

Part 1: Illinois UU Community of Congregations/UUANI Covenant

[among all participating congregations and UUANI]

We, a community of participating UU congregations and the state action network in Illinois, covenant with each other to work together for justice, using the GRACE model developed by UUANI:

- Grounded: Rooting ourselves in our values and fostering a sense of joy and resilience in this work
- Relational: Building collective power by growing, deepening and strengthening relationships
- Accountable: Following the lead of, and holding ourselves accountable to, those who are most impacted
- Capacity-building: Developing leadership and capacity to put our UU faith into effective action
- Effective: Strategically focusing our efforts where we can bring about meaningful change.

State action network:

- ❖ Unitarian Universalist Advocacy Network of Illinois (UUANI)

Participating congregations:

- ❖ DeKalb UU Congregation
- ❖ DuPage UU Congregation
- ❖ Unitarian Church of Evanston
- ❖ North Shore Unitarian Church
- ❖ UU Church Rockford
- ❖

Part 2: Working Agreement *[template - to be negotiated with each congregation]*

As a vehicle for our collaborative work for justice, UUANI agrees to actualize our commitment in the following ways:

- **Grounding & Leadership Development:** Offer [GRACE congregational organizing training](#) to develop congregational leadership
- **Relational Organizing:** Conduct an annual statewide Listening Survey to determine areas for collective action
- **Accountability:** Maintain accountable relationships with organizations representing communities impacted by injustice
- **Capacity-Building/Congregational Engagement:** Assist congregations in growing their capacity to organize and mobilize for action
 - Co-fund [Congregational Catalysts](#) and Congregational BIPOC Catalysts
 - Assist in developing congregational [Democracy in Action teams](#)
- **Effective Action Opportunities:** Provide strategically targeted Democracy in Action opportunities following the lead of these organizations
 - Legislative advocacy:
 - [Actions of the Week](#)
 - Springfield Advocacy Days
 - Meetings with legislators
 - UUtheVote/VoteLove:
 - Postcarding/letter writing
 - Phonebanking, canvassing
 - Community Engagement:
 - Community forums, town halls
- **Networking:**
 - Convene quarterly Action Council meetings for mutual support, learning & collaboration
 - Convene annual gatherings to celebrate our work together
- **Communications:**
 - Provide regular reports on our collective work
 - Maintain a shared database of supporters

As a partner in this collaborative work, [congregation] agrees to actualize our commitment in the following ways *[choose only what the congregation has capacity for]*:

- ☐ Recommend candidates for the [GRACE training](#) to develop leadership & organizing skills
- ☐ Designate congregational leaders to participate in the annual Listening Survey
- ☐ Maintain accountable relationships with organizations representing impacted communities
- ☐ Grow the congregation's capacity to organize and mobilize for action
 - ☐ Develop a [Democracy in Action team](#)
 - ☐ Co-fund a [Congregational Catalyst](#)

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- ☐ Co-fund a Congregational BIPOC Catalyst to build a DRUUMM chapter
- ☐ Participate in at least one Democracy in Action effort with other UU congregations
 - Community Engagement:
 - ☐ Community response efforts
 - ☐ Convene or participate in a community forum or town hall
 - Legislative Advocacy:
 - ☐ [Actions of the Week](#)
 - ☐ Springfield Advocacy Days
 - ☐ Meetings with legislators
 - UUtheVote/VoteLove:
 - ☐ Postcarding/letter writing
 - ☐ Phonebanking, canvassing
- ☐ Designate a representative [and alternate] to participate in quarterly Action Council meetings*
- ☐ Provide regular opportunities for the congregation to learn about our collaboration*
 - ☐ Newsletter/bulletin announcements
 - ☐ Share the plate intro or member testimonial
 - ☐ Sermon or workshop (provided by UUANI)
- ☐ Contribute financially as we are able to UUANI as a vehicle for this collaborative work
 - ☐ Share the plate offering
 - ☐ Budget line item
- ☐ Review and update names of supporters on shared database
- ☐ Participate in annual gatherings to celebrate our work together

Congregation

Authorized signer & title

UUANI

Authorized signer & title

Part 3: Addendum

GRACE Training Candidates from Congregation:

Key Congregational Leaders for Listening Survey:

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Congregational Catalyst Candidate: _____

Congregational Representative to Action Council: _____

Alternate: _____

Date/s for Share the Plate intro or other Presentation: _____

Could add an additional section about partnering with one or more neighboring congregations