

Together in Community: Principles for a Healthy Congregation



*In these ways we, the members of the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship,
will walk together as a diverse community bonded by love:*

We value trust, respect and acceptance of diversity in our relationships with each other, so we strive to...

- Challenge ourselves and each other to grow and be faithful to the truth we find within;
- Listen carefully to each other, seeking both to understand and to be understood;
- Keep our individual needs in balance with the health and vitality of the community as a whole;
- Welcome dialogue and cultivate an open and safe environment in which to hear all points of view.

We hold honest and respectful communication as the basis of healthy relationships in community, so we strive to...

- Be open, courteous and forgiving with each other, suspend judgment of those with whom we disagree, and offer each other kindness and encouragement;
- Provide our paid and volunteer leaders with clear expectations, clear lines of communication, and our steadfast love and support.

We acknowledge that change and conflict are normal parts of life in community, so we strive to...

- Respect tradition and also embrace change as the needs of our community change;
- Be firm in our commitment to seeking a mutual solution to our differences;
- Accept skilled help when we cannot reach agreement or reconciliation;
- Be straightforward in addressing divisive or damaging behavior within our community.

We are generous with our gifts in support of our mission, so we strive to...

- Give of our time, talent and resources as we are able to keep our community vital and strong;
- Provide our leadership with the resources to be effective in their roles;
- Work for justice and engage in acts of service and compassion to others.