

*First UU Society of Burlington
Board Covenant 2012- 2013*

We acknowledge that we have been elected by the membership to work together in the best interests of the congregation as a whole, always keeping the congregational mission in mind.

In order to fulfill that mandate we covenant to:

- *Be engaged and aware. This means being aware of how our own experiences and viewpoints influence our outlook and being aware of personal agendas that might influence our thinking. It also means welcoming and celebrating other experiences and opinions of other board members by listening to and learning from each other.*
- *Be respectful of each other. This means accepting that we will not see every issue in the same way. We will question ideas and concepts without questioning the integrity of others. We will hear questions as curiosity rather than challenges.*
- *Be a vital part of the board process. This means being open-minded, engaging in lively discussions, and offering each other constructive feedback. We will not back away from disagreement. We will engage conflict constructively, and will use the board process to resolve disagreements as they arise.*
- *Be mutually supportive. This means being appreciative of each other and remembering that we have different roles and areas of expertise. We will ask each other for help when we need it, and will respond to requests for help when we are able. We give each other permission to explore new and outside the box ideas. We will remember to have fun together.*

We recognize that there will be times when we will fall short of these ideals. We will be accountable to each other, and forgiving of each other.

Ground Rules

Be prepared for meetings: read reports in advance, keep up with items on personal task list.

Be on time.

Submit agenda items in a timely manner so other board members have time to acquaint themselves with the issue.

Take turns with shared tasks such as being process observer, board host on Sunday morning.

Respond to emails in a timely manner. When sending out a request that requires a response be clear on when you need the response.

Ask for help if you cannot fulfill a board obligation.

Respond to a request for help from a fellow board member who needs help fulfilling an obligation.