

Behavioral Expectations

Based on the Seven Principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Principle One: Each and every person is important.

Everyone deserves to be treated with respect. We all have a right to speak, to be heard, and to be included in the day's activities at church. This means that we remember not to interrupt when someone else is talking and that we take turns speaking.

Principle Two: All people should be treated fairly and kindly.

Everyone – no matter their age, gender, race, family, abilities, or differences is welcome. We use kind, never hurtful, words. When we know we are wrong, we apologize and make amends for what we have done. We speak up and get help when we see someone being treated unfairly.

Principle Three: We encourage one another and learn together.

We listen quietly to each other, participate in group activities to the best of our abilities, help someone who is new or struggling, and share what we are thinking or feeling. We remember that we learn by trying new things and correcting our mistakes. We encourage each other as we learn and grow.

Principle Four: Each person must be free to search for what is true and right in life.

We ask questions to discover what is true and right for ourselves. We let other people ask questions and explore the things that have meaning for them, and never make fun of our classmates.

Principle Five: All persons should have a say about what affects them.

All of us, young and old, work together to make church a safe and friendly place by sharing thoughts and feelings about what happens at church and offering ideas for new, or better, ways of doing things.

Principle Six: We work together for a peaceful, fair and free world.

We settle our disagreements in peaceful ways; never hitting, pushing, shoving or throwing things at one another. We play with each other in gentle ways, leaving toy weapons at home. When there is a problem, we talk *to* each other, not *about* each other.

Principle Seven: We care for our planet earth which we share with all living things.

We don't waste food or supplies, and we recycle whatever we can. We don't jump on furniture or play on equipment that is meant for people who are smaller, or younger, than we are. We leave supplies and clean rooms for the next person. We take good care of what belongs to the church or other people.

If a child has difficulty acting on our Principles, the following steps will be taken:

- A responsible adult will offer a reminder that the behavior is not appropriate at Sunday School.
- If inappropriate behavior continues, the adult will have a private conversation with the child to determine how the situation can be improved.
- If the child is upset or unable to cooperate, s/he will be escorted to the office of the Director of Religious Education for quiet time and conversation to work toward a solution.
- If a satisfactory solution is not found, the Director of Religious Education will speak with the child's parents.
- The parents, child and Director of Religious Education will work together to find ways to redirect the child's energy so that s/he is happy and a contributing member of the class.
- In the case of repeated difficulties, a parent or guardian may be asked to attend class with the child until a resolution is found.