

Congregational Covenant of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Indiana PA

Preamble:

A covenant is an aspirational document. “Covenant” is Latin for “come together” and means a “solemn agreement” or “promise from the heart” regarding a course of action between parties. Fundamental to this promise is the recognition that we undertake this agreement as equals, for our own growth and for the good of our congregational community.

Through this covenant we publicly declare our intent ~~as members and friends of this congregation to live our highest values for our own selves and in relationship with guests, with our minister, and with staff~~ with each other. As such, this covenant sets the stage for policies and procedures to address inevitable differences of opinion and manage conflict, but it does not address any policy in detail.

Neither is it a set of rules and regulations, but rather a behavioral agreement meant for our personal reflection. We don't tell others that “you're not living up to our ideals.” Instead, we ask ourselves, “Am I living up to them?” as we publicly affirm our highest ideals and most cherished values in order to create and strengthen our beloved community.

The Covenant:

In undertaking this covenant, we, the members and friends of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Indiana PA, promise from our hearts, in solemn agreement, to:

1. ~~Welcome~~ Treat everyone —visitors, members, friends, minister, and staff— with respect, love, and kindness.
2. Participate in the life of the congregation to the best of our ability: attend services, pledge financial support, and assist in various tasks, projects, and events.
3. Practice the version of democracy envisioned in our UU Principles, with all members encouraged to engage in open, caring, and informed discussion of decisions that affect them.
4. Create together a safe and supportive environment for the healthy intellectual and spiritual growth of ~~all adults, youth, and children. Support the spiritual growth and exploration of adult and child alike.~~
5. Celebrate each other's joys and comfort each other in times of challenge and sorrow.
6. Listen to one another carefully, without judgment, and with respect to make sure we understand each other.
7. Speak our truths honestly and kindly so we can grow as individuals and as a congregation.
8. Allow for human fallibility by committing to resolve conflict in an open and caring way.
9. Honor diversity of opinion as a source of strength and growth, and recognize the value of all perspectives, ~~both young and old.~~
10. Honor the democratic process by ~~abiding by~~ respecting the results of congregational and leadership votes.

We enter into this covenant so that we may live out our best selves, strengthen our ties to one another, and deepen our sense of community.

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