

Summary of the Relational Congregational Practices

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- **Core Story of Liberal Faith**
The life-affirming story of freedom, love, and justice grounded in all sources of wisdom brings healing, hope, and wholeness to self and society. Learn and live the story.
- **Worship**
The spiritual heart and soul of the congregation centers and sustains the gathered community on the “Yes of life.” Attend and celebrate worship.
- **Congregational Gifts**
Special areas of congregational strength and passion form the ministries and mission of the faith community. Support and cultivate the congregation’s gifts.
- **Music and the Arts**
Soul is felt and spirit is seeded by music and the arts. In worship, music and the spoken word partners to convey the experience of love and justice. Through music and the arts, deepen the story and practice of liberal faith.
- **Learning: Personal and Congregational**
Growing the mind with greater understanding opens the heart to greater wisdom. An “appreciative congregation” grows people and community with an ethos of learning. Keep learning, and support the congregation as a learning community.
- **Fellowship and Fun**
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. Find joy together.
- **Care of the Soul**
As we surf the Waves of Wisdom, doing and being form a rhythm of balance. Soul is sustained by seeing beyond the appearances and sensing the inner vitality of all things. See with the eyes of the soul.

- **Prophetic Witness**
Heeding the call of social justice and right relations witnesses to the wisdom of wholeness. Wise action is the fruit of a fertile faith. Through service and ethical wisdom, stay engaged with society.
- **Vision and Mission**
The unfolding story of a congregation (Vision) answers the question, “What calls our congregation forward?” The outreach ministry of a congregation (Mission) answers the question, “What effects do we want to create through our ministries?” In community, envision hope, discern shared ministries, and act with compassion.
- **Dialogue**
Creating space to hear each other into speech is the central act of community. Only then can mutual understanding happen. Sustaining this practice transforms community. Gather often to practice deep dialogue and build a community of inquiry.
- **Covenants**
Building trust and respect in community takes verbal commitment. Crafting statements of shared expectations, values, and promises is a foundation of authentic community. Create covenants with each other.
- **Caring and Commitment**
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 to their congregation. Be caring and committed.