

# Covenant of Relational Practices

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The universal spiritual impulse seeks the communion of all people. With heartfelt yearning, we gather from our separateness as individuals to cultivate religious community. Our commitment to this high calling asks each of us to engage in certain shared practices that grow community. Is this your desire?

*So it is.*

The story of liberal religion affirms freedom, love, and justice grounded in all wisdom that brings healing, hope, and wholeness to us and society.

*I choose to learn and live the story of the “Everlasting Yes.”*

Worship is the spiritual heart and soul of our congregation, centering and summoning the gathered community into a life of vision and commitment.

*I choose to regularly attend and celebrate worship in this, my religious home.*

Many areas of congregational strength and passion form the ministries and mission of our faith community.

*I choose to support and cultivate our congregation’s gifts.*

We touch soul and awaken spirit through the experience of music and the arts. In worship, music and the spoken word partner to lead us to love and justice.

*Through music and the arts, I choose to deepen my experience of the story and practice of liberal faith.*

Growing the mind with greater understanding opens the heart to greater wisdom. Our “appreciative congregation” grows people and community with an ethos of learning.

*I choose to keep learning and to support our congregation as a learning community.*

In congregational life, we are encouraged to take our roles, but not ourselves, seriously. Joyful community thrives on camaraderie, shared interests, and abundant opportunities to have fun.

*I choose to help us find joy together.*

As we surf the Waves of Wisdom, doing and being form a dance of balance. Soul is sustained in this dance by seeing beyond appearances and sensing the inner vitality of all things.

*I choose to see with the eyes of the soul.*

Heeding the call of social justice and right relations, we witness to the wisdom of wholeness. Wise action is the fruit of a fertile faith.

*I choose to stay engaged with society through service and ethical action.*

The unfolding vision of our congregation answers the question, “What calls our congregation forward?” The outreach ministry of our congregation answers the question, “What effects do we want to create through our shared ministries?”

*In community, we choose to envision hope, discern shared ministries, and act with compassion.*

Creating space to hear each other into speech is the central act of community. Only then can mutual understanding happen. Sustaining that practice transforms community.

*I choose to participate often in the practice of deep dialogue.*

Building trust and respect in community takes explicit commitment. Crafting statements of shared expectations, values, and promises is a foundation of authentic community.

*I choose to stand in covenant with each and every member of our congregation.*

A caring congregation nurtures individuals with loving support, provides a welcoming environment for newcomers, and expects members to bring their gifts of talent and financial support.

*With my heart and money, I choose to express my care and commitment to our congregation.*

With our sincere and continued vigilance to honor these practices, together we cultivate and strengthen our congregation as a healthy, creative, and compassionate religious community.

*May this be so. Blessed be. Amen.*