

United Centers for Spiritual Living

Practitioner Code

Science of Mind

A philosophy, a faith, a way of life

Approved by the CORE Council

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United Centers for Spiritual Living
2600 West Magnolia Blvd.
Burbank, CA 91505**

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Welcome Letter
To Practitioners of the United Centers for Spiritual Living

Dear Practitioner Community:

It is with deep appreciation for all that you do that we provide you with this Licensed Professional Practitioner Code. We are defined and united by our Code. It binds us together as a community and provides the common ground that supports the diversity of our sacred service. It has been revised to reflect input received from Practitioners and Ministers and to integrate the essence of our Global Heart concepts. As Practitioners we are dedicated to living the Global Heart Vision as a healing presence guided by the ethical standards and professional practices described in this Code.

In 2002 the CORE Council established a Code Oversee Team (CO Team) to review and revise the UCSL Educational, Ministerial, and Practitioner Codes and the Professional Standards and Policies and Procedures Manual. The Team's charge was to:

- a) Create consistency between and among the Codes and the Manual
- b) Bring them into alignment with the Global Heart Organization Design, Bylaws and Group Definitions.

The CO Team then requested that a Practitioner subcommittee be formed to seek and synthesize broad-based input on the Practitioner Code, which required significant rewriting. The Practitioner Code Rewrite Group was subsequently established and began its work in April 2002.

Emphasis in this revision of the Licensed Professional Practitioner Code is on the concept that Religious Science Practitioners are dedicated to a teaching and healing practice that carries Science of Mind to the people of the world. Ethical Standards based on our Global Heart Vision, Shared Values, and Guiding Principles are the central focus of the Code. These Standards are framed as privileges and opportunities rather than as demands. Our goal was to articulate, encourage, and mentor high consciousness and spiritual integrity and to eliminate wording that implied judgment, restriction, and domination.

The Practitioner Code Rewrite Group meetings were conducted from loving and open hearts and minds. We adopted the following intentions to ground our work:

- To be an unbiased channel for and representative of Practitioner feedback.
- To ensure that all input and ideas from Practitioners received respectful attention and consideration.

- To ensure that substantive changes to Code content and intent remained true to the principles of Religious Science and to UCSL Shared Values and Guiding Principles.
- To remain faithful to achieving the highest good for the collective UCSL community, including its Ministers and lay members as well as Practitioners.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve UCSL in the revision of this Code. May you enjoy your spiritual journey as a UCSL Licensed Professional Practitioner and soar to even greater heights of enlightenment, self-expression, and sacred service. As you pray, teach, lead, follow, and 'walk your talk', know that you are embraced and uplifted by the love of God and the committed support of your colleagues.

In Loving Service,

Rev. Dr. Kathy Hearn, Community Spiritual Leader

- and -

The Practitioner Code Rewrite Group Members:

Bobbie Presley, RScP, Chairperson
Practitioner Community Leader, Religious Science Practitioner Community Assn.
Miracle Church of RS
Cleveland, Ohio

Katherine Saux, RScP
Group Co-Facilitator
SOM Center of Tucson

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New Vision Center of RS
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Dr. Ken Cragen, RScP
Creative Living Center
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New Orleans, Louisiana

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Edward Preston, RScP
Celebration Center of RS
Falls Church, Virginia

Peg Seykora, RScP
The Manna (Study) Group
Orlando, Florida

Purpose Statement

The purposes of this Code are to provide consistency and clarity for, as well as definitions of, professional practices; to articulate a level of excellence that Practitioners commit to meeting in their spiritual integrity and healing consciousness; and to establish ethical standards, minimum qualifications, and required procedures for licensing, license renewal, and Practitioner service in United Centers for Spiritual Living (UCSL) spiritual communities and in the world. This Code is the governing document for Practitioners and shall not be superseded by policies and procedures of local UCSL spiritual communities or individual Ministers that conflict with the standards, qualifications and procedures contained herein.

