

Towson Unitarian Universalist Church Relational Covenant

We promise to **Trust,**

to welcome each other,
to be courteous, patient and warm,
to give and gain the benefit of the doubt.

We promise to **Resolve,**

to be clear and direct in communication,
to be willing to negotiate,
to seek mutual resolution to conflict,
to share responsibility.

We promise to **Understand,**

to affirm and celebrate the value added by our diversity,
to express opinions while remaining emotionally centered,
to listen quickly and judge slowly,
to contemplate change,
to strive for mutual understanding.

We promise to **Engage,**

to build acquaintance, teamwork, and friendship,
to accept a share of the work,
to bring a smile, share a laugh, spread some joy,
to be grateful.

Purpose of a Relational Covenant

A relational covenant is the shared expectations and aspirations of a community or group as to how each member wants to be treated in the life of the community.

The covenant becomes a set of promises to one another and to the community as a whole.

It is meant to be our shared values in action, expressed in a practical manner. This is critical to the nurturing of a community. It is an affirmation that our community wants to thrive.

Use of an Acronym

As we developed that list of shared expectations and hopes for our community, we chose to work with an acronym of T.R.U.E. for ease of reference. T.R.U.E. stands for Trust, Resolve, Understand, and Engage.

We strive to be T.R.U.E. at TUUC.