

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote

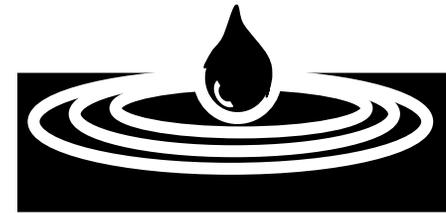
- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;
- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;
- Spiritual teachings of Earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

Purposes: The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to and exercise its corporate powers for religious, educational and humanitarian purposes. The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions and implement its principles.



SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH
OF SAN JOSE

Reconsidering the Principles and Sources

A properly prepared liberal church is crystal clear, with the individual qualities of all the odd ingredients preserved; the soft things soft, the tough things tough, the green things green and the yellow things yellow. From this kind of heterogeneity it is possible to learn something.

-- Grace Martin

In most other churches, theological quandary is personal. It is not institutional ... With us, on the contrary, theological quandary is not personal, it is institutional.

--The Free Church in a Changing World

Preliminaries Announce upcoming church events; get volunteers to read opening and light chalice; pass the bowl of readings

Centering Practice *Feel your pulse – see leader notes.*

Opening / Chalice Lighting
- Charles A. Howe

We light this chalice to affirm—

- That new light is ever waiting to break through to enlighten our ways;
- That new truth is ever waiting to break through to illumine our minds;
- And that new love is ever waiting to break through to warm our hearts.

Check-in *Share a high or a low point since you have been together.*

Reading
- Adlai Stevenson

I think that one of our most important tasks as Unitarians is to convince ourselves and others that there is nothing to fear in difference; that difference, in fact, is one of the healthiest and most invigorating of human characteristics, without which life would become lifeless. Here lies the power of the liberal way—not in making the whole world Unitarian; but in helping ourselves and others to see some of the possibilities inherent in viewpoints other than one's own; in encouraging the free interchange of ideas; in welcoming fresh approaches to the problems of life; in urging the fullest, most vigorous use of critical self-examination. Thus we can learn to grow together, to unite in our common search for the truth beneath a better and a happier world

Sitting in Silence

Sharing/ Deep Listening *Deeply listening, without response or thought of response at this time, is the gift we give and receive as we share our thoughts on the preparation for this session.*

Discussion *This is a time to supportively respond to something another person said or to relate additional thoughts that may have occurred as others shared.*

Singing
- Hymnal 348

Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race.
Guide my feet while I run this race,
for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Hold my hand ...
Stand by me ...
I'm your child ...
Guide my feet ...
For I don't want to run this race in vain.

Extinguishing the Chalice
- Steve J. Crump

Hold hands or link arms and say together:

That which is worthy of doing, create with your hands.
That which is worthy of repeating, speak with a clear voice.
That which is worthy of remembering, hold in your heart.
And that which is worthy of living, go and live it now.