How to Use This Code

The Professional Practitioner license is issued by United Center for Spiritual Living and is not dependent on or tied to any local UCSL spiritual community or Minister. Our license is thus universal and transportable. An Outreach Practitioner whose principal ministry is one that works mostly or entirely outside of a local UCSL spiritual community operates under the same license as a Practitioner whose ministry is centered wholly on serving the members of a local UCSL spiritual community.

While our license is universal, our Practitioner ministries are “particular.” That is, we serve always in partnership with a particular UCSL Minister, whether that Minister is the head of our local spiritual community or study group, or is a sponsoring Minister who is geographically distant and with whom we interact primarily by telephone, internet, or mail.

The Professional Practitioner Code is intended to provide Practitioners with a reliable and consistent foundation of standards, expectations, and requirements that apply to any and all spiritual communities and ministries. At the same time, the Code sets forth minimum standards that Ministers can expand upon as they deem appropriate for Practitioners who serve with them or whom they mentor from afar. For this reason Practitioners may encounter differences in what is required and expected of them as they move from one place to another. UCSL supports this variability as long as it helps Practitioners attain ever greater levels of spiritual awareness, compassionate service, and personal integrity.

Ministers may not expect anything of a Practitioner that violates, contradicts, or undermines any article of this Code. The Code’s minimum standards approach also means that its contents are not self-limiting. In other words, *if an activity is not mentioned in the Code, that doesn’t mean it can’t be done or is forbidden.* Practitioners are encouraged to use visioning and their own divine intelligence to work with Ministers to create sacred service that delights their hearts, fulfills their self-expression, and creates a positive influence in their clients’ lives.

Questions about the contents or application of the Code should be directed to the Department of Growth, Expansion, and Ministerial Support (GEMS) of UCSSL.

Should a Practitioner and Minister experience conflict or confusion around the requirements of the Code versus the local spiritual community's requirements or expectations, the Practitioner should take the following steps in the order presented:

- 1) Verify your interpretation and understanding of the Code with GEMS.
- 2) Communicate directly with your Senior Minister or his/her designated representative to review the Professional Practitioner Code and discuss your concerns and questions.
- 3) Contact the Practitioner Community Leader of the Religious Science Practitioner Community Association for assistance and mediation. The PCL's name, telephone number and email address are listed in the RSPCA section of the Religious Science website: www.religiousscience.org
- 4) Contact your Ecclesiastical Representative as described in Article VII, Section C of this Code.

United Centers for Spiritual Living Overview

From the Subcommittee on Organizational Design & the Organizational Renewal Project Committee - October 15, 2000

Our Vision: "Global Heart"

1. We envision the emergence of the Global Heart to balance and guide the further evolution of humanity.
2. We see a world free of homelessness, violence, war, hunger, separation and disenfranchisement.
3. We see a world in which there is generous & continuous sharing of heart and resources. We envision a world in which forgiveness, whether for errors, injustices, or debts, is the norm.
4. We see a world in which borders are irrelevant.
5. We see a world which has renewed its emphasis on beauty, nature and love through a resurgence of creativity, art, and aesthetics.
6. We see a world in which fellowship prospers and connects through the guidance of spiritual wisdom and experience.
7. We envision a world in which we live and grow as One Human Family. We

- envision "UCSL" as a bridge across the illness and illusion of separation thereby dynamically empowering the vision of Global Heart.
8. We envision "United Center for Spiritual Living" as united and actuated by this compelling vision of a healthy world (a world experiencing Global Heart) & is ardently committed to bringing this vision forth through its ministries & its transformative teaching.
 9. We see "UCSL" as a global community of people pervasively caring for and about each other and the entire human family, thereby bringing the gift of active compassion to the world. Our local churches and communities become "points of inspiration and influence" effectively advancing the vision of Global Heart.

Our Mission: "Awakening Through Spiritual Community"

"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.

The richness of our expression of Spiritual Community cultivates leaders, not just followers. We bring forth an enlightened citizenry and generate an abundant flow of spiritual leaders in service to the transformation of our world.

