

Community Membership Covenant

August 2009

cov·e·nant: n - a formal, solemn, binding agreement

Name of Community/Special Focus Ministry/Teaching Chapter/Organization

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **E-mail** _____

Minister _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Board/Core Council President _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Date _____

This Community Membership Covenant, entered into on the date set forth above, establishes a relationship of mutual commitment and support between

and United Church of Religious Science/United Centers for Spiritual Living, a California nonprofit religious corporation, identified herein as “United Centers for Spiritual Living” and/or “the Community”, and/or its successor organization. The vision and intention for this relationship is expressed as follows in The Global Heart Vision:

“United Church of Religious Science/United Centers for Spiritual Living experiences and manifests the truth of Oneness through the demonstration and development of spiritual community. We experience being one community with many locations. The “glue” for our spiritual community is our shared commitment to spirituality, love, vision, community service, education, integrity, financial health, caring and compassion. We make our decisions and guide our growth by continuous sensitivity to the unfolding vision of God for our community and by devotion to our shared values and guiding principles. We convey a way of life based on spiritual practices that builds spiritual community globally. Every center, church or aspect of our spiritual community serves as a point of inspiration and dynamic influence for the vision of Global Heart, and we further express our vision through compassionate service to our members and to the world. Our vital and growing spiritual community fuels an expanded awareness of our transformative teaching throughout the world. As we communicate “New Thought – Ancient Wisdom” through

the teachings of Science of Mind and Spirit, we further the experience of a universal spirituality bridging all peoples, cultures nations and faiths.”

Introduction

- A. Covenanted Members of the United Centers for Spiritual Living spiritual community shall include but not be limited to those Churches, Centers, Special Focus Ministries, Teaching Chapters Study Groups, Groups, Institutes and other non-profit corporations or organizations of United Centers for Spiritual Living operating and in good standing (see Section 3 for definition) in accordance with the Community Membership Covenant granting such membership.
- B. United Centers for Spiritual Living is devoted to the principles expressed by Ernest Holmes as the Science of Mind (also known as the Science of Mind and Spirit.) United Centers for Spiritual Living also embraces the Global Heart Vision/Organizational Design Model and the intentions, shared values and guiding principles expressed in it. United Centers for Spiritual Living serves and supports the Covenanted Members who subscribe to these principles.
- C. The Community Member whose name appears above desires to be affiliated with United Centers for Spiritual Living as a Covenanted Member on the basis that it subscribes to the vision, principles and intentions of the spiritual community and will continue to subscribe to these.

Section 1 Covenant Terms

The Covenanted Member agrees as follows:

- 1.1 To consciously align with the teachings and practices of the Science of Mind, the Global Heart Vision/Organizational Design Model, the shared values and the guiding principles of the United Centers for Spiritual Living community.
- 1.2 To spread our teachings and offer our transformational consciousness to the world.
- 1.3 To honor and abide by the standards and ecclesiastical policies of United Centers for Spiritual Living which shall have authority in all matters of an ecclesiastical nature.
- 1.4 To encourage awareness of and participation in United Centers for Spiritual Living and its projects, programs and ministries; to provide community members with information about open elected, hired and appointed positions and opportunities for participation in the United Centers for Spiritual Living community; and, to encourage individuals to contribute their gifts and talents in service and support of the United Centers for Spiritual Living community.

- 1.5 To practice tithing in order to grow in the consciousness and experience of giving; and to financially contribute visibly, significantly and consistently to United Centers for Spiritual Living to further the work of the Community as an active, loyal and supporting Covenanted Member (see Section 7 – Schedule of Giving)
- 1.6 To actively work together with members of the United Centers for Spiritual Living community toward deeper spiritual practice and greater understanding of the power of spiritual values and community in our world, and to maintain and extend an atmosphere of love, truth, compassion and joy as a living example of spiritual life.

