

COVENANT OF RIGHT RELATIONS

Adopted June 11, 2017 at the 66th Annual Meeting

The Unitarian Church in Westport

PREAMBLE

The purpose of a Covenant of Right Relations is to have a common understanding of our standards of behavior as we live together in community. A covenant is not a set of rules, but rather an aspirational promise for mutual support.

Disagreements are normal within a democratic community and every person must be given the opportunity to present opinions, and concede with grace when necessary, in order to promote progress. The Board, each committee, and every church member is encouraged to engage in an honest and nonjudgmental discourse and respectful use of compromise to promote the greater good of the church community. When we are not in Right Relations, we must move toward understanding and recommitment.

The Unitarian Church in Westport strives to be an inclusive community, affirming our differences in beliefs, opinions and life experiences. Diversity of belief is a source of vitality in our congregation and all opinions need to be heard with respect. This Right Relations covenant exists to bolster the Principles and Purposes of the UUA which is also a “covenant to affirm and promote” dignity, justice, and compassion in all of our congregations.

This congregation hereby adopts the **Covenant of Right Relations** and pledges to:

- Strive to create a safe place where all can express themselves freely
- Speak the truth, mindful of the feelings of others
- Listen with respect and consideration
- Respect confidentiality and refrain from gossip
- Accept personal responsibility for our words and actions
- Display faith and trust in others
- Honor differences of opinion and viewpoints
- Stay engaged in order to work through differences
- Accept group decisions regardless of personal positions

- Graciously seek peace and genuine reconciliation
- Support the personal and spiritual growth of others
- Honor the mission of our congregation