Our Shared Values

(from the 2000 Convention and Organization Renewal Design)

Spirituality
Financial Health
Integrity
Love
Caring
Compassion
Education
Safety
Diversity & Inclusivity
Vision
Growth
Prosperity
Community Service

Our Guiding Principles to Empower our Shared Values

1. **Spiritual Mind Treatment and Visioning:** To anchor our expression of spirituality, we value an emphasis upon spiritual mind treatment and meditation for spiritual connection, along with the practices of visioning and co-creation for spiritual insight to reveal our pathway.
2. **Leaders as Vision Facilitators:** Leadership at all levels is centered on the facilitation of the Vision and the ever unfolding pathway revealed through continued visioning practices. Rather than "Lone Rangers" advancing their personal opinions and preferences, our leaders participate in discerning the pathway for the unfoldment of our vision and facilitate progress along that pathway. Furthermore, our leadership involves as many as possible in service to the vision and continually cultivates more leaders.
3. **Congruence:** An all-pervading dedication to living out our values and principles and to advancing our Vision and Mission in every way possible and at all levels of our community. Simply put, our community and its members "walk our talk," in dedication to expressing a living embodiment of our Vision/Mission and of our teaching. We are demonstrating and actualizing our Vision and our possibilities.
4. **Accountability:** By means of rigorous dedication to our values and guiding principles, we manifest a natural accountability for our commitments, actions, and community participation. We are thoroughly principled and constructive.

5. **Teamwork:** At all levels, we work together to achieve our goals and to develop an ever richer, more involved and impactful Community.
6. **Open Communication:** Information and insights flow openly and dynamically in this new Community, enhancing creativity, engendering a sense of inclusion, and nurturing the efficient resolution of misunderstandings or conflict.

What We Believe

We believe in God, the Living Spirit Almighty -- one, indestructible, absolute, and self-existent Cause. This One manifests itself in and through all creation but is not absorbed by its creation. The manifest universe is the body of God – it is the logical and necessary outcome of the infinite self-knowingness of God.

We believe in the incarnation of the Spirit in everyone and that all people are incarnations of the One Spirit.

We believe in the eternity, the immortality, and the continuity of the individual soul, forever and ever expanding.

We believe that Heaven is within us and that we experience it to the degree that we become conscious of it.

We believe the ultimate goal of life to be a complete emancipation from all discord of every nature, and that this goal is sure to be attained by all.

We believe in the unity of all life, and that the highest God and the innermost God is one God.

We believe that God is personal to all who feel this indwelling Presence.

We believe in the direct revelation of Truth through the intuitive and spiritual nature of the individual, and that any person who lives in close contact with the indwelling God may become a revealer of Truth.

We believe that the Universal Spirit, which is God, operates through a Universal Mind, which is the Law of God – and that we are surrounded by this Creative Mind, which receives the direct impress of our thought and acts upon it.

We believe in the healing of the sick through the power of this Mind.

We believe in the control of conditions through the power of this Mind.

We believe in the eternal Goodness, the eternal Loving-kindness, and the eternal Givingness of Life to all.

We believe in our own soul, our own spirit, and our own destiny – for we understand the life of all is God.

What We Believe by Ernest Holmes was published in the first issue of Science of Mind Magazine, October 1927. This edited version uses gender-inclusive language.

The Practitioner Consciousness

Editor's note: Dr. Ernest S. Holmes produced many of his writings early in the 20th Century and, following conventions of that era, often used generic masculine forms in referring to both men and women. Rather than alter this article to reflect contemporary usage, we have, in most cases, retained his original style.

The Practitioner has a complete conviction that a higher use of the Law of Cause and Effect transcends a lower use of it. Even though he starts with only an intellectual or logical conviction of this, a spiritual intuition within him will support this logic and give him a consciousness of its reality. This will lift his faith to a complete certainty. Spiritual consciousness should be added to mental technique. Mental technique is the use we make of this consciousness.

