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.