

Covenant of the First Unitarian Church of St. Louis

We, the congregation of First Unitarian Church of St. Louis, embrace these principles to foster a vibrant spiritual community to nourish one another, and return our energy to the world as we work for justice and peace.

Specifically we promise to:

- Welcome and integrate others into conversations and our community.
- Develop an inclusive community by reaching out and making everyone feel welcome without regard to affectional or sexual orientation, age, color, gender identity or expression, nationality, origin, physical or mental ability, race, sex, education level, socioeconomic status, or political perspective, and without requiring adherence to any particular interpretation of religion or to any particular religious belief or creed.
- Nurture our individual and shared spiritual journeys with curiosity, acceptance and compassion;
- Show respect and care for each other in words and deeds.
- Honor our Unitarian Universalist heritage and values.
- Be open to growth and change.
- Discover and focus our efforts on what is best for our church and broader community.
- Seek out information about important issues in our church;
- Listen completely with an open heart and mind, and express ourselves as clearly as possible, sharing our opinions responsibly and respectfully, so that we understand each other.
- Work through issues and concerns using direct communication and recognize that differences and disappointments offer us the opportunity to deepen our understanding and our community.
- Enhance the work of church staff and volunteers, offering input yet respecting their designated roles;
- Allow time for discernment without forcing decisions.
- Forgive each other and ourselves when we make mistakes;
- Remind ourselves and each other of these promises as needed. This covenant, like each individual and our congregation, is a work in progress.

Adopted January 26, 2013