Section 2 Agreements

Based on the foregoing, United Centers for Spiritual Living and the Covenanted Member agree as follows:

- 2.1 United Centers for Spiritual Living agrees that the Covenanted Member shall have all of the rights and privileges provided for in the Bylaws of United Centers for Spiritual Living relating to Covenanted Members. It is specifically agreed that the Covenanted Member's status as a Member of the United Centers for Spiritual Living community derives from the Community Membership Covenant.
- 2.2 The Covenanted Member shall be entitled to teach certificated and other courses as prescribed or otherwise approved by United Centers for Spiritual Living. Pursuant to policies established by United Centers for Spiritual Living, students shall receive appropriate recognition, certificates and diplomas issued by United Centers for Spiritual Living.
- 2.3 The Covenanted Member may apply for and obtain tax-exempt status as an affiliated member of United Centers for Spiritual Living. United Centers for Spiritual Living shall supply a copy of the United Church of Religious Science Federal Group Exemption letter. Once approved for tax exempt status, the Covenanted Member must submit an annual report (forms to be provided by United Centers for Spiritual Living.)
- 2.4 The Covenanted Member hereby adopts and agrees to be bound by the Covenant Terms.
- 2.5 United Centers for Spiritual Living agrees to maintain and expand its spiritual community, ministries, programs, projects and activities for the purposes benefiting its Covenanted Members and extending the teaching and practice of the Science of Mind. United Centers for Spiritual Living further agrees to function in alignment with the intentions, shared values and guiding principles of the Global

- Heart Vision/Organizational Design Model and to support its Covenanted Members and its greater community in embracing, embodying and living them.
- 2.6 United Centers for Spiritual Living agrees to function according to sound business practices and to be a good steward of its spiritual, human, financial and creative resources.
 - 2.7.1 United Centers for Spiritual Living agrees to be a tithing organization so that it may grow in the consciousness and experience of giving.
 - 2.8 United Centers for Spiritual Living is committed to providing spiritual leadership, practical resources and loving guidance to each Covenanted Member and to be a partner in the growth and success of each individual ministry. United Centers for Spiritual Living agrees to hold the consciousness of truth for the entire community in visioning and prayer on a daily basis.

Section 3 In Good Standing

- 3.1 A Covenanted Member is in good standing when it fulfills the Covenant Terms (Section 1) and Agreements (Section 2) of this Community Membership Covenant.

Section 4 Termination of Covenant

Affiliation of United Centers for Spiritual Living and the Covenanted Member may be terminated only as provided in this Community Membership Covenant.

- 4.1 Voluntary Termination: Proceedings for voluntary termination of this Community Membership Covenant with United Centers for Spiritual Living shall be by the Covenanted Member in accordance with their by-laws and after honoring the intention of the greater United Centers for Spiritual Living community to seek agreement through meditation, prayer, guidance, mediation and peacemaking.
 - 4.1.1 Proceedings for voluntary termination of this Community Membership Covenant with United Centers for Spiritual Living may be commenced only by a resolution to terminate the affiliation adopted at a special meeting of the Trustees/Core Council Members of the Covenanted Member called specifically for that purpose in which a majority of the authorized number of Trustees/Core Council Members vote in favor of the adoption of a resolution to commence such proceedings.
 - 4.1.2 MEMBERSHIP VOTE – Subsequent to the adoption of the resolution to terminate by the Trustees/Core Council Members of the Covenanted Member, the resolution must be submitted to the membership of the

Covenanted Member at a special meeting. Two-thirds of the members-of-record qualified to vote must adopt this resolution to disaffiliate. Voting at such meeting must be by written ballot giving the members the choice to either terminate or not terminate this Covenant with United Centers for Spiritual Living.

4.1.3 MEETING - No meeting of members called for the purpose of terminating this Covenant will be deemed valid unless:

4.1.3.1 written notice of the time, place and purpose of the meeting has been mailed to all local community members at least thirty (30) days prior to the date of the meeting, and subsequent to the adoption of the resolution to terminate the Community Membership Covenant by the Trustees/Core Council Members.

4.1.3.2 notice of the special meeting has been posted at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at a conspicuous location where gatherings of the Covenanted Member are held; and

4.1.3.3 notice of the special meeting has been sent by certified mail to United Centers for Spiritual Living at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting. A representative of United Centers for Spiritual Living has the right to appear and be heard.

4.1.3.4 the special meeting is held at the place where other meetings of the local community members have been held and at a time convenient to the greatest number of local community members.

