

UU CONGREGATION OF OXFORD PURCHASING GUIDELINES

The world of economics is dynamic and complex; thus, blanket policies will not apply in every situation. We vow to look for ways to use our purchasing power as a means to put our UU values into practice.

Several of our UU principles directly apply to economics and can play a role in how we, as a congregation, conduct ourselves in the world of commerce. Whether engaged in contracting, purchasing, or selling, business done in the name of the congregation should be done with mindfulness of our principles. Principles that most closely apply to these situations include:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person,
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations,
3. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part, and
4. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.

Without question, we should conduct ourselves with justice, equity, and compassion in human relations even as they extend into commerce.

When making purchases for the congregation we should keep in mind the inherent worth and dignity of every person and how economics can play a major role in maintaining human dignity.

Fair trade and living wages should be considered in the cost of an item. Buying local products, where appropriate, can strengthen communities.

The use of non-disposable rather than disposable items and recycling cans, paper, and plastic can help to maintain the web of all existence.

These are just a few examples to illustrate our intent to use our purchasing power to promote the local and world community.