

**Background:**

Periodically UUA presents a single Statement of Conscience (SOC) for approval during the General Assembly. “[Undoing Systemic White Supremacy](#)” was adopted in 2021. SOC’s are presented at General Assembly typically after years of discernment and refinement in congregations. Such SOC’s, when ratified by our congregation, provide the rationale and authority that enable ministers and Social Justice team members to act on behalf of the congregation about important issues, for example by weighing in on policy matters with our local government, signing onto letters advocating a position, or making statements to the media.

In 2021, the members of FUUSD ratified 8 such statements of conscience from UUA (see list below). The statements had been adopted by UUA between 2005 and 2019 but never ratified for our congregation to use. The congregation voted strongly to ratify all 8 SOC’s during our congregational annual meeting.

**Statements of Conscience Ratified by FUUSD in 2021**  
**SOC Title (year ratified by UUA)**

[Our Democracy Uncorrupted](#) (2019)

[Escalating Economic Inequity](#) (2017)

[Reproductive Justice](#) (2015)

[Immigration as a Moral Issue](#) (2013)

[Creating Peace](#) (2010)

[Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society](#) (2007)

[Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change](#) (2006)

[Criminal Justice and Prison Reform](#) (2005)

As an example of action enabled by ratifying SOC’s for our congregation, in February 2022, the Social Justice Executive Team (SJET) signed on to a

letter to President Biden entitled, “Build Back Fossil Free”. The minister and SJET were authorized to do this by the congregation’s ratification of the SOC, “Threat of Global Warming/Climate Change”. The impetus for taking such action may come from social justice action teams, or from members, who may make a Social Action Endorsement Request via our website’s [Social Justice Page](#).

The process of ratifying Statements of Conscience at FUUSD is led in 2022 by the Public Witness Guidance Team: Kathleen MacLeod ([kmacleod1@cox.net](mailto:kmacleod1@cox.net)), John Schaibly ([john@schaibly.com](mailto:john@schaibly.com), Larger UU Connections), James Long ([kyolong1@gmail.com](mailto:kyolong1@gmail.com), SJET) and Laurie Gerber ([gerbl@pacbell.net](mailto:gerbl@pacbell.net), SJET)