

Chapter VI: Resolutions

Congregational Resolutions

The Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge Resolution

Adopted May 21, 2000

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge was first established as a Fellowship in 1951 and then as a Church in 1965 and has a long history of working to improve the spiritual and social well being of the Baton Rouge community, and

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge in 1983 called the Reverend Steve J. Crump to serve as the minister of the congregation, and

WHEREAS, during his seventeen years of service the duties of the minister have grown to include not only Sunday services and ministry to the congregation, but also, involvement in additional programs and the administration of a professional staff, and

WHEREAS, Reverend Steve J. Crump has over the past seventeen years served the congregation with spirit, intellect, and thoughtfulness that has both challenged and lead the congregation on intertwining paths that are true to the ideals of Unitarian Universalism, and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his outstanding, service it is the desire of the Congregation to designate the Reverend Steve J. Crump as the Senior Minister of the church.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Congregation of the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge that the Reverend Steve J. Crump is hereby appointed and named as the Senior Minister of the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge.

Adopted by the Congregation on this day.

W. Wade Adams, President

Welcoming Congregation Resolution

Adopted May 18, 2003

We, the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, declare our desire to be known as a Welcoming Congregation. We affirm our intention to continue to work toward becoming genuinely welcoming to bisexuals, gays, lesbians, and transgender persons.

WHEREAS, Our History in Baton Rouge is witness to our contributions to social and human justice issues; Our Mission Statement includes “Grounded in Love and Respect for Nature and Humanity” and a call to “Commit Ourselves to serving the Human Community”;

Our UUA Principles clearly state a commitment to “The inherent worth and dignity of every person” and “Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations”;

Our worship begins with a Chalice Lighting Statement “Out of Love for the human community”.....”We light it with hope to make this a better world”; and

WHEREAS, at the request of the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge (UCBR) in January of 2002, a Welcoming Congregation Task Force was formed and given the following charge: to assure that UCBR is welcoming to bisexuals, gays, lesbians and transgender (BGLT) persons; that this Task Force, in collaboration with congregational leadership, will examine the church bylaws, policies, procedures, and programming for inclusiveness and non-discrimination. This task force will make recommendations to the leadership and committees of actions needed for UCBR to be a more welcoming community to BGLT people. In addition, this Task Force may offer programs to enhance church members’ understanding of the life experiences of BGLT people; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force led to the creation of the Welcoming Congregation Committee, which assumed the charge from the Board, and with the efforts of our church community and resources of the UUA, we organized our efforts around action areas of:

Education; OWL (middle youth – adult), Welcoming Congregation Workshop Series (Fall of 2002, Spring of 2003), Film Series, Weaving the Fabric of Diversity Class, Books for church library on BGLT themes.

Congregational Life: Worship (Love Makes a Family, Gay Pride Services, creating symbols (multi-colored flag, name tag stickers, bulletin board) that express a welcomeness; Social Occasions (Gay Pride Dance, movie series, services of union, memorial services; Governance (Bylaw change which includes a proposed non-discrimination clause).

Community Outreach: Congregational and ministerial support for services of union, forums.

Our work on becoming more inclusive of BGLT persons in our church and community does not end with the adoption of this resolution. Our work continues with our participation in these areas of church life that, while challenging, will help to create a more diverse and welcoming community. As a congregation, we pledge our commitment to this effort.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that we commit ourselves intentionally to make the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge a welcoming, safe, and affirming spiritual environment for persons of all sexual orientations and gender identities in all aspects of church life.

Hurricane Recovery Resolution

Adopted May 20, 2007

- WHEREAS** Hurricanes Katrina and Rita wreaked havoc on large portions of Louisiana's population, and
- WHEREAS** The already stressed state and federal human services systems (housing, education, health care, social services) have had difficulties in meeting the basic needs of the citizens of Louisiana, and
- WHEREAS** The Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge has committed itself to serving those victimized by natural disasters and the inadequate institutional response, and
- WHEREAS** Advocating for institutional change is a natural and logical extension of our commitment to service, and
- WHEREAS** The Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge has the opportunity to take a leading role in advocating for hurricane relief and recovery, therefore be it hereby
- RESOLVED** That the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge commits itself to actively supporting and advocating for policies that will positively impact the statewide process of hurricane recovery and authorizes the Board of Trustees to use the church name in these efforts so long as such action would not violate the church's tax exempt status.

