

10 December 1998

River Road Unitarian Church
Mission and Values Statements

After the Board-Sponsored discussion meeting in November, several of us tried to consolidate the discussion into a statement that could be useful background for future discussion meetings and perhaps in other contexts. We tried to find a statement that was sufficiently general to capture as many of the ideas as possible that surfaced in our discussions, but concise enough to be useful in future discussions.

We came up with the following articulation, which combines an abbreviation of our existing mission statement with a statement of underlying values. The statement of these values is not meant to provide a guide for resolving issues, but we believe it will be useful if it gives us a vocabulary for talking about the values that we want to pay attention to as we discuss the issues we confront. The statement is not cast in stone, but we propose that we try to work with it for a while as we discuss concrete issues, and perhaps revisit it in the spring.

The mission of River Road Unitarian Church is to meet the spiritual aspirations of people of free faith in our community through inspiring worship, life-long religious education, a caring community and opportunities to put our faith into action in society.

In carrying out our mission, we are guided by the following *values* that are essential to River Road Unitarian Church:

Right relations. We are committed to discovering, creating and protecting right relations to self, to our communities, to our culture and to creation.

Appreciation of beauty. We appreciate the beauty of nature and human life and seek to create beauty around us through all forms of art including the visual arts, architecture and music.

Stewardship and ministry. As stewards we assume individual responsibility to care for the values, people and material resources that support our religious community. To sustain that community we practice ministry to ourselves and others.

Participatory and thoughtful processes. We work together to make decisions in ways that are inclusive and respectful of all.

Intellectual openness. We embrace a diversity of ideas in pursuit of spiritual growth.