

# *Together in Community: Principles for a Healthy Congregation*



*In these ways we, the members of the Fox Valley Unitarian Universalist Fellowship,  
will journey 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.