

Beacon's Congregational Covenant



Love guides this congregation. Love calls us daily to acts of liberation grounded in antiracism. We affirm that we live in the complexity of intersectionality and that building healthy and loving relationships is a spiritual practice, requiring both inward and outward focus. Thus, we covenant to listen deeply, speak compassionately, express gratitude, and embrace our unique diversity. We endeavor to communicate honestly and with compassion, particularly when we are in conflict. When we hurt one another, we will try to make amends, forgive and reconnect with an intent to repair, change and grow. Our purpose is to be radically inclusive, feed the human spirit and heal the world. In celebration of the common purpose that unites us and with the aspiration of Beloved Community before us, we will do our best to abide by this covenant.

Our Community Group Covenant

We build a Beacon one group at a time. In community groups we live the promises of our congregational covenant: connecting in relationships, engaging in spiritual practices, and living our values.

Listen deeply

We hold still and offer space: we offer each other time to share without interruption, recognizing that our undivided attention allows each of us to show up more fully.

We hold advice at bay and offer presence: we honor the rule of “no fixing, no saving, no advising.”

Speak compassionately

We will hold up our stories: we speak for ourselves, using “I” statements.

Express gratitude

We hold out gratitude and hold up connections: when someone shares their story, we will offer reactions rooted in gratitude and connected to our own experience.

Embrace our unique diversity

We contribute to the conversation and share the time: we recognize that our stories are important, as are those of others. At times we may need to step back to allow room for other voices.

Commit to the group

We make one another and our time together a priority in our lives: we will attend all meetings; we will be on time, recognizing that authentic relationships require showing up. If we are unable to attend, we will contact the facilitator ahead of time.

We honor good good-byes: if an individual needs to leave the group, we will let the facilitator know in advance of their last session and attend that session to say good-bye.

We uphold confidentiality: we respect one another's privacy by keeping personal information confidential. Outside of our meeting, we share only our own story.

We keep each other in our thoughts and hearts: we reach out to each other in tangible ways to ensure that we are a caring community for one another.

We empower one another to call each other back into covenant with love. When conflict arises, we will help one another to address it *in the group* so that we build trust, grow stronger and closer.

We will periodically revisit, adapt and re-affirm this covenant as a group.