

# Worship Well

## Covenantal Agreements

This UUA program is founded on our choice to make our UU values manifest—even when learning together. As co-facilitators, we believe that these agreements promote right relationship, a depth of spirit, and a more meaningful practice of Unitarian Universalism.

Although Worship Well is open to all UU lay leaders in North America, our meetings aren't a forum for debating, undermining, or criticizing these grounding principles. We warmly invite your participation if our grounding is aligned with your intentions.

- **Congregational practices and norms differ**  
Worship in UU congregations differs widely; our physical spaces, liturgy, and needs aren't always the same from congregation to congregation. The purpose of this program isn't to conform to one set of practices, but rather to learn from the differences we discover.
- **Language of reverence is appropriate (please translate as necessary)**  
We're going to say "worship." Someone might say "prayer." Someone might say "Sunday service." We trust that each person is responsible for attending to religious wounds, and therefore we agree that we will not police each other's language of reverence.
- **UU values include the centering of anti-racist, anti-oppression learning**  
In contrast to the above, language matters greatly across differences of power, privilege, and social location. We live our values more authentically when we practice curiosity about the centering of whiteness and other privileged identities. We agree to maintain curiosity and lean into learning, rather than ignoring or minimizing potential or real harm.
- **Pause and repair**  
Despite our best intentions, we know that friction, disagreement, or even harm could occur in our group conversations. If that happens, we agree to prioritize growth and learning by pausing to process and repair the group dynamic.
- **Authority and power**  
Creating and leading worship is a role that carries profound responsibility. As representatives of not only the congregation but also Unitarian Universalism, leading worship makes us spiritual caretakers for all present. That inherent power and authority must be carried with intention and integrity.

Thank you for your interest in Worship Well!

*Rev. Erika Hewitt & Ms. Antoinette Hollamon*

Questions? [worship@UUA.org](mailto:worship@UUA.org)