

Covenantal Reading for the Congregation and Ministerial Intern

(The Intern will read the regular text; *the congregation will read the Italicized text.*)

We come together today to search for meaning, to experience our interconnectedness, and to mark and celebrate our new relationship as congregation and Ministerial Intern. We come to make promises to one another about how we will be together over the next two years.

Spirit of Life, open our hearts and minds as we officially welcome our new Student Minister into this, our religious home.

Spirit of Love, open my heart and mind as I get to know the people, learn the traditions, and observe the workings of this unique congregation.

Help us to share our legacies and aspirations, our disappointments and our triumphs, our gifts and our growing edges, so that our Intern may learn from them all. Help us to offer our insight and feedback, so that she may learn from that too.

Help me to lift up the beauty I see here, to hold gently the hurts I hear here, and to protect the privacy and the well-being of this community and each of its members. Give me the courage to take risks and to receive both praise and criticism, that I might grow.

Spirit of Generosity, move through us as we share our common life with our Intern, and as we support our minister's mentorship of her. We do this that they might both grow professionally, and that our movement might flourish, and further serve our world.

Spirit of Respect, guide the relationship between Rev. McCarty and me, that I may benefit from his experience, and that I may support the work of his leadership here, in keeping with guidelines for the conduct of Unitarian Universalist ministry.

Prepare us to be together with integrity, and to embrace the opportunities and challenges that this internship offers – in growing awareness of who we are and what we are called to do.

Empower me to offer my gifts in service of this group's transforming mission. Help me to nurture spiritual growth, and to carry on our great tradition of freedom of the pulpit (and of the pew) – bearing witness to the injustices of this life and mapping out paths toward wholeness.

Spirit of Renewal, draw to us what we most need from our Ministerial Intern, that her presence might refresh our spirits, clarify our vision, and spur us on toward our best selves.

Spirit of Truth, speak through me the stories and verities that will serve this people. Make of me a mirror that they may better know themselves.

All: *May we walk in beauty, trust, and joy with one another, to the end that Love might fill our lives and illuminate our world.*