

CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT
OF
THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF INDIANA, PA

Rationale & History:

One of the chief purposes of our UU faith is to inspire members of this congregation to go beyond our comfort zones to live up to our highest ideals. In developing and writing a Congregational Covenant, members of this congregation have reflected on those ideals and values most important to us.

This Covenant has its roots in last January's Vision Workshop 2.0 with our regional UU Consultant Renee Ruchotzke. The writing process started last spring with extensive comments from the congregation in a workshop as well as with consultation of the UUA's resources. The congregation temporarily adopted an earlier draft at a special Congregational Meeting last June, and comment and revision continued throughout the summer. The draft below is the result of these months of congregational comment and reflection.

Covenant

The mission of the First UU Church of Indiana, PA is to inspire one another, to care for each other and the world around us, and to act in accordance with the principles of our faith while continually working to create a more just and equitable world.

We are a supportive and nurturing faith community, honoring and respecting the rich diversity of those gathered here. Recognizing that warmth, beauty, kindness, and passion will shape us as a congregation of goodwill, generosity, presence, and compassion, we covenant to live out our highest ideals of how to be in relationship.

Inspire:

Living our first UU Principle of affirming and promoting *the inherent worth and dignity of every person*, we promise to treat each other with respect, love, and kindness; to listen to one another carefully; and to express our truths with politeness and honesty.

Care:

Understanding that community is essential to our faith tradition, we promise to participate in the life of our congregation to the best of our ability; to create together a safe and supportive environment; and to share compassionately in the joys and sorrows of each other's lives.

Act:

Committing to practice the democratic process as envisioned in our UU Principles, we promise to engage in open, caring, and informed discussion of decisions that affect us; to acknowledge each one's right to hold dissenting opinions and advocate for change; and to respect the results of congregational and leadership votes and decisions for the betterment and fulfillment of the whole.

Version 9.2 (revised 8/16/2016)

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