injustice, and environmental devastation.



Unitarian Universalist Animal Ministry

Bringing Our Principles To Life