

# Principles and Foundations of the NAUA

*Adopted provisionally) at annual business meeting  
at the 2026 annual Summit October 3, 2026*

## **Preamble:**

**North American Unitarian Association** is a member-service organization dedicated to supporting and promoting the practice of liberal religion. Rooted in freedom of conscience, use of reason, and mutual tolerance, NAUA affirms the inherent worth and dignity of every person. These principles and foundations are intended to guide the NAUA and our members to create better versions of ourselves and the world.

## **Principles:**

### **Freedom of Conscience:**

We affirm that each person is free and responsible to form and revise their own spiritual beliefs.

### **Respectful Relationships:**

We approach each other with compassion, empathy, kindness and respect.

### **Exploration and Inquiry:**

We continually explore truth, meaning and purpose, guided by reason and scientific inquiry.

### **Equity and Fairness:**

We work toward an equitable, peaceful and compassionate world.

### **Democratic Participation:**

We share responsibility, power, and decision-making.

### **Our Interdependence:**

We recognize our connection with one another and the natural world.

### **Meaningful Human Dignity:**

We acknowledge that every person deserves dignity, respect and the opportunity to flourish.

(Mnemonic acronym: FREEDOM)

## **Foundations:**

We draw upon many sources, always open to new insight and deeper understanding — for inspiration, for reflection, and for the ongoing work of discovery, compassion, and justice. Among them:

- The wisdom of the world's religious and spiritual teachings and traditions.
- The visual, performing, literary, and creative arts — as sources of truth, beauty, and challenge.
- Science and scholarship — always growing, always unfinished, always expanding our understanding.
- The lives and ideas of courageous and compassionate people whose words and actions provoke and inspire us.
- The natural world and our place within it.
- Personal experience — the particular texture of each life, the insights of reflection, and encounters with the sacred.