



## UNITY CENTER OF DAVIS MEMBERSHIP COVENANT

I understand and am aligned with the basic teachings of Unity.

I will make my spiritual unfoldment and relationship with God a priority in my life.

I will do my part to support the church's mission of teaching, loving and inspiring people into being all they are created to be.

I will join my fellow members and congregants in participating in the creation of a loving, accepting atmosphere.

I will extend myself with loving warmth to newcomers to my church home and to those people attending whom I do not know.

I will include the church in my daily prayer life.

I will include the church in my financial planning, establishing systematic giving extended joyfully and lovingly.

I will serve as a volunteer at least periodically, thereby learning the value of selfless service to others.

I will speak with constructive purpose about the church and my fellow congregants. If I experience personal upset with the church or a congregant, I will seek guidance from Spirit, then speak with and resolve any upset with the person(s) involved. I further agree to abide by the covenant of **Agreeing and Disagreeing In Love, Commitments for Unity Congregations in Times of Disagreement** (see separate document)

I recognize that my presence and participation at church services and activities is a contribution and gift that enhances the experience to all, and I will attend as often as possible.

Together with my fellow members and congregants, I am co-creating with God the on-going dynamic life of Unity Center of Davis. I recognize that together we create a thriving community with programs and services that blesses and serves many others like myself. Through membership in Unity Center of Davis, I honor the Spirit in me and the Spirit at work through Unity Center of Davis.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (please print)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

# Agreeing and Disagreeing in Love

Commitments for Unity Congregations in Times  
of Disagreement



“Endeavoring to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3), as both individual members and as a spiritual community, we pledge that we shall:

## IN THOUGHT

- Accept conflict** 1. Acknowledge that conflict is a normal part of our life in the church. *Romans 14:1-8, 10-12, 17-19; 15:1-7.*
- Affirm the Truth** 2. Endeavor to see conflict as symptomatic of what's missing in our intention to create authentic community. Peacemaking is creating a pathway to God. *Matthew 5:9.*
- Commit to prayer** 3. Examine where we are coming from and release any self-righteousness. Admit our needs and commit ourselves to pray for a mutually satisfactory solution (no prayers for my success or for the other to change, but to find a joint way). *James 5:16.*

## IN ACTION

- Go to the other** 4. Go directly to those with whom we disagree; avoiding behind-the-back criticism. Refrain from “parking lot” conversations. *Matthew 5:23-24; 18:15-20.*
- In the spirit of humility** 5. Go in gentleness, patience, and humility. Place the problem between us at neither doorstep and own our part in the conflict instead of blaming. *Galatians 6:1-5.*
- Be quick to listen** 6. Listen carefully, summarize and check out what is heard before responding. Seek as much to understand as to be understood. *James 1:19; Proverbs 18:13.*
- Be slow to judge** 7. Suspend judgments, end enrolling others in our position, discard threats, and act in a non-defensive and non-reactive way. *Romans 2:1-4; Galatians 5:22-26.*
- Be willing to** 8. Work through the disagreement constructively. *Acts 15;*

## negotiate

*Philippians 2:1-11.*

- Identify issues, interests, and needs of both (rather than take positions).
- Generate a variety of options for meeting both parties' needs (rather than defending one's own way).
- Evaluate options by how they meet the needs and satisfy the interest of all sides (not one side's values).
- Collaborate in working out a joint solution (so both sides gain, both grow and win).
- Cooperate with the emerging agreement (accept the possibly, not demand your ideal.).
- Reward each other for each step forward; toward agreement (celebrate mutuality).

## IN LIFE

### **Be steadfast in love**

9. Be firm in our commitment to seek a mutual solution; be stubborn in holding to our common foundation in Truth; be hard on issues, soft on people. *Colossians 3:12-15.*

### **Be open to peacemaking**

10. Be open to accept skilled help. If we cannot reach agreement among ourselves, we will use those with gifts and training in peacemaking. *Philippians 4:1-3.*

### **Trust the community**

11. Trust the wisdom of the community and if we cannot reach agreement or experience reconciliation, we will turn the decision over to the congregation or seek assistance from the Ministry for Peacemaking. *Acts 15.*
- In one-to-one or small group disputes, this may mean allowing others to arbitrate.
  - In congregational disputes, this may mean implementing constitutional decision-making processes when peacemaking assistance is unable to facilitate reconciliation.

### **Be the expression of Christ**

12. Be committed to peacemaking and the demonstration of Principle, rather than resort to courts of law. *1 Corinthians: .*