

MICHAEL: [at lectern] Last year, one of the topics at the Board's annual retreat was covenant, after which the Board charged a small group of people to use the ideas generated at the retreat to create a draft covenant for the Board of Trustees. That draft was finalized and approved last August. The following is the covenant of the Board of Trustees:

We, the Board of Trustees, covenant with each other to:

Commit our energy and talent to the work of the Board,
ready to assume our fair share of responsibilities;
Participate fully, respectfully and honestly in Board dialogue,
striving to understand the viewpoints of others;
Be accountable to one another,
supporting each other and assuming goodwill;
Deal with conflict responsibly and respectfully;
Respect Board decisions and represent those outcomes with integrity; and
Be faithful to the Albany UU mission

The Board of Trustees then charged another small group to develop and facilitate a process for the congregation to consider whether we ought to covenant together...

LUCIA: [in front row with hand mic; stands to talk] Wait...wait, wait, wait.

CHOIR: Wait. (song tone)

LUCIA: [to choir] Thank you. [to Michael] Are you saying this congregation doesn't have a covenant?

MICHAEL: I am. Yes.

LUCIA: [with a touch of incredulity] My RE class has a covenant. All the classes all have one. Age appropriate, of course.

CHOIR: Of course [song tone]

MICHAEL: That's right.

LUCIA: And the youth group probably has one too.

CHOIR: Hmm hm. [heads nodding yes]

MICHAEL: That's right. So does the Religious Education Council. Our staff also has a covenant. In fact, you can read them in your Order of Service insert.

LUCIA: But the congregation doesn't. [shakes head in dismay] Hmm hmm, hmm

CHOIR: [heads shaking no] Hmm hmm, hmm.

MICHAEL: So, the Board then charged another small group to develop and facilitate a process for the congregation to consider whether we ought to covenant together as a community.

This moment has been brought to you by that small group, and with it the process has begun. Throughout the month, we'll share future moments, along with special inserts in your Order of Service regarding covenant and the covenanting process. This will be followed by congregational conversations. This, then, is a good time to reflect on the question, "What is a covenant?"

LUCIA: I know, I know. [stands and waves hand]

CHOIR: She knows. She knows. [looking at and pointing at Lucia]

LUCIA: It's an agreement, a commitment to how to be together in a group.

MICHAEL: [opens mouth about to speak]

CHOIR: Well done. [looks at Lucia and nods approvingly]

MICHAEL: Exactly right... [opens mouth to speak]

LUCIA: Like being respectful...and not...

MICHAEL: Interrupting

LUCIA: Yes, and creating a...

MICHAEL: Positive community.

LUCIA: Uh...I was going to say, "congregation where we support each other to be our best selves, respect our differences and work together in service of our mission"...but that's good too.

CHOIR: That's good too.

MICHAEL: Thank you. So we invite you to explore and contemplate with us whether we want to create a congregational covenant. A mission statement describes our purpose. A covenant describes how we agree to be together, how we will create community together. These two are

inseparable for a religious community: who and how we are together in community is fundamental to living our mission. As Antoine St. Exupery said: “Love does not consist in gazing at each other, but in looking outward together in the same direction.”

LUCIA: Isn't he “The Little Prince” author?

MICHAEL: [opens mouth about to speak]

CHOIR: Yes [song tone]

LUCIA: That's cool.

CHOIR: Hmm hm. [heads nodding yes]

MICHAEL: Yes, that's cool.

- The End -

CovenantCCPT-Script2017-2-12CovenantSkitWMichaelLuchia&Choir