***Second Unitarian Church of Omaha***

***Board of Trustees Covenant 2016-2017***

**Second Unitarian Mission:** Our Mission is to be Authentic, Compassionate and Transformative in our lives, in our faith, and in our world.

**Vision statement:** Authentic, Compassionate, Transformative – Second Unitarian Church encourages people to live with integrity, to nurture one another, and to change the world through acts of love and justice. We minister to each other through vibrant worship, religious growth and learning, and a commitment to advocacy, witness and action. We come together to comfort and to challenge. We enrich our lives by weaving together our personal experiences, theologies and practices into one larger tapestry.

**This covenant and the work that we will perform** will be grounded in the church mission and vision statement, the seven UU Principles and the church covenant. We will hold the congregation’s values in our hearts and work in the best interests of the congregation. We also covenant to the following:

**Commitments to one another and within the Board**

* We will conduct all meetings in an environment of care and trust, holding confidences and assuming positive intentions of one another.
* We will interact with honesty, authenticity, respect and compassion.
* We will set aside personal agendas for the best interests of the church, expressing our views concisely and honestly. Although unanimous decisions are preferred, we accept consensus and agree to speak with one voice once a decision has been made.
* We will work cooperatively toward our goals while appreciating each other’s unique gifts.
* I will share in the work of the Board and be fully prepared for each meeting, having reviewed any materials that were issued in advance.
* I will ask for and share appropriate information, knowledge and education so we all have information for informed and wise decisions; I will bring issues to the board with a responsible amount of research.
* I will respect my fellow board members by listening deeply to them. I will actively ask for and listen to all points of views and share my own, avoiding disruptive side conversations. I will strive to be mindful of deepest truth. I will avoid triangulation.
* I will state the facts about an issue/problem and acknowledge that it exists. I will focus my thoughts and discussion on solutions. I will practice using language that is clear, positive, and future oriented.
* I will be brief; remain flexible, maintain perspective and a sense of humor, yet be fearless at times.
* We will be clear about all assignments and responsibilities of each board member and be accountable for our works and actions, keeping commitments to each other and to the congregation.
* We will have a process observer and timekeeper in board meetings. We will allow time to reflect on how we kept our covenant during meetings. We will be clear on assignments, i.e. communicating Board decisions.
* We will use email / internet for Board discussions and / or business only when appropriate, i.e. a routine request for approval that doesn’t require substantive explanation or discussion or multiple email streams. We can determine when a topic would be more effective in person and end the email conversation.
* I will strive to lead with vision and continue to learn while staying in touch with what brings me joy and purpose in our commitment as a Board member. I will be responsible for my spiritual wellbeing.

**Commitment to the Congregation**

* We will make decisions based on the path that the congregation has set for its future.
* We will do our best to consider the cultural implications that our decisions could have.
* We will handle complaints brought to the Board with respect. They will be handled at the appropriate level, gathering accurate and complete information as necessary.
* We will openly and intentionally communicate with the congregation including decisions in a way that reflects the process and considerations that went into decisions.
* We will respect the work of committees, chairs, staff and minister.
* We will stay connected to and actively involved in the church community.