



## **Motions to Implement the Covenant Task Force Recommendations to be Voted upon at the Annual Meeting of The First Church in Belmont for 2024 – 2025**

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As described in its Annual Report, the First Church Covenant Task Force has worked over the past year to develop a new covenant to replace the Ames Covenant, which has been in place at First Church since 1900. The following two motions seek member approval to implement the Task Force's covenant recommendations on a trial basis. The first motion is to approve the form of covenant selected in the balloting that ended on May 12, 2024 and replaces the Ames Covenant. The second motion is to approve a new full form of covenant for First Church that incorporates both the covenant approved in the first motion and the 2011 First Church Behavioral Covenant.

**MOVED: To adopt, on a trial basis for at least one year, the following form of covenant, to replace the Ames Covenant:**

### Faith Covenant or Bond of Fellowship

We gather as a loving community,  
To encourage and comfort one another.  
We gather as a diverse community,  
To support each other in our search for spiritual truth.  
We gather as a service community,  
To live our beliefs through action and care for our world.

**MOVED *[assuming first motion passes]*** To adopt, on a trial basis for at least one year, a full form of covenant that comprises (1) the Faith Covenant or Bond of Fellowship adopted at this Annual Meeting on June 2, 2024, and (2) the First Church Behavioral Covenant adopted in 2011, so that the full form of covenant reads as follows:

**The First Church in Belmont, Unitarian Universalist  
Our Covenant with Each Other**

Faith Covenant or Bond of Fellowship

We gather as a loving community,  
To encourage and comfort one another.  
We gather as a diverse community,  
To support each other in our search for spiritual truth.  
We gather as a service community,  
To live our beliefs through action and care for our world.

Behavioral Covenant

Understanding that caring for each other is essential for the wellbeing of ourselves, our church community, and our world, we will:

- Welcome, engage, and include one another;
- Communicate with care and honesty;
- Listen with attention and empathy;
- Honor the many perspectives we hold;
- Reach out to each other in times of need;
- Trust in one another's good intentions;
- Forgive each other and ourselves for our limitations;
- Share our talents, compassion, and material resources generously for the benefit of all; and
- Express appreciation for the contributions given by one another to our community.

We know that we will not always live up to these aspirations, yet we will always try to be guided by the spirit of love.