

Open Circle Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
Covenant of Community
Adopted 1/20/13



**We the members of OCUUF,
Covenant to be a spiritual community where we can bring our hearts,
minds and deepest convictions, knowing that we will be respected,
accepted and loved.**

We will do this by living out our 7 principles which call upon us to:

- Affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person;*
- Pursue justice, equity, and compassion in human relations;*
- Accept one another and encourage spiritual growth in our congregations;*
- Pursue a free and responsible search for truth and meaning;*
- Respect the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process;*
- Promote the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;*
- Respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.*

**We covenant to have open, honest, and inclusive communication, within
and throughout our membership.**

- Accepting that our language is easily misunderstood, we will speak and listen carefully, pledge to become skilled listeners, assume good intent, and remember to communicate lovingly.
- In our actions, we will model behaviors that foster a safe environment for expressions of ideas, so that all may comfortably express their opinions and be heard, not judged.
- Understanding differences as a source of strength and energy, we will cherish, foster, and respect differences in perspective. We will express disagreement as an alternative perspective, not as conflict.
- Because honesty in communication requires that we not leave conflicts unexpressed, if we find ourselves in conflict with another member, we will express that concern to the member directly, striving to be honest and respectful. If necessary, we may approach a Common Ground team member to help resolve the issue.

**We covenant to work together and make decisions using the democratic
process.**

- Remembering that our community is co-created by volunteer efforts, we celebrate and appreciate each other's contributions.
- We honor leadership and expertise and we strive to create an environment where all have a voice.
- Those who hold leadership positions will share appropriate information with the members, keeping lines of communication open.
- In decision making, we will collaborate, making every effort to reach a consensus and achieve a solution that is best for our community.

- When we cannot come to consensus, we will vote and work to honor the wisdom and deep spiritual needs of those in the minority as well as the majority.
- We understand that peaceful co-existence within a community requires that we prioritize our concerns, keep things in perspective and be open to understanding each other.

We covenant to turn to this agreement in times of harmony and in times of conflict, to guide our words and actions as we create and nurture our beloved community.