

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BIRMINGHAM
MUTUAL RESPECT CONTRACT

1. **Children and youth under 14 must be supervised at all church events.** The presence of adults in the area does not constitute supervision unless adults have agreed to fill that role. This includes the playground. You are responsible for your child at all times, no matter where they are located. If you cannot supervise your child, you must ask another adult to do so. At the beginning of service (before classes start for K-12th graders), children should be with their parents or another supervising adult in the service. Please do not ask teachers to supervise your child before class: if they are in the classroom early, they are preparing for class and deserve this quiet preparation time.
2. **Please contact the Childcare Coordinator at least one week in advance of an event for which you need childcare (if it is not already offered).** We will make every attempt to honor requests for childcare. Contact: Melissa Hamley at mhamley@charter.net or 566-2693.
3. **Weapons of any sort and other dangerous instruments should not be brought to church.** Representatives of the RE Program will have the discretion to determine the appropriateness of a toy or game brought to church.
4. **Children must have adult supervision when using potentially dangerous items such as scissors, kitchen appliances or knives, candles, and matches.** We encourage our youth to participate in helpful activities, and we appreciate your helpfulness. Let's just stay safe!
5. **We respect your privacy and your property and ask that you respect the privacy and property of others.** Children should not be in offices of church staff, in closets or cabinets without permission. We do not damage church or personal property, but if damage should happen, please report it immediately to an adult.
6. **We don't run or jump inside the church building unless part of a supervised activity: this includes stairs, beanbag chairs and other furniture, windowsills and platforms.** This is for everyone's safety, not just the children's. The elevator is not a play area. Also be aware that because the Sanctuary windows do not have childproof locks, we do not sit in the windowsills of the Sanctuary.
7. **Use of skateboards, roller blades and scooters is prohibited unless part of a church-sanctioned, supervised activity.**
8. **We believe in your capacity to be kind, fair, and respectful to everyone.** We don't throw rocks, sticks, or sand. We do not hit, grab, kick or pull other people. Hands and feet should be kept to oneself unless participating in an activity led by an adult leader that requires touching. If touching is part of an RE activity, it is always to be done gently and only with the permission of the person being touched. Touching should be limited to areas of the body not covered by a bathing suit.
9. **The Memorial Garden is a sacred place where families and friends need to have quiet time for special thoughts.** We don't climb on rocks or walls in the Memorial Garden. We don't play or have loud, animated conversations in this area. The benches are for sitting and thinking. Please be respectful of this special place and the people and memories in it.
10. **We do not allow violence in word or deed, weapons of any kind, or use of any illegal substances.**

11. Consequences of not keeping this contract will be determined by a subcommittee of the church, with the participation of the offending party.
We agree to abide by these judgments.

We come together in this special place to create a supportive community. As a community, we agree that we respect each other and this space. Everyone who comes to this place deserves to feel safe and welcome. We behave in a manner that reinforces that sense of togetherness and protects and preserves this special place of gathering and the people in it.

In keeping with our Unitarian Universalist Principles and Purposes, we agree to the following:

- ❖ **As a parent/guardian, I agree to supervise directly the children in my care during the times they are not in Religious Education classes or childcare.** I agree to be responsible for my actions and for myself. I will act with respect towards other individuals and the special areas in our church. This includes the playground, Sanctuary, and Memorial Garden. I will not assume that any adult in the area is automatically supervising my child.
- ❖ **As a child or youth, I agree to be responsible for my actions and for myself.** I will act with respect towards other individuals and the special areas of our church. This includes the playground, Sanctuary, and Memorial Garden. I understand that it is my responsibility to stay near my parent / guardian when I am not in Religious Education classes or childcare.

By signing below, I acknowledge that I have read and understand this and the attached guidelines, and agree to abide by them and accept the consequences for violation as determined by the representatives of this Unitarian Universalist Community.

Signature of parent / guardian: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature of student: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature of student: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature of student: _____

Printed name: _____

Signature of student: _____

Printed name: _____