



# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF ARLINGTON VIRGINIA

A Place to Connect, Grow and Serve

**March 28, 2018**

## **Board Update**

Hieu Nguyen, Member of the Board of Trustees

There will be multiple opportunities for the Board, staff, lay leaders, congregants, and UUCA's other moral owners to come together to share their feelings and hear from others regarding what has happened at UUCA – particularly related to the church's ministerial team – such as the congregational listening circles happening March 31 and April 4, led by Rev. Beth Miller. The Board will also coordinate opportunities for individuals to express their thoughts on the direction of our church since we, the staff, and lay leaders will be working through decisions such as the church's ministerial team. These opportunities include large and small group discussions, 1-on-1 meetings, and informal discussions when we see each other around church.

When these discussions occur, the Board asks that everyone remember what Rev. Beth told us in one of her first sermons – Use your API pens. That is assume positive intent and hold in your hearts that the people you're speaking with are expressing their opinions with the best of intentions to making UUCA stronger. We all love this church and are dedicated to seeing it succeed in its mission of Connect, Grow, and Serve.

We encourage everyone to express their thoughts and opinions, but we also ask that you remember words have impact. With that in mind, the Board would like to remind everyone of UUCA's covenant: We covenant with each other, promising our goodwill and honest effort, pledging our care and support to one another and to our church community, challenging one another to live in accord with our Unitarian Universalist principles.

With this common purpose as our source, we covenant to:

- Welcome all who come to us with acceptance and respect for the differences among us;
- Practice patience and speak the truth directly and with compassion;
- Reflect carefully about the potential results of our words and actions before we speak or act;
- Keep our discussions to topics and issues rather than personalities;
- Acknowledge that we may not always agree with the group decisions, but we will support and participate in decision-making processes that are collaborative and democratic;
- Seek to resolve disagreements to our mutual satisfaction and ask for help when needed;
- Speak directly to those with whom we have disagreements;
- Facilitate direct communication between parties in conflict, when appropriate;
- Act with loving kindness, seeking to promote justice, equity, and compassion;
- Speak out with loving kindness when we witness disrespectful interactions;
- Understand that building our beloved community requires learning and practice.

During one of the group discussions that we led, the Board failed to set the tone for our discussions by not

reading our covenant. In not doing this, we believe it helped lead to multiple instances that went against our covenant – instances that we did not appropriately address at the time. For that, we are sorry. Moving forward, the Board commits to ensuring that UUCA's covenant is read and that it is followed at meetings we coordinate to ensure those in attendance remember and abide by the church's ground rules when it comes to engaging one another.

We look forward to working with all of you in developing the road map for UUCA's future.

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March 28, 2018 - Order of Service and Connections