The Practitioner must know that conditions flow from causes and not the reverse; that everything in the physical world is an effect which must have a mental and spiritual cause back of it. He changes the cause and the Law changes the fact. It is only where there is a realization of the supremacy of spiritual thought force over what seems to resist it that there is any power in a treatment. A Practitioner of spiritual mind healing is continually confronted with the fog of fear, superstition and doubt; otherwise, there would be no occasion for this practice. He will either get lost in the fog or see through it. Though the fog is there, the sun is always shining - that is what he clings to. He declares that the sun is shining and the fog is dissipated. This is his act of faith, his compliance with the Law, his own consciousness. Because this is so, the spiritual mind Practitioner must spend much time alone in quiet meditation until Spirit becomes as real to him as form. Spiritual mind practice does not call for great concentration, but for deep realization and conviction.

If this deep conviction were something we had to implant in our minds we should be lost in a sea of speculative philosophy. The wonderful thing about this is that the deep conviction is already there when we clear away the confusion. If one had to put Life into Life, he couldn't do it, he would be lost. But if Life is already at the center of everything, one can recognize It. This is what spiritual mind practice is. It is the recognition of a deep and abiding harmony at the center of everything. The Practitioner withdraws from the contemplation of existing circumstances, and without contending against them, actually creates a new set of circumstances through consciously reversing the law that produced the conditions which ought to be changed. If this mind dwelt only on things as they appear to be, he would never demonstrate beyond that appearance and everything that happened would merely be more of the same thing. But he steps his consciousness up, sees through and beyond the facts to the new cause. He sometimes denies the fact merely to brush it out of his thought while he affirms its opposite.

We should seek to combine spiritual up reaching with conscious mental action for definite purposes. This is what constitutes spiritual mind practice on a

scientific basis. And by "scientific" we do not mean anything cold or merely mechanical. We merely mean the conscious use of a known law.... People should be shown how to unite faith with understanding so that they will not only know what they are doing, but how and why they are doing it. Their faith is in God, the living Spirit. It is both right and necessary that they have this faith. Their knowledge, however, is of a definite Law of Cause and Effect in the mental world and Law of Mind in action.

With childlike confidence, the Practitioner lifts up his consciousness to the universe. The sublime act of faith is justified by its results, for the universe honors our acceptance of it in the terms of that acceptance.

Religious Science Licensed Professional Practitioner Vision

As licensed Professional Practitioners we are the loving heart and healing presence of expanded consciousness revealing the wholeness and truth of all Life.

Mission

As licensed Professional Practitioners we commit ourselves to maintaining a high spiritual consciousness; to doing spiritual mind treatment for those who request it; and to being an active spiritual presence in our spiritual community and the world. UCSL is an organization of active compassion and universal spirituality, so we are the healing consciousness supporting that vision.

We commit ourselves to daily meditation, study and treatment; to aligning ourselves with Universal Principles; and to increasing our awareness of the infinite power and presence of God in all things. We pledge ourselves to our personal spiritual growth, to spiritual counseling, to active service, and to loving-kindness.

Professional Practitioner's Covenant

As a Practitioner licensed and supported by the United Church of Religious Science, I commit to living according to its Shared Values and Guiding Principles; to the Practitioner Consciousness as described by our founder Dr. Ernest Holmes; and to the Professional Practitioner Vision and Mission statements. My signature below indicates my sacred intention to adhere to the Ethical Standards and Policies and Procedures of this Code.

Print Full Name

Signature of Practitioner

Date

NOTE: This covenant is an act of spiritual commitment and personal dedication. Signing one's name is an outward symbol of an inner movement in grace. The completed page does not need to be submitted to GEMS as part of the professional licensing or license renewal process; however, Practitioners are asked to sign this covenant with each license renewal as a conscious rededication and commitment to sacred service.

Definitions

Affiliate Practitioner: A Practitioner who belongs to a spiritual community other than United Centers for Spiritual Living (UCSL) in which the senior Minister is in the process of affiliation and chartering with UCSL. The Affiliate Practitioner is held to the licensing application process as defined by this Code.

