

## COVENANT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Unity Temple Unitarian Universalist Congregation

We come to church to celebrate, to learn, to make friends, and to be of service. We come to church to explore life's big questions and to be together in a loving, caring community—one that values people of all ages. When we come to church, we make promises to each other, spoken and unspoken. These promises are sometimes called a "covenant." A covenant describes how we will treat each other, what we will do to create a safe and sacred space where all may learn and grow. Our covenant at Unity Temple comes from our Seven Unitarian Universalist Principles.

**Principle #1:** *We believe that each and every person is important.* This means that we treat each other with respect. We promise to share, listen, take turns and keep our hands to ourselves.

**Principle #2:** *We believe that all people should be treated fairly and kindly.* This means that everyone -- no matter what their age or sex, race or family, abilities or differences -- is welcome. We promise to treat each other with care and welcome all people with an open mind and a loving heart.

**Principle #3:** *We believe that we should encourage one another to learn together.* This means that church is a place for worship, friendship, learning and service. We promise to participate. We will listen, explore, and share knowledge with one another.

**Principle #4:** *We believe that each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.* This means church is a safe place to ask questions and express thoughts and ideas. We promise to honor each other's questions, thoughts and ideas even if they are different from our own.

**Principle #5:** *We believe that all persons should have a say about the things that concern them.* This means that everyone's voice is important in making decisions about what happens at church, both young people and adults. We promise to contribute ideas, time, and energy in creating our best church experience.

**Principle #6:** *We believe in working for a peaceful, fair, and free world.* This means we settle our disagreements in honest, caring and peaceful ways. We promise not to play in violent ways or use hurtful words with one another. We promise to ask for help in settling disagreements that we are unable to settle by ourselves.

**Principle #7:** *We believe in caring for our planet Earth, the home that we share with all living things.* This means we will care for our church home. We promise to clean up our own messes, not be wasteful of food and supplies and to recycle whenever possible.

**Living our UU Principles in our daily lives -- at church and at home -- can be hard work.** We all make mistakes. It is important for us to talk honestly, get help when needed, apologize for mistakes, and make amends the best we can. In this we learn and grow when we are together, whether on Sundays or other times we gather. Should the occasion arise when a child is chronically disruptive and/or unable to participate in a positive manner in the group, his/her parent(s) will be contacted by the leaders of our Religious Education program to discuss the problem, explore alternatives, and agree upon a plan that meets the expectations of all involved. Children will be required to sit in the service with their parent(s) until problem behavior has been addressed.