

Unitarian Church of Evanston

Covenant of Engagement

In service of our mission to nurture the human spirit for a world made whole, the members of the Unitarian Church of Evanston create a community of joy and hope, cultivating this ground and sowing seeds of a better world. We are mindful of the covenant that has bound this congregation since 1894:

Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law. This is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another.

Through fuller and deeper relationships with ourselves and each other, together we strive to

clarify, strengthen, and live our values;

celebrate and honor life and its mysteries through words, music, art, laughter, and tears;

learn and grow spiritually and religiously by nurturing and challenging ourselves and each other;

make the world a better place with the inspiration and support we find in each other and in our Unitarian Universalist values;

embody liberal religious tradition and carry it into the future for ourselves and our children.

Toward these ends we covenant to

speak and listen with open hearts and minds;

engage in authentic, courageous, and civil conversation;

clearly articulate our expectations and priorities;

speak directly to those concerned with an issue;

offer and receive appropriate criticism and praise; provide timely, specific and clear feedback;

be kind and gracious, understanding our limits and those of others;

apologize and forgive ourselves; accept an apology and forgive others;

trust others' intentions and give each other the benefit of the doubt;

take responsibility and hold ourselves and each other accountable for our actions;

be patient with ourselves and each other;

express gratitude;

share and encourage others to share abilities and responsibilities for the operation of the church and its work in the larger community;

be generous in offering our gifts and receiving the gifts of others;

say yes when we can, say no when we must;

practice curiosity and willingness to learn;

appreciate differences of opinion and theology;

know that we may be wrong; be open to new ideas and willing to change our minds;

practice resilience and perseverance wherever we engage.

Adopted May 15, 2011