

Congregational Covenant of the Universalist National Memorial Church
Approved at Annual Meeting May 15, 2005

The congregation of the Universalist National Memorial Church, in order to create a loving community for worship and service in the spirit of Jesus Christ, and to welcome all and respect individual beliefs as we grow together, covenant that

In our relations with one another:

- We will make everyone feel welcome and create opportunities to form personal connections through increased purposeful fellowship.
- We will support each other in times of need.
- We will create an environment and processes where people will feel safe to speak openly and honestly.
- We will embrace the differences of views inherent in our community, expressing our differences respectfully while listening to others—recognizing difference is a strength, offering opportunities for learning and growing together.
- We will confront each other directly and respectfully when disagreement or conflict occurs, in a spirit of gentleness and humility—then be willing to move on without criticizing others behind their backs or being passive-aggressive.
- We will draw upon the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth as guides to behavior.
- We will make concrete and attainable commitments, then follow through on those commitments.
- We will act in good faith and assume the good intentions of the people with whom we are interacting.

In our service to the church and greater community:

- We will stay engaged with the church community and answer the call to serve each other.
- We will engage more purposefully with the local community, structuring opportunities in a way to increase participation.
- We will work to make our facilities and activities more accessible to people with disabilities.

Regarding our beliefs:

- We will create opportunities to share beliefs.
- We will promote respect and acceptance of differences in our beliefs through purposeful activities that will educate us to the range of Christian and other theologies.
- We will respect personal privacy in matters of belief, letting people participate when ready.

In our worship:

- We will uphold a meaningful, consistent approach to worship that adheres to our core liberal Christian and Universalist traditions, while remaining open as a community to consider change.
- We will strive for inclusiveness in our worship by avoiding unexplained religious jargon and unnecessary gender-specific language, as well as by recognizing the diversity in the spiritual paths we travel.
- We will draw from a variety of resources for uplifting music and inspiring readings, from the Bible and other sources of spiritual insight.

In our congregation and its leadership:

- We will promote and seek diversity of ideas, including through diversity in our leadership and congregation generally.
- We will expect and encourage our leadership to communicate with us, and we will engage in discussing the goals, challenges and opportunities that we face together.
- We will create clear and open processes to enhance opportunities for participation in decision-making.

This covenant represents our commitment in community with one another. We recognize in our humanity that we will at times fall short of our aspirations, but we will always seek to reflect God's love and generosity by forgiving ourselves and each other.