

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH IN WESTPORT

COVENANT OF RIGHT RELATIONS

Adopted June 10, 2017

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. 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. 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 honestly, 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.
- Uphold group decisions regardless of personal positions.
- Graciously seek peace and genuine reconciliation.
- Encourage the personal and spiritual growth of others.
- Honor and support the mission of our congregation.