



Mission Statement, June 2007:

The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Detroit will be a strong liberal religious presence in Detroit for the well-being of our city and our region;

- ❖ Because we have a desire to be a vibrant and vital part of a healthy Detroit;
- ❖ Because we strive to be a loving, service oriented religious congregation;
- ❖ Because we recognize the need for honesty, accountability and kindness for our congregation and our region;
- ❖ Because we recognize the need for communication with integrity;
- ❖ Because we recognize and embrace our congregation's rich history of diversity;
- ❖ Because we recognize that history is rooted in a tradition of open-mindedness and open heartedness in a search of truth, regardless of the path one follows to seek truth;
- ❖ Because this congregation has been built on and will continue to thrive on our connection by covenant rather than creed;
- ❖ Because we covenant and confirm the Unitarian Universalist principles and purposes, which are:

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote:

- The inherent dignity and worth of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

The living tradition which we share draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and openness to the forces which create and uphold life;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men which challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion, and the transforming power of love;
- Wisdom from the world's religions which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual life;
- Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves;



- Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit.

- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions which celebrate the sacred circle of life and instruct us to live in harmony with the rhythms of nature.

Grateful for the religious pluralism which enriches and ennobles our faith, we are inspired to deepen our understanding and expand our vision. As free congregations we enter into this covenant, promising to one another our mutual trust and support.

#### The Purposes of the Unitarian Universalist Association

The Unitarian Universalist Association shall devote its resources to and exercise its corporate powers for religious, educational and humanitarian purposes. The primary purpose of the Association is to serve the needs of its member congregations, organize new congregations, extend and strengthen Unitarian Universalist institutions and implement its principles. The Association declares and affirms its special responsibility, and that of its member societies and organizations, to promote the full participation of persons in all of its and their activities and in the full range of human endeavor without regard to race, color, sex, disability, affectional or sexual orientation, age, or national origin and without requiring adherence to any particular interpretation of religion or to any particular religious belief or creed. Nothing herein shall be deemed to infringe upon the individual freedom of belief which is inherent in the Universalist and Unitarian heritages or to conflict with any statement of purpose, covenant, or bond of union used by any society unless such is used as a creedal test.

- ❖ Because we recognize that a strong desire to learn is a pillar on which we will continue to grow and prosper as a congregation;

Therefore, to further these ends we strive to be an expanding transformative community whose mission is to liberate truth, radiate kindness and love courageously.