

Faithful Defiance of Authoritarianism: A Call to Action

Reaffirming Our Covenants for Democracy and Freedom

In a time of rising authoritarianism, we are called to act boldly in defense of democracy and human dignity. Grounded in Unitarian Universalist principles, the following actions offer a path forward for congregations to organize, educate, and resist in faithful community.



1. Adopt a Congregational Resolution

Why: Declaring a shared moral and spiritual commitment to democracy provides a clear foundation for action. A resolution unites the congregation around common values, signals public witness, and commits your community to sustained engagement.

2. Create a “Democracy Action Team”

Why: A dedicated team will provide leadership, coordination, and energy for your congregation’s pro-democracy work. This team can guide strategy, plan events, and ensure accountability over time.

✓ *Connect with UU Side With Love, UUSJ Democracy Leaders Group, your UU State Action Network, and other regional UU congregations to stay aligned and inspired.*

3. Collaborate with Existing Social Justice Teams in Your Congregation

Why: Leveraging the experience, networks, and momentum of other groups—such as immigration justice, racial equity, environmental activism, and reproductive rights—builds synergy and strengthens democratic values across all justice work.

4. Explore or Join Local Pro-Democracy Coalitions

Why: Partnering with civic organizations strengthens community impact and provides resources and experience in defending democracy.

✓ *Consider local chapters of League of Women Voters, the ACLU, and Indivisible groups as potential allies.*

5. Build a Local Interfaith Coalition to Speak Out Against Authoritarianism

Why: Standing with diverse faith communities creates a unified, powerful moral voice. Interfaith collaboration expands reach, deepens community trust, and models the pluralism that democracy requires.

6. Offer Education and Nonviolent Resistance Training for Members

Why: Educating and equipping your members empowers them to act confidently and strategically.

✓ *Host civic engagement book clubs, nonviolent resistance workshops, and training on non-cooperation tactics to build a well-prepared activist base.*

7. Participate in Community Events to Protect Vulnerable Populations

Why: Showing up in solidarity with those targeted by authoritarian policies affirms your faith in action.

✓ *Support “Know Your Rights” campaigns, and join public protests of unjust enforcement actions.*

8. Promote and Participate in National Mobilizations and Rallies

Why: Public, collective action at the national level raises visibility, pressure, and momentum for change.

✓ *Join 50501 actions, Indivisible events, and other national calls to defend democracy.*

Together, these steps form a faithful, strategic, and escalating response to authoritarian threats. Each

congregation's role matters—and when we act collectively, grounded in love and courage, we can defend democracy and build a more just future for all