Jena Six Resolution

Adopted September 9, 2007

WHEREAS our congregation seeks to uphold and promote justice, equity and compassion in human relations, and

WHEREAS we also affirm and promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all, and

WHEREAS the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge also recognizes the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and

WHEREAS Unitarian Universalists have a long and proud history of fighting for civil rights in America, and

WHEREAS a 1966 resolution by the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations pledging UUs to “work for integration in all phases of life in the community” found that: “A double standard of justice exists in some communities and states. All-white police forces, court officials, judges and juries, and segregated courtrooms and jails have operated to deprive minority group persons of the equal protection of the laws in violation of the United States Constitution. In everyday terms this means, at the least, harassment and discourtesy from law officers and, at the most, summary trials without adequate counsel, and severe and unreasonable sentences or fines meted out, especially where the offense may be committed against a white man. Conversely, whites accused of crimes of violence against minority group persons or civil rights workers of any race, are acquitted by prejudiced juries or otherwise treated leniently, especially in the South.”

WHEREAS the recent events in Jena, La, surrounding the “Jena Six” case run counter to our deeply held values and principles, and

WHEREAS the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge has historically taken an active and leading role in racial justice matters in Louisiana,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge that we commit ourselves to public and private action in support of justice and reconciliation in Jena, La.

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH OF BATON ROUGE

Marriage Equality Resolution**Adopted May 17, 2009**

Because human relationships, and especially marriage, are held in the highest honor among the blessings of life; and

Because Unitarian Universalists and the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and strive for justice, equity, and compassion in human relations; and

WHEREAS the Government of the United States and many states, including Louisiana, have acted to refuse recognition of same-sex marriages and to deny full faith and credit to such marriages formalized in other venues; and

WHEREAS the Unitarian Universalist Association Board of Trustees, the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association and the General Assembly of the Unitarian Universalist Association have voted their support for the right to marry for same-sex couples; and

WHEREAS the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge has conducted Services of Union for same sex couples since 1983, and was recognized by the Unitarian Universalist Association as a Welcoming Congregation in 2003;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge adopts a position in support of legal recognition for marriage between members of the same sex; and

BE IT further resolved that the congregation of the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge proclaims the worth of marriage between any two consenting adults in a committed relationship; and

BE IT finally resolved that the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge shall make its position on Marriage Equality known in the community.

Board Resolutions

The Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge
Board of Trustees
Resolution

Adopted August 15, 1999

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge, with a current membership of 310, was first established as a fellowship in 1951 and then as a church in 1965 at its present three acre location on Goodwood Boulevard, and has a long history of working to improve the spiritual and social well being of the Baton Rouge community, and

WHEREAS, the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge during the 34 years of its location on Goodwood Boulevard has made significant investments in improvements to its facilities that have been in keeping with the aesthetic character of the area, and

WHEREAS, the proposed rezoning, in Case # 69-99, of the adjacent property across the street from the church will have a direct, adverse impact on our church and the congregation by degrading the character of the property that is visible from the church Sanctuary during our religious services, and

WHEREAS, such rezoning will degrade the aesthetics and character of Goodwood Boulevard and the adjacent residential neighborhoods of Tara and Goodwood Villa, and

WHEREAS, such rezoning is unnecessary because the present B-1 zoning allows the property to be successfully developed as professional offices in the same manner as the adjacent and surrounding properties in the area, and the maintaining the existing zoning is the best and most consistent zoning for these properties, and

WHEREAS, is in the best interest of East Baton Rouge Parish to support the current B-1 zoning in order to maintain the character of the existing offices along Goodwood Boulevard.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge that we strongly object to the rezoning of the property on Goodwood Boulevard in Case # 69-99 and we request that the East Baton Rouge Parish Planning and Zoning Commission reject the proposed rezoning.

W. Wade Adams, President