CEU (Continuing Education Unit): Units of continuing education and/or professional development required for Professional Practitioner license renewal

CLU (Continuing Licensing Unit): Units of service activities required for Professional Practitioner license renewal

Community Member: A spiritual community affiliated with United Centers for Spiritual Living (UCSL) through a formal Community Covenant

CSL (Community Spiritual Leader): The spiritual leader of UCSL

C.O.R.E. Council: The legal governing body of UCSL, which serves in partnership with all other leadership functions of UCSL (C.O.R.E. is an acronym for Consciousness of Reality Evolving)

ECC (ECCLESIASTICAL CORE COORDINATOR): The UCSL coordinator and liaison for UCSL and all field ministries

ERs (ECCLESIASTICAL REPRESENTATIVES): Ordained Ministers, appointed by the CSL, who serve UCSL spiritual communities in supportive and compassionate ways

Ethical Standards: Standards of behavior defined by this Code and the Professional Standards Manual, and agreed upon and embraced by all UCSL Practitioners and Ministers

GEMS: Growth Expansion and Ministerial Support Department of UCSL under the direction of the ECC

Global: All UCSL multi-national work

Global Heart Practitioner: A Practitioner license granted on a case-by-case basis by GEMS. Only the ECC can recommend candidates for Global Heart Practitioner to GEMS.

Inactive License: A Practitioner license that is not renewed within ninety (90) days of renewal; all Professional Practitioner activity and recognition must cease

Interim License: A license issued for the purpose of facilitating a Practitioner transfer and/or reinstating an inactive license

Leave of Absence: A voluntary status during which a Professional Practitioner ceases to act and to be recognized as a Practitioner; a leave of absence may not exceed two years

LISTSERV: Email mailing lists used by GEMS and the Religious Science Practitioner Community Association (RSPCA) to keep Practitioners informed of UCSL and Association activities and announcements via the Internet

Ministerial Code: A document that sets forth the ethical standards, qualifications, and procedures for licensing, teaching, mediating and other responsibilities of a UCSL Minister, and that can be obtained through GEMS

Outreach Practitioner: A Professional Practitioner who, with the sponsorship of a UCSL Minister, works mostly outside of a local UCSL spiritual community performing sacred service and undertakes ministries, chaplaincies, and/or other programs that serve the larger community and that represent Science of Mind and the Global Heart at work in the world

PCL (Practitioner Community Leader): The chief officer and spiritual leader of the Religious Science Practitioner Association, elected by the Association's member Practitioners

Practitioner Emeritus: Honorary recognition granted by UCSL to a Professional Practitioner in good standing for life with all rights and privileges thereof

Professional Practitioner: An individual who has met all UCSL educational and licensing requirements for Practitioners, is current in all required fees, and whose behavior is aligned with the Professional and Ethical Standards of the Practitioner Code

Professional Standards: The standards of practice for all UCSL Ministers and Professional Practitioners

Professional Standards Manual: The Professional Standards Policies and Procedures Manual is a separate document obtainable from GEMS

Retired Practitioner: A voluntary status that can be chosen by a licensed Professional Practitioner who has served a minimum of ten continuous years; a Professional Practitioner in retired status may use the designation RScP (Retired) but shall not charge a fee for his/her services

R.Sc.P. (RScP): Designation for a duly licensed Professional Religious Science Practitioner

RSI: Religious Science International

RSPCA (Religious Science Practitioner Community Association): The professional organization organized by and for Professional Practitioners

Sexual Propriety: Appropriate physical behavior between a Professional Practitioner and client or student, which means abstaining from any sexual intercourse, sexual contact, sexual intimacy, or sexual harassment

SFM (Special Focus Ministry): Any ministry that furthers the teachings and principles of Science of Mind through forms other than regular spiritual community pulpit ministries, and that is consistent with the mission and purpose of UCSL. A SFM must:

- A. have a UCSL Minister as its spiritual leader;
- B. be organized with UCSL approved bylaws; and,
- C. have a signed spiritual community covenant with UCSL

Spiritual Community: A covenanted UCSL member community which has a committed membership who are actively working to establish, or have already established, a church, center, institute, group, or non-profit 501(c)(3), 501(c)(4), or 501(c)(5) corporation based within and upon the principles of Science of Mind

Spiritual Community Membership: Requirement for a Professional Practitioner to be an active, loyal and supporting member of a covenanted UCSL member community according to the definitions of this Code