4.2 Involuntary Termination: In the event that the CORE Council of United Centers for Spiritual Living finds that the Covenanted Member has committed a material violation of this Covenant, and after all efforts to seek agreement through meditation, prayer, guidance, mediation and peacemaking have been exhausted, then United Centers for Spiritual Living will give the Trustees/Core Council Members of the Covenanted Member written notice of the material violation, describing the same with reasonable specificity, and directing termination of this Covenant. A material violation shall be defined as a material violation of any of the sections of this Agreement.

The Covenanted Member then has a maximum of ninety (90) days to correct the violation; provided, however, that if said violation involves a matter of spiritual doctrine, the time to correct shall be limited to fifteen (15) days from the Covenanted Member's receipt of the CORE Council's notice.

4.2.1 In the event that the Covenanted Member fails to correct the violation within the required period of time, then the Covenanted Member's Covenant with United Centers for Spiritual Living will be terminated by

the further affirmative vote of at least three-fourths (3/4ths) of the authorized number of members of the CORE Council of the United Centers for Spiritual Living.

- 4.3 Dissolution: In the event that the Covenanted Member ceases to operate in accordance with commonly accepted practices which denote an on-going activity, and after efforts of guidance and support have been exhausted, then by the affirmative simple majority vote of the members of the CORE Council of United Centers for Spiritual Living the Covenanted Member shall be determined as dissolved. Instances of ceasing to operate are defined, but not limited to the failure or inability to: conduct regularly scheduled services, conduct certificated or related Science of Mind classes, pay bills currently, pay salaries (including the Minister) or contractors fees, establish a place to do business, and full availability of Science of Mind services to the community.

Section 5 Assets and Liabilities of the Parties

Each of the parties understands and agrees that neither of them claims or shall have any right, title or interest in the assets or properties of the other, and that neither of them shall be or become responsible for the liabilities of the other, or for performance of any of the obligations presently existing or which may be incurred by the other.

Section 6 Duly Authorized Agreement

- 6.1 Covenanted Member: the undersigned representatives of the Covenanted Member hereby represent and warrant by their execution and delivery of this Covenant that the Covenanted Member has the power and authority to make and perform this Covenant and that the execution and delivery of this Covenant for and on behalf of the Covenanted Member has been duly and properly authorized by its trustees and members.
- 6.2 United Church of Religious Science/United Centers for Spiritual Living: the undersigned representatives of United Centers for Spiritual Living hereby represent and warrant by their execution and delivery of this Covenant that United Centers for Spiritual Living has the power and the authority to make and perform this Covenant, and that the execution and delivery of this Covenant for and on behalf of United Centers for Spiritual Living has been duly and properly authorized by the CORE Council of United Centers for Spiritual Living.

Section 7 Schedule of Giving

In alignment with Section 1.5 and the agreement by the Covenanted Member “to practice tithing in order to grow in the consciousness and experience of giving; and to financially contribute visibly, significantly and consistently to the work of the Community as an active, loyal and supporting Covenanted Member” the Covenanted Member agrees to communicate its pledge of financial contribution to United Centers for Spiritual Living on an annual basis according to the schedule and by the means established and communicated by United Centers for Spiritual Living.. In support of our guiding principles of congruence and accountability, United Centers for Spiritual Living agrees to keep the Covenanted Member apprised of its contributions and to communicate with the Covenanted Member when and if it is not fulfilling its agreed upon pledge.

It is the spirit of this Covenant Agreement that United Centers for Spiritual Living and the Covenanted Members are joined in a consciousness of mutual support of time, talent and resources and that the common goal for all is the growth of the peace, love and spiritual awakening of our world. We agree to honor the divinity of all life and to enter into this Covenant Agreement to create a world that works for everyone.

In witness whereof, the undersigned have made this Covenant by their duly authorized representative.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 20 _____.

United Church of Religious Science/United Centers for Spiritual Living, a California Non-profit Religious Corporation

**By: _____
Community Spiritual Leader, United Church of Religious Science**

Name of Covenanted Member

A _____ Nonprofit Religious / Educational Corporation

**By: _____
President, Board of Trustees/Core Council**

**By: _____
Minister**