

# New and Prospective Members of Pioneer Valley Cohousing

*Moving into Cohousing is very different from moving into an ordinary neighborhood, because it involves a level of commitment to the community that most neighborhoods don't require. Members of Pioneer Valley cohousing have agreed on certain basic responsibilities that we would like newcomers to agree to also. Signing this agreement indicates that you have been given information on how our community works and are willing to honor these responsibilities as well as you can.*

I understand that my responsibility to Pioneer Valley Cohousing Community includes:

1. Participating in the Dynamic Governance decision making process.

This means educating yourself on dynamic governance decision making, keeping yourself knowledgeable on community issues, coming to both Full Circle Meetings and other kinds of meetings (Community Conversations, salons, etc.) whenever you can, and bringing your piece of the truth to the community conversation as we try to find the best answers to our questions.

2. Participating in the work of the maintenance and growth of the community.

This means finding community work that you can do and doing it. It may mean joining a circle, or doing a particular job. There is a great range of jobs available for all capabilities. The work of the community takes about 6-10 hours per month per person, although some people work much more than that.

3. Participating in the life of the community.

This one is more vague, because there are as many ways of doing it as there are people in the community. What we ask is that you allow yourself to be in connection with the community; that you allow your particular gifts to be felt, your particular personality to enrich us. This does not mean constantly or without a break--it refers to a more basic attitude.

4. Being willing to work with disagreement

Realizing that we are diverse personalities living in close proximity, we find that trying to work with conflict when it arises is important to the health of the community. There are many ways to do this, from an informal conversation on the path to a formal mediation. What we ask is a willingness to work through conflict whenever possible toward resolution or peaceful disagreement, rather than holding grudges and resentments.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

Print name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_