Spiritual Counseling: Assisting a client through a process of healing and revealing Truth by asking compassionate questions, actively listening, and using the art and skill of spiritual mind treatment

Suspension of License: Involuntary release of the Practitioner license for a specific period of time as a result of the findings of the Professional Standards Committee of UCSL

Termination of License: Permanent involuntary release of a Practitioner license as a result of the findings of the Professional Standards Committee of UCSL

UCSL: United Centers for Spiritual Living

Visioning: A process by which we open ourselves to be able to hear, feel, see and reveal God's idea for our life or for a particular project. It is an activity that aligns our consciousness with Divine Purpose

Article I: Authorization

Section A: Authority to License and Regulate

The bylaws of United Center for Spiritual Living (UCSL) authorize the CORE Council to provide for the management of the ecclesiastical affairs of UCSL and to provide for the licensing and regulation of non-ministerial licensed Professional Practitioners (RScP).

Section B: Authority to Hold Ecclesiastic Office

The bylaws of United Center for Spiritual Living establish the position of licensed Professional Practitioner as an ecclesiastic office of UCSL. They also authorize specific positions within the UCSL leadership structure that may be filled by licensed Professional Practitioners. The Professional Practitioners, together with the Ministers, constitute the healing arm of UCSL.

Article II: Training and Education

Section A: Minimum Requirements

The minimum education and training requirements for those who heed the calling to be licensed Professional Practitioners are fully described in the Education Code of UCSL. A copy of the Education Code may be obtained from the Department of Growth, Expansion, and Ministerial Support (GEMS) of UCSL.

The development of Professional Practitioners is a dynamic process that integrates individual and classroom study with supervised practice of learned skills that prepare the student for sacred leadership and to meet the licensing requirements of UCSL. Growth in consciousness occurs at an individual pace throughout the course of study. The application of Science of Mind principles and a commitment to the practices of meditation, treatment and visioning are used to deepen spirituality and open minds and hearts to the revelation of God's purpose. In addition, the Professional Practitioner education curriculum is intended to develop skills associated with the art of spiritual counseling, which, combined with spiritual mind treatment, constitutes the essence of a Professional Practitioner's healing services to clients.

Section B: Additional Requirements

Ministers of local spiritual communities have the authority to expand and augment the minimum education and training requirements for those who train and intend to serve in their communities; however, additions to the basic curriculum must be grounded in Science of Mind principles and be in alignment with the consciousness and ethical standards set forth in the Professional Practitioner Code.

Section C: Ongoing Professional Development

Professional Practitioners engage in ongoing education and training in order to deepen their understanding of spiritual principles and practices. The Continuing Licensing Units (CLUs) and Continuing Education Units (CEUs) found in Appendix B of this Code offer a roadmap for demonstrating growth, commitment and service. In addition, Professional Practitioners are encouraged to participate in ecclesiastical functions beyond their local spiritual communities.

Article III: Ethical Standards

Section A: Dedication to Our Shared Values, Guiding Principles and Professional Practitioner Consciousness

1. As a Practitioner of the United Center for Spiritual Living (UCSL), I dedicate myself to the principles of Religious Science as summarized in "What We Believe" by Ernest Holmes.
2. I commit to embodying the Shared Values of UCSL in my daily life and I commit to using the Guiding Principles to empower my service and my ministry.
3. I commit to carrying out the Professional Practitioner Mission Statement.
4. I maintain my own consciousness and integrity by meditating and treating daily, expanding my consciousness so that I am prepared mentally and spiritually to meet any condition, being mindful that appearances and conditions are effects to be changed in spiritual Truth.
5. I dedicate myself to knowing the presence of God in all things and the Oneness of Life.
6. I commit to being free from fear and superstition and dedicate myself to knowing that as a spiritual being I have the right and the power to choose my experience of life.

