

COVENANT BETWEEN THE  
HEARTLAND UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST MINISTERS ASSOCIATION CHAPTER  
AND THE HEARTLAND DISTRICT EXECUTIVE,  
THE REVEREND DOCTOR LISA PRESLEY

This Heartland Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association (HUUMA) chapter, inclusive of its clusters, and the Heartland District Executive, the Reverend Doctor Lisa Presley, seek to establish and maintain a relationship that respects the different roles we play in the life of our shared faith tradition and its communities, and provides for the growth of our congregations and our own personal spiritual lives. We freely acknowledge that doing this requires us to create and sustain “right relationships” between us; that is, relationships which uphold spiritual freedom for ourselves, our congregations, and the Heartland District, direct our energies towards what is just and good, and support and sustain us as ministers.

Therefore we pledge together:

- 1) To abide by the UUMA Guidelines and Code of Conduct in our dealings with one another, and with congregants,
- 2) To read and be familiar with the UUA’s Code of Ethics for District Staff, so that we can be fully supportive of one another in our efforts to practice right relationships,
- 3) Recognizing the tension of the dual roles of minister and District Executive, we welcome as a colleague the District Executive into all HUUMA chapter and cluster ministerial gatherings and events, providing for the balance between the disclosures of ministers in the District necessary for personal spiritual health, and the reality that the District Executive is representative of the UUA to the District’s congregations. This means in the case of “check-in” the District Executive may attend only the general introductions.

To this end, the DE will contact the parish minister after having been contacted by members and/or staff of congregations unless the DE has substantial reason to believe that such a call will create greater problems in a situation that might otherwise be minor, or that substantial harm will result from that call. It is understood that it’s a part of the DE’s job to coach members and/or staff in how to contact the minister directly about any issue raised. It is also understood that the District Executive will have regular contacts with members and staff of congregations, and the District Executive will contact the minister if there are any concerns that arise. We share dual relationships when members and staff hold district roles, and the DE will contact the minister if any concerns arise out of these relationships.

It is understood that the District Executive will have regular communication with both National UUMA and HUUMA Good Offices in accordance with UUMA Good Offices Best Practices.

It is further understood that the DE may seek support from the colleagues in this district as necessary, and HUUMA encourages these relationships.

*This covenant between the Heartland Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association chapter and the Heartland District Executive, the Reverend Doctor Lisa Presley, is hereby established October 5, 2010.*