

The Values We Share and How We — Want to Express Them in Our Community? — A Survey

The Unitarian Universalist Principles are the values that bind us to other American UU congregations. By contrast, Albany UU's Mission Statement summarizes what our congregation is and what it aims to achieve. Though critical for how our whole congregation behaves, neither of these documents addresses how the members of our congregation should relate to each other. A covenant, serving as a formal guide to how we want to treat each other, can enhance our ability to participate in a satisfying community and to achieve our mission.

We celebrate our sense that we are a community of diverse beliefs, united by shared values. Let's explore what these shared values are, and how they instruct our behavior towards each other. If we can identify and articulate them in a meaningful covenant, we will have a guide for supporting each other as we deepen the meaning and joy of our community and speed our journey towards fulfilling our Society's mission.

This survey seeks your help in determining which behaviors you consider most important for creating a meaningful, effective and rewarding religious community. In addition, we need you to tell us which of these ought to be included in a covenant as a guide to member behavior. To that end, below is a list of behaviors which we frequently acknowledge as contributing to a valued community, behaviors included in the covenants of other congregations and space for you to suggest unlisted behaviors you consider critical.

For each behavior in the list below, please indicate in the columns to the right:

- 1) **Is the behavior important for community (Y/N) and**
- 2) **This behavior should be in our covenant. (Y/N).**

In deciding yes or no for each behavior, don't focus on the particular wording, but on the idea expressed. We are not trying to write a covenant here, but surveying the utility of concepts and ideas. The actual covenant language will likely be different than the language used here.

Behaviors	Important for community		Should be in our covenant	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
1. Actively support congregational mission.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
2. Participate in opportunities to make a difference in the world.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
3. Help others see my point of view.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
4. Provide financial support commensurate with my ability.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
5. Actually make others feel welcome.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
6. Be honest in expressing one's feelings.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
7. Help others feel they are part of something larger than themselves.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
8. Commit to reminding each other that we/I don't have sole possession of the truth.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
9. Don't treat others in ways I would not appreciate.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
10. Refrain from associating with people who make me uncomfortable.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
11. Conserve congregational resources.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
12. Participate in social justice activities.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
13. Act as if behavior is more important than belief.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
14. Use my participation to assist others in being the best they can.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
15. Being aware of negative cultural norms, practice true equity in dealing with others.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N

Please continue on the other side.

Behaviors	Important for community		Should be in our covenant	
	Yes	No	Yes	No
16. Take concrete actions to create a sense of community and belonging.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
17. Apply reason and experience in evaluating new ideas.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
18. Promote a sense of safety in others.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
19. Inspire others by my example.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
20. Be open to new ideas.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
21. Expect others to honor my privacy.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
22. Respect the privacy of others to make meaning for themselves.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
23. Contribute to the growth of children.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
24. Take concrete actions to make our community more welcoming, diverse and inclusive.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
25. Risk interacting positively with people who initially make me uncomfortable.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
26. Show others they are accepted and appreciated	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
27. Treat others the way I want to be treated.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
28. Speak out when others are offensive.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
29. Cultivate and practice empathy.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
30. Participate in congregational governance, discussions and/or decision-making.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
31. Work to understand others' points of view.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
32. Devote my time/talent/treasure to help the next generation grow.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
33. Be kind in disagreements.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
34. Contribute to the growth and development of myself and others.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
35. Use my participation to "leverage the better angels" of my nature.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N
36. Use my talents to meet the needs of the members and the community.	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N	<input type="checkbox"/> Y	<input type="checkbox"/> N

Additional behaviors that you think should be in the covenant

90. _____
91. _____
92. _____

Now, a few questions about you:

How old are you? ____

How many years have you been associated with Albany UU? ____

What gender do you identify with? _____

Do you have children in our religious education program? Y N

Do you identify yourself as a person of color? Y N

How important is Albany UU in your life? Not important Somewhat important Very important

Thank you for your participation.