7. I am generous, loving, compassionate, understanding, nurturing, intuitive, patient and nonresistant to life.

8. I commit to releasing all of my judgments of others, myself and conditions of life.

9. I respect all paths to God.

Section B: Dedication to Our Profession

1. As a Professional Practitioner, I uphold the tenet of Religious Science that spiritual mind treatment is the most powerful tool for transformation. I know spiritual mind treatment is the core function of the Professional Practitioner's work and an integral part of all Practitioner/client sessions.

2. My work as a Professional Practitioner is to know the Truth of Wholeness.

3. I hold in high regard the honor and privilege of doing spiritual work for those who request it.

4. I constantly add to my knowledge, training, skills and spiritual evolution to support my commitment to being a healing presence.

5. I may charge a fee for my time.

6. I respect the art and skill of all healing professions, regardless of method, religion or philosophy, while at the same time being dedicated to the work of the Professional Practitioner. I use spiritual principles as the basis for all guidance in teaching and healing work.

7. I dedicate myself to knowing God personally and expressing God as my life.

Section C: Dedication to Ministers

1. I honor and acknowledge the Senior Minister as the ecclesiastical leader of my UCSL spiritual community.

2. I cooperate with my local Minister(s) for the growth, unfoldment and success of the spiritual community. I remain mindful that my commitment to this Code, my Minister(s), and my community is public as well as personal, and I understand that my behavior and actions influence the success and well-being of the spiritual community as a whole.

3. I support Ministers in their commitment to following the Ministerial Code.
4. I communicate with my Minister(s) in an honest and direct manner in highest consciousness at all times.
5. I enter into spiritual mind treatment and follow Divine Guidance in all communications and interactions if misunderstandings arise with the Minister.
6. I honor Professional Practitioner participation in my spiritual community and take responsibility to follow through on agreements with my Minister.

Section D: Dedication to Clients/Students

1. My work as a Professional Practitioner is done in mind and consciousness. I use the power of mind through spiritual mind treatment to facilitate a healing. The purpose of the spiritual counseling portion of a Practitioner/client session is to inspire the client to recognize and change cause, establish a new belief through spiritual principles, and to perceive and accept Truth as revealed in the spiritual mind treatment that closes the session.
2. As a Professional Practitioner I am fully aware of the influential position I hold with those who call upon me for assistance and healing; therefore I avoid any exploitation of trust or fostering of any dependency. I encourage the release of any unhealthy loyalty towards me and encourage my clients to recognize their own divinity.
3. I dedicate myself to ensuring that my professional relationships are for the highest and best good of my clients/students and I continue a counseling relationship only so long as the client is benefiting from it.
4. I do not enter into any relationship with a client/student that could impair my professional judgment or my spiritual integrity. I maintain sexual propriety with my clients/students and practice honorable behavior with everyone I encounter.
5. I shall not engage in sexual relationships with clients or students for a minimum of six months after the client/student relationship has officially ended. I respect this separation of personal and professional relationship, mindful that clarity between both

parties is essential to the integrity of spiritual counseling, confidentiality and the healing process.

6. I respect the right of my clients to make decisions for themselves, without offering advice. My role is to assist clients to understand the spiritual and mental aspects of their decisions.

7. I do not attempt to counsel or advise on problems beyond the scope of my spiritual focus. In the event a client requests a referral to a physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, or any other professional, I may provide a list of prospects from which the client may choose but I do not recommend any particular individual or any group of individuals.

8. I maintain a clear differentiation for my clients/students between my role as a Professional Practitioner of Religious Science and any other counseling, healing or therapeutic discipline I may practice.

9. I maintain confidentiality and integrity under all conditions, including any records I might keep of sessions with clients. I understand that confidentiality is a sacred trust and do not reveal to others any information that is shared with me in a Practitioner/Client session. Furthermore, I understand that my commitment to confidentiality and integrity includes never using information shared with me under the seal of confidentiality to cause any harm, in private or publicly, to the individual who communicated with me in trust.

10. In accordance with UCSL Shared Values, as a Professional Practitioner I respond to spiritual needs regardless of sexual orientation, ethnicity, gender, socio-economic class, disability, creed, or any other apparent conditions of the human experience.

