

Relational Covenant

This covenant is our promise to each other. We adopt it to build a welcoming, loving, healthy, and trusting congregation. We are also guided by our aspirational covenant that, “love is the doctrine of this congregation.” **We hereby covenant to:**

Embrace our congregational mission by

- Being welcoming, kind, and compassionate.
- Recognizing that each of us is on a unique spiritual journey.
- Committing to justice, equity, diversity, and belonging.
- Inviting all to engage in the work of the congregation.

Communicate with respect and compassion by

- Acknowledging differences in perceptions, spiritual beliefs, religious practices, and life experiences.
- Expressing our disagreements in a healthy way.
- Listening deeply with curiosity and the goal of understanding.
- Respecting the need for confidentiality when appropriate, while avoiding a culture of secrecy.

Resolve disputes and misunderstandings by

- Questioning our own assumptions and recognizing our limitations.
- Asking for help when it is needed.
- Correcting misunderstandings using open and respectful conversation.
- Addressing conflict in a way that builds positive community.
- Using open dialog rather than gossip to discuss congregational affairs.
- Apologizing to those we have harmed by our words or actions.
- Accepting apologies with grace.

Acknowledge and accept responsibility for good stewardship by

- Committing our time, our talent, and our money in support of the work of the congregation.
- Striving to be good stewards of all the congregation’s resources — its people, property, and finances.

So do we solemnly covenant. We know that despite our best intentions, we will not always live up to it. When we don’t, we will work to return to right relationship. The shared commitment represented by this document will evolve over time as we continue together in community.