St. Mark’s Unitarian Church, [also known as Unitarians in Edinburgh]

**Code of Conduct**

We all have the interests and well-being of our community at heart and are mindful of the responsibilities we have to each other, our community, and the wider community in which we live. We demonstrate this by respecting the choices and decisions of others, whilst abiding by the values and principles of our community and will act solely in terms of the interests of St Mark’s Unitarian Church [Unitarians in Edinburgh].

We will act in the interests of St Mark’s Unitarian Church [Unitarians in Edinburgh] and, whilst being prepared to seek out expertise from others when required, will not be influenced by the interests of individuals or other organisations.

In all our actions and interactions with others, including appointments of staff, trustees, office bearers, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, we will make decisions on merit and in the interests of St Mark’s Unitarian Church [Unitarians in Edinburgh].

We are accountable for our decisions and actions to the community of St Mark’s Unitarian Church [Unitarians in Edinburgh] and, if called on to do so, we must be prepared to answer for our actions or decisions. It is expected that that those delegated with the governance of our community will act in good faith, and with care and diligence and will ensure the charity operates in a manner consistent with its purposes.

We should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions taken by the community, trustees and office bearers of St Mark’s Unitarian Church [Unitarians in Edinburgh]. Reasons and explanations for decisions made and actions taken should be given, and information restricted only when necessary.

We all have a duty to declare any interests relating to roles, positions or actions carried out in the service of our community and to take steps to resolve or manage any conflicts which may arise in a way that protects the interests of St Mark’s Unitarian Church [Unitarians in Edinburgh].

It is the members of St Mark’s Unitarian Church [Unitarians in Edinburgh] who are responsible for the election of trustees to Council, who are then delegated the responsibility of the management of the Church as laid out in the constitution. The community will endeavour to help the trustees in developing their knowledge and skills and support them in their decision-making. Trustees should act solely in terms of the interests of St Mark’s Unitarian Church [Unitarians in Edinburgh]; they should not do so in order to gain financial or other benefits for themselves, family or friends. It is expected that trustees and those in leadership roles will make declarations of any possible conflicts of interest which will be entered in a register to be maintained by the Secretary of Council for St Mark’s Unitarian Church [Unitarians in Edinburgh].

We can all contribute to the promotion of the values and principles of our community and expect those in positions of leadership within St Mark’s Unitarian Church [Unitarians in Edinburgh] to do so by example. We should be prepared to challenge actions and behaviours which are not in accord with the values and principles of our community or in the best interest of the Church~~,~~ and act accordingly.