Section E: Dedication to Fellow Professional Practitioners

1. I acknowledge the gift of fellowship and the calling and commitment of my fellow Practitioners and respect each Professional Practitioner as an individualized expression of Spirit.

2. I stand ready to support my fellow Professional Practitioners in times of challenge and uncertainties, helping them remember the Truth of Wholeness in all of life.

3. I remain accountable to the standards of my profession at all times, mindful that I represent all Professional Practitioners and the Religious Science movement as a whole.

Section F: Dedication to United Center for Spiritual Living

1. As a Professional Practitioner, I am authorized and licensed by UCSL to use the principles of Religious Science and spiritual mind treatment to facilitate the healing of mind, body and affairs of any client who seeks assistance. Therefore, I work for the highest good of the organization and to participate in ways that support its growth and its work as the Global Heart.
2. I abide by all of the standards approved by UCSL concerning licensing and license renewal.
3. I, as a Professional Practitioner, accept the responsibility of being the Healing Arm of United Church of Religious Science, along with Ministers.
4. I am familiar with the corporate structure of UCSL as outlined in the UCSL bylaws and in current organizational documents.

Section G: Dedication to Local Spiritual Communities

1. As a Professional Practitioner, when I align my sacred service with a local spiritual community or special focus ministry, I agree to maintain a harmonious, positive relationship with the Minister(s).
2. I regard as a privilege and honor being called upon to practice spiritual mind treatment for my spiritual community. My license allows me to charge a fee for time and services.
3. With my time, talent and tithe, I support the work and growth of the spiritual community in which I serve.
4. As a Professional Practitioner I may develop my own ministry, taking SOM principles out into the world to raise consciousness and bring peace and harmony to the planet, while remaining loyal and supportive to my spiritual community.

Article IV: Professional Practices

Section A: Scope of License

Business opportunities as a Professional Practitioner are limitless. Our Professional Practitioner skills can be incorporated into myriad individual expressions. We embody spiritual principle and the qualities of being a Professional Practitioner in all that we do, so we offer the richness of our consciousness, our spiritual practice, our compassion, and our dedication to service in all business ventures we undertake. We have the choice to be

a full-time, self-employed Professional Practitioner or to take the Science of Mind teachings into the world along with our already established careers.

While we bring our Practitioner consciousness into the world through many activities, we pledge to maintain a clear differentiation for our clients/students between our role as a Professional Practitioner of Religious Science and any other counseling, healing or therapeutic discipline we may practice. As Professional Practitioners we may engage in activities such as, but not limited to, the following:

1. Conducting spiritual counseling sessions with clients for which we are compensated
2. Teaching and/or assisting in teaching certificated SOM classes and non-certificated classes
3. Designing and conducting workshops and classes whose curricula are aligned with SOM principles
4. Organizing, leading and/or supporting SOM Study Groups
5. Conducting group or individual meditations, visioning sessions and spiritual retreats
6. Conducting commitment ceremonies, memorials and funerals as requested
7. Developing a ministry of public speaking
8. Holding vigil or high watch for events, meetings and services of our local spiritual community
9. Leading or participating in organized ministries within the local spiritual community, or as outreach ministries in the broader community, such as pastoral care, community outreach, ministry of prayer, hospice services, grief support, volunteer sacred service, chaplaincies and youth programs, etc.
10. Performing a variety of platform duties during Sunday services as requested by the Minister of our local spiritual community
11. Holding ecclesiastic offices within local spiritual communities and within UCSL according to all applicable bylaws.

Section B: Visioning

We use visioning in our spiritual practices as well as to help explore, anchor and develop our individual business ventures.

Section C: Tithing

We regularly give in an identifiable way, and from a sense of abundance and gratitude, a percentage of our income with a tithing consciousness to support our spiritual community.

Section D: Advertising

We are encouraged to advertise our professional services to the community at large. If we choose to advertise our professional services, we adhere to the following guidelines:

1. We may advertise in a church directory, telephone directory, and in spiritually-oriented publications.
2. We may use business cards, email, Internet websites, or any other appropriate means that will reach those who are in need of spiritual guidance and/or are seeking a new way of life.
3. We may use the professional designation of