

The History

On July 7th, 2008, a man with a semiautomatic rifle entered the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church (TVUU) during a children's performance. He killed two members and wounded seven others. Members of the congregation risked their own lives, rushed the gunman and disabled him until police could arrive. The gunman stated his reason was a hatred for the liberal movement, including the justice work that the church had been undertaking.

The outpouring of love the TVUU congregation experienced following this tragedy inspired the Unitarian Universalist Association - the Denomination of which we are a member - to launch the Standing on the Side of Love Campaign to "harness love's power to challenge exclusion, oppression, and violence based on sexual orientation, gender identity, immigration status, race, religion, or any other identity." The campaign offers rich resources for learning and guidance for action. You can find out more at standingonthesideoflove.org.

Why has this Congregation placed this Banner on the Front of our Church?

We as a Congregation want to be involved in Social Justice – to Stand on the Side of Love. But it's easy to WANT something and much harder to DO something. We've placed this banner as a reminder to ourselves that we have a responsibility to live our faith – to put our faith into action whenever, wherever and however we can. And we believe that a passerby will see what we're doing, they will want to be a part of making our larger community a more just place. For us, Social Justice involves so many facets – and in fact members of our Congregation put their energies in many different areas. We embrace the scope of Social Justice expressed by the Unitarian Universalist Association at <http://www.uua.org/justice>

