

## May quotes – Covenant

May 1. What is a covenant? Here's a definition that I learned years ago while training to be a New Congregation start-up minister. "Covenant is the central unifying promise or commitment that binds a religious community together in voluntary loyalty. It grows from an affirmation of shared needs, values, purposes and principles. As such it is rooted in the past, in the tradition of the congregation, and reflects the embodiment of the promise through history. It is a promise made in the present, with implications for the future"

Rev. Roberta Finkelstein

May 2 The most glorious moments in your life are not the so-called days of success, but rather those days when out of dejection and despair you feel rise in you a challenge to life, and the promise of future accomplishments.

Gustave Flaubert

May 3. Promise me you'll always remember: You're braver than you believe, and stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think.

A.A.Milne

May 4. Dream lofty dreams, and as you dream, so you shall become. Your vision is the promise of what you shall one day be; your ideal is the prophecy of what you shall at last unveil.

James Allen

May 5. I can promise you that women working together - linked, informed and educated - can bring peace and prosperity to this forsaken planet.

Isabel Allende

May 6. Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime.

Martin Luther

May 7. Ultimately, a UU community exists as an open laboratory for spiritual exploration. We covenant to support each other with loving feedback and cheerful encouragement in the ongoing search for depth of understanding and happiness.

Rev. Dr. Michael A. Schule

May 8. Love always creates, it never destroys. In this lie's man's only promise.

Leo Buscaglia

May 9. A promise made is a debt unpaid.

Robert W. Service

May 10. Your ordinary acts of love and hope point to the extraordinary promise that every human life is of inestimable value.

Desmond Tutu

May 11. Science reckons many prophets, but there is not even a promise of a Messiah.

Thomas Huxley

May 12. Those that are most slow in making a promise are the most faithful in the performance of it. Jean-Jacques Rousseau

May 13. Success is full of promise till one gets it, and then it seems like a nest from which the bird has flown. Henry Ward Beecher

May 14. Please give me some good advice in your next letter. I promise not to follow it. Edna St. Vincent Millay

May 15. Dr. King's leadership reaffirmed the promise of our democracy: that everyday people, working together, have the power to change our government and our institutions for the better. Maria Cantwell

May 16. A vow is a purely religious act which cannot be taken in a fit of passion. It can be taken only with a mind purified and composed and with God as witness. Mahatma Gandhi

May 17. One may preach a covenant of grace more clearly than another... But when they preach a covenant of works for salvation, that is not truth. Anne Hutchinson

May 18. Covenants are the glue for our Unitarian Universalist congregations. We are not held together by creed or dogma. The Common Cause of belief does not bind us together, rather it is the promises we make to each other about how to be together that keep us together. Covenants are powerful and we make light of them and stray from them at our peril. Tony Lorenzen

May 19. Put more trust in nobility of character than in an oath. Solon

May 20. Science is bound, by the everlasting vow of honour, to face fearlessly every problem which can be fairly presented to it. Lord Kelvin

May 21. Creation implies authority in the sense of originator. The possibility of a 'Fall' is implied in a Covenant insofar as the idea of a Covenant implies the possibility of its being violated. Kenneth Burke

May 22. The deepest depth of vulgarism is that of setting up money as the ark of the covenant. Thomas Carlyle

May 23. Justice... is a kind of compact not to harm or be harmed. Epicurus

May 24. The biblical idea of covenant is what I call a covenant of being. That is, the Old Testament asserts that the people's covenant is a covenant with the essential character and intention of reality. It is not merely a covenant between human beings; it is a covenant between human beings *in the face of reality*.

James Luther Adams, UU theologian

May 25. It is not the oath that makes us believe the man, but the man the oath.  
Aeschylus

May 26. But then, so far as I know, I am the only performer who ever pledged his assistants to secrecy, honor and allegiance under a notarial oath. Harry Houdini

May 27. Put plainly, covenant already exists; it began with your creation, with all of Creation, and it binds you to all else that is, and was. It is bigger -- so much bigger! -- than an agreement between people (e.g., a contract). We must relate. We must keep it real. Such is our nature. Such is our bond. Jason Seymour

May 28. I call that church free which enters into the covenant with the ultimate source of existence. It binds together families and generations, protecting against the idolatry of any human claim to absolute truth or authority. James Luther Adams

May 29. Mindful of truth ever exceeding our knowledge, of love and compassion ever exceeding our practice, reverently we covenant together, beginning with ourselves as we are, to share the strength of integrity and the heritage of the spirit, in humanity's unending quest for reality and love. Walter Royal Jones

May 30. Love is the doctrine of this church, the quest of truth is its sacrament and service is its prayer. To dwell together in peace; to seek knowledge in freedom; to serve humankind in fellowship; thus do we covenant with each other. UCCSM

May 31. Covenant begins in longing. There, where the heart calls up our origins and oldest memories of oneness and belonging, we find a taproot that grows into covenant if given the right conditions, including our own willingness to acknowledge and oblige it. When we feel that tug beckoning us from our individual isolation into relationship with others, there is the germ of covenant already taken root. Karen Hering

