

Signing Ceremony Litany

We gather here today to enter our names into the Book of Membership, to join the community of First Unitarian Church and the larger community of the Unitarian Universalist Association. We declare a bond with a community that values individuals in all their glorious diversity of personality, history, ability, and belief; we covenant together to share principles of right action rather than allegiance to a common creed.

This we promise to each other, our community, and our world.

As Unitarian Universalists, we trace our history through our forebears:

- Michael Servetus, who died at the stake in 1553 for his belief in the unity of God and the right of freedom of conscience;
- King John Sigismund of Transylvania, who signed the world's first decree of religious tolerance in 1557, and his court preacher Francis David, who declared, "We need not think alike to love alike";
- Our Pilgrim ancestors, who knew the power of covenantal relationships within and between their congregations;
- Emerson, Thoreau, Fuller, Channing, and other Transcendentalist thinkers of the 1800s who found the divine in nature;
- Universalist Olympia Brown, in 1863 the first woman to be ordained as a full-time minister;
- Clara Barton, "Angel of the Battlefield," who founded the Red Cross in 1881;
- The Unitarian Service Committee, which saved thousands of lives during World War II and, as the UUSC, continues to advance social justice to this day.

Standing on the shoulders of those who came before us, we are charged with carrying on the tradition of our free religion with integrity and love.

This we promise to each other, our community, and our world.

Our tradition draws from many sources:

- Direct experience of transcendent mystery and wonder, which renews and opens our spirits;
- Words and deeds of prophetic women and men throughout the ages;
- Wisdom from the world's religions, which inspires us in our ethical and spiritual lives;
- Jewish and Christian teachings, which call us to love our neighbors as ourselves;

- Humanist teachings, which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science;
- Spiritual teachings of earth-centered traditions, which celebrate the sacred circle of life.

These principles and sources of faith reflect the ancient roots of our tradition. By signing this book today, we demonstrate our recognition of and respect for these sources.

This we promise to each other, our community, and our world.

By joining First Unitarian, we also join with the wider Unitarian Universalist community to affirm and promote seven principles:

- The inherent worth and dignity 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.

This we promise to each other, our community, and our world.

By signing this book, we join in a deep tradition of individual conscience and responsibility to one another. We will uphold the values of Unitarian Universalism through our care for one another and the world, our gifts of time and money, and our personal search for depth and meaning.

This we promise to each other, our community, and our world.

italics: read by leader

plain script: read round-robin

bold: read by all in unison

Kristin Knaus Satterlee
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First Unitarian Church of Albuquerque