

# The Congregational Covenant of Eliot Unitarian Chapel

*Eliot Chapel asks that everyone in ongoing relationship with the community abide by the following covenant.*

*We, the congregation of Eliot Unitarian Chapel, learning from our past and forging a new path together, make this covenant:*

- ◆ We will be open and honest in our governance and in our interactions with one another.
- ◆ We will recognize and celebrate our differences, and not be surprised when we disagree.
- ◆ We will regard our diversity as an opportunity to learn from one another, and let our differences inspire discourse, not division.
- ◆ We will be kinder to one another than we have to be.
- ◆ We will remember that this covenant, like our community, is a work in progress.

*We will live these principles by promising:*

- ◆ To listen fully to each other, with open mind and heart.
- ◆ To be sure we understand the other person's point of view before responding with our own.
- ◆ To talk over differences in opinion with each other directly, openly and respectfully.
- ◆ To speak clearly of our own experiences, and to propose our own solutions.
- ◆ To seek out, personally and actively, complete information about issues of importance to us.
- ◆ To share our opinions responsibly and respectfully, choosing an appropriate time, place and person(s).
- ◆ To recognize and honor in each other the good intentions and motivations that lead us to speak up in our church.
- ◆ To follow existing processes for conflict resolution at Eliot Chapel.
- ◆ To focus our communication on finding ways to improve our church for all members and friends.
- ◆ To follow these promises in all forms of communication: one-on-one, in groups, in person and electronically.
- ◆ To greet newcomers warmly and welcome them to our church with interest and empathy.
- ◆ To remind ourselves and each other of these promises, regularly and gently.