

Covenant of the UUCB Council: First Draft

We covenant to foster Beloved Community by practicing open communication with appreciative listening, honesty, compassion, and transcendence of self-interest. We will strive for consensus and speak with one voice about our group decisions.

We will honor our commitments as volunteers. We will do our best to attend meetings and will notify the group if we cannot be there. Persons who miss meetings will communicate with other members about key aspects of meetings they don't attend.

We will recognize each other as equals in our work and actively seek to engage one another in our discussions and decision making. We will take time for check-ins, appreciation, clearing and apologies.

Our meetings will be a "safe room." While we may talk in generalities of our discussion with others, we will not tell others the details of who said what if that would betray a reasonable expectation of confidentiality.

We value equally relationship, process and task. We will foster direct communication to avoid triangulation. We will practice timely follow up to avoid misunderstandings. We will show generosity of spirit, and we will assume good intentions. We affirm the benefits of a sense of humor. We recognize that enjoyable efforts to deepen relationships usually make joint tasks easier to accomplish.

We will pay particular attention to committees in the cluster we represent but will always be mindful that we are a team working on behalf of the congregation as a whole. We will support each other and proactively offer and receive assistance whenever individual responsibilities feel overwhelming.

We recognize that we are "in process," that we are growing together, and we expect to further articulate the values to which we hold ourselves. We recognize that Council work is an opportunity for us to mindfully transcend our limits.

We see leadership and team work as a spiritual practice. We will work collaboratively with each other, the Board and Coordinating Team in empowering the congregation to fulfill its mission.

Our work will embody and further the working mission statement:

To create loving community,
Inspire spiritual growth,
And encourage lives of integrity, joy and service.

6/6/05 LLD draft adapted from 11/11/04 Coordinating Team Covenant, augmented by elements of the 5/20/05 Freestone retreat easel notes and JM notes.