



Unitarian Universalist Legislative Ministry ♦ California
www.uulmca.org

Healthcare Reform Guiding Principles & Action Covenant

As Unitarian Universalists who believe in:

- justice, equity and compassion for all people,
- respect for the inherent dignity of the individual and the interdependence of all life,
- the free and responsible search for truth and meaning,
- the essential role of transparent democratic processes in reaching just and responsible decisions, and
- the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part,

*"Of all the forms of inequality,
injustice in health care is the
most shocking and inhumane."*

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

we affirm the following Guiding Principles:

Health care is a fundamental human right including:

- care for mind and body, including dental, vision and mental health
- health promotion and disease prevention
- a strong safety net of community and public health clinics and hospitals
- culturally sensitive care, in a one's own language

High quality universal health care is possible: other countries do it, and so can we.

ACCEPTING THESE PREMISES WE COVENANT TO WORK TOWARD REACHING THE FOLLOWING GOALS:

- 1. UNIVERSAL COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH CARE COVERAGE:** We will work for access to comprehensive health care and coverage at affordable costs for all Californians.
- 2. SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE FINANCE:** We will work towards the adoption of a non-profit single payer system, which can dramatically cut administrative waste for both providers and patients alike.
- 3. INSURER OVERSIGHT:** Whether we have a single payer plan or multiple payers, we will work for oversight that includes strong auditing and regulation to increase access to health care and consumer protections for all Californians.
- 4. LARGE COVERAGE POOLS:** We will support measure that provide for broadly-based sharing of risks, as opposed to efforts to shift risk and place heavy financial burdens and barriers on individual consumers and families.
- 5. COST CONTAINMENT:** We will support cost containment consistent with our principles so that consumers pay less and get more.

We pledge to do the following:

- *Educate our congregations about these goals and issues*
- *Collaborate with others to achieve these aims*
- *Promote reform and advocate assertively for these principles.*

Health Care Reform

Health care reform will be among the top public policy issues at the state and national level in 2009-2010.

UULM Goals:

- Unitarian Universalist clergy, seminarians, and lay leaders are informed and motivated advocates for health care reform within and beyond their congregations.
- Encourage respect and collaboration, where possible, among UUs and allies pursuing different paths toward healthcare reform
- Complete and promote the UU Voices for Healthcare Study Action materials for congregational use, train seminarians to engage congregational partners.
- Host faith based gathering for UU primary care providers- to share experiences and concerns, examine healthcare reform proposals, and encourage their public voice.
- Develop and implement a congregation based health care story collection program.
- Help at least 15 UU clergy to speak with their legislators about healthcare reform.

Program Partners

- Health Access
- Healthcare for All, California
- Universal Health Care Action Network
- Health Care for America Now
- It's Our Healthcare
- PICO California and the California for Healthy Kids Campaign
- Starr King School for the Ministry
- California CLUE – Clergy and Labor United for Economic Justice

How your congregation can get involved

- Appoint a person to be the primary liaison to the UULM Healthcare Steering Committee for ongoing communication, input, and coordination of statewide education and campaign efforts
- Help UULM identify UUs with special expertise in health care and/or health care reform
- Schedule a UU Voices for Healthcare Small group study/action circle and/or other educational programs for your congregation and community (material available in Feb 2009)
- Participate in the statewide healthcare story collection program
- Send UU doctors, dentists and other primary healthcare providers to the UU healthcare summit on Feb 28 in Sacramento

Current UULM Healthcare Steering Committee:

- Rev. Thomas Lewis, D.D.S., Chair
- Dr. Lenore Arab, PhD. Nutritional Epidemiologist
- Pat Moore-Pickett. M.D., Primary care physician
- Dan Braunstein, Healthcare for All Board Member
- Lee Helena Lawrence, Its Our Healthcare volunteer organizer
- Thomas Atwood, Peninsula Interfaith Action volunteer organizer
- Betty-Jeanne Rueters-Ward, UULM Project Manager