

The URJ's Values



Shared Humanity

“In the image of God”

בְּצֶלֶם אֱלֹהִים B'tzelem Elohim

(Genesis 1:27)

We see everyone as created in the divine image and, as such, treat everyone with respect, dignity, and kindness.

Justice

“Seek justice”

דִּרְשׁוּ מִשְׁפָּט Dirshu mishpat

(Isaiah 1:17)

We seek justice for all people throughout the world.

Belonging

“You stand today, ALL of you”

אַתֶּם נִצְבִים הַיּוֹם כְּלָכֶם, Atem nitzavim hayom

kulchem, (Deuteronomy 29:9)

We build, connect, and enrich communities – congregations, camps, programs, social justice work, and more – where youth and adults across all identities, generations, and lived experiences feel a deep sense of

Learning

“The study of Torah, above all”

וְתִלְמוּד תּוֹרָה כְּנֶגֶד כָּל־אֵלֶּם

Talmud Torah k'neged kulam

(Mishnah Peah 1:1)

We honor Torah; wrestle with Jewish traditions and beliefs, including God; and engage directly with the difficult questions of our age.

Evolving

“With goodness,

the Holy One renews creation every day.”

וּבְטוּבוֹ מְחַדֵּשׁ בְּכָל־יוֹם תְּמִיד מַעֲשֵׂה בְּרֵאשִׁית

U'vtuvo mechadesh b'chol yom tamid ma'aseh

v'raysheet

(Yotzeir Or, daily liturgy)

We awaken to new awareness, holding ourselves accountable for changing as we grow.

Israel and Jewish Peoplehood

“All of Israel and the Jewish people are responsible, one for the other.”

כָּל־יִשְׂרָאֵל עֲרֵבִים זֶה בָּזֶה,

Kol yisrael arevim zeh ba'zeh,

(Shevuot 39a)

We are committed to the safety and vitality of the Jewish people and to a secure and just state of Israel as a home – for all Jews and for all its inhabitants.