

River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation DRAFT Covenant

River Road Unitarian Universalist Congregation affirms this Covenant as a declaration of how we desire to be together. This Covenant serves to guide our interactions as we engage with the world as it is and work toward shaping the world as it could be. It encourages us to bring our best selves to our relationships with one another. We draw strength from our diversity and seek to form a beloved community through bonds of fellowship and spirit, rather than by a mutual belief system or creed. We choose connection over isolation and support each other in our free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

I promise to cultivate in myself:

- *Appreciation of our commonalities and differences*
- *Joy and a sense of humor*
- *Trust that others have good intentions*
- *Openness to different viewpoints and ways of doing things*
- *Curiosity about the world around me*
- *Generosity of spirit*
- *Willingness to forgive and seek forgiveness*
- *Responsibility for my actions*
- *Gratitude for the blessings of being a member of a beloved community*
- *Commitment to sustaining this congregation for those who will follow after*

In accordance with these values and intentions, I promise to:

- *Give generously of myself and my resources*
- *Be kind and compassionate*
- *Listen to understand rather than to judge or prove a point*
- *Support and nurture others*
- *Express appreciation of others' efforts*
- *Talk with rather than about others*
- *Be mindful and considerate in my communications and interactions*
- *Respond to anger with gentleness*
- *Forgive myself and others when we fail to keep these promises and begin again in love and faith*

Together we pledge to fulfill and renew these promises in order to foster our spiritual growth, sustaining the vitality of our congregation and its larger vision for the world.