



Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church

Date: May 11, 2022

To: The Members of BBUUC

From: Your Healthy Congregation Ministry

Members: Helen Meatte, Ellen Miceli, Linda Mowers, Madeline Sims

Subject: Proposed Congregational Covenant

The Healthy Congregation Ministry was tasked with the process of working with our members to create a Congregational Covenant to be presented for acceptance at our Annual Meeting held on May 22, 2022. A Congregational Covenant is different from our Covenant of Right Relationship. It more simply articulates our ultimate commitment to one another through the values we share and the promises we make among ourselves. Living in covenant as a spiritual practice creates trust, space for sacred conversations, authenticity, and safety. Congregational Covenants reflect the needs and wishes of the entire congregation. Our Covenant of Right Relationship was created around expectations of specific behaviors and relationships. Our Board, committees, ministries, and affinity groups often create their own covenants that apply specifically to the dynamics of their mission. The Congregational Covenant is overarching and serves as the glue that binds us together.

The Healthy Congregation Ministry conducted three separate meetings that were held in February and March, in order to give members a choice of dates and venues. Two were held at church in person, and one was held virtually via Zoom. The meetings were designed to encourage input from our members that would help us create a congregational covenant to reflect the promises we make to one another about who we are as a congregation, and how we treat one another as we seek to live our values and learn from our wisdom sources.

During the meetings, members were invited to provide their input on questions that focused on articulating their core values. This was followed by a series of questions to gather input on living our values, creating beloved community, and what promises we need to make that are most meaningful. We also explored what behaviors we seek to create the safe, supporting space that allows us to grow to our deepest selves, and how we want our members, friends, and visitors to feel when they encounter BBUUC. Comprehensive notes were taken, and word clouds were created for each meeting as a visual representation of the keywords that were recorded.

After completing the final meeting, our team consolidated and refined the detailed input from all three meetings and created a proposed covenant that pulls from the common values and shared expectations of our congregation as a whole. The proposed Congregational Covenant is outlined below, along with the combined wordcloud from all of the meetings.

We are truly grateful for your time and participation in providing the building blocks for creating our Covenant. We cannot do this without our collective efforts. Our faith tradition requires that our Covenants come from our shared expectations around the behaviors that we want to cultivate, bringing us closer to the beloved community.



Buckman Bridge
Unitarian Universalist Church

COMBINED WORD CLOUD FROM ALL MEETINGS





**Buckman Bridge
Unitarian Universalist Church**

Buckman Bridge Unitarian Universalist Church

Proposed Congregational Covenant

May 22, 2022

We covenant to engage one another with honesty, kindness, and respect; to value diversity, seek understanding of our differences, and practice gracious accountability with care, love, and empathy. We make these promises to those who are here, and those yet to come, so that we may be a safe, welcoming, and beloved community of acceptance, learning, and transformation.