

Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert

Congregational Covenant

“We need not think alike to love alike.” One of our Unitarian Universalist ancestors, Francis David, spoke those words more than 400 years ago to describe the foundation of our unity as a religious community. This covenant represents the promises we make to ourselves about how we will nurture and support each other within this beloved community. These promises cultivate an environment of compassion, courage, and empathy. To this end, we, the people of the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Desert, adopt the following Congregational Covenant.

We will be mindful of how we communicate with and about others.

We promise to:

- Assume that others act with good intentions
- Speak with respect, honesty, and compassion
- Listen compassionately and seek to understand the perspectives and opinions of others
- Speak from our personal experience and embrace the personal experiences of others
- Allow everyone the opportunity to be heard
- Use email and other forms of electronic communication with respect, kindness, and special care

We will seek a respectful and constructive resolution when conflicts arise.

We promise to:

- Communicate directly with the person or group involved, instead of gossiping or speaking negatively about others in the wider community
- Check the accuracy of our perceptions and assumptions
- Be forgiving when we or others make mistakes
- Apologize, when warranted, and seek to make amends
- Call on congregational resources when help is needed

We will enrich our own lives by celebrating the diversity within our community.

We promise to:

- Seek personal growth in our ability to be welcoming to those who are different from ourselves
- Recognize and honor the diversity of beliefs and spiritual paths within our community, including the words and ways people choose to express their spirituality
- Be curious, appreciative, and informed about perspectives that differ from our own

We will build our beloved community.

We promise to:

- Contribute our gifts of time, talents, and financial resources
- Encourage everyone's involvement in the life of our congregation
- Strengthen our community by supporting members' good works
- Express gratitude and appreciation for the contributions of others
- Value and appreciate the gifts, experiences, and knowledge of the minister, staff, and congregational leaders

Our commitment to one another ensures that our community will be a safe and inspirational place in which we, as individuals and groups, can live out our spiritual journeys.