

*This covenant was created and agreed upon by our new settled minister and our ministers emeriti.
It is a complement to – and does not replace – the congregation’s covenant with Anne and Wade,
established at the time of their retirement.*

COLLEGIAL COVENANT

The Rev. David Blanchard, Settled Minister,
and the Revs. Anne Marsh and Wade Wheelock, Ministers Emeriti,
Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton, New York

The Ministers:

The three of us share a strong commitment to the Unitarian Universalist tradition, values, and movement. We have each in our time been called to serve the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton, and we care deeply for and have experience of this special congregation. Although we share these commitments, our roles and responsibilities are different. The role of the Ministers Emeriti no longer includes the relationship of the call to ministerial leadership, which now belongs to the Settled Minister. We hereby join in this covenant that the tradition and church we love may continue to thrive.

Anne and Wade:

- As Ministers Emeriti of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton, we promise to support David, our Settled Minister, in whatever ways he may determine -- to follow his lead, to encourage him in his hopes, to respond to his initiatives, and above all, to fully respect his call to the ministry of this congregation.
- We promise to speak well of David in public as well as in private conversations with church members and friends.
- We promise to be of service to David in any ways that may be mutually agreeable.
- We promise to honor our 2009 covenant with the congregation, which includes our commitments to limit our participation during the initial period of David’s ministry and to refrain from taking leadership roles and officiating at rites of passage.
- We promise to keep the UU Ministers’ Association Guidelines and Code of Professional Practice in our relationship with David, and to work out concerns directly with him, or, if necessary, by our talking with the Good Office Person together.

David:

- As the Settled Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Canton, I promise to honor the connections Anne and Wade, our Ministers Emeriti, have with the people of this congregation -- the love, memories, and hopes you share.
- I promise to speak and act respectfully of Wade and Anne and their ministry.
- I promise to act graciously, including inviting Anne and Wade to participate in significant church events.
- I promise to affirm the covenant made by the congregation with Wade and Anne.
- I promise to keep the UU Ministers’ Association Guidelines and Code of Professional Practice in my relationship with Anne and Wade, and to work out concerns directly with them, or, if necessary, by our talking with the Good Office Person together.

The Ministers:

We each wish with the fullness of our hearts, minds, and spirits that we three may continue to enjoy each other’s company and collegiality, and that our wisdom, concern, and love for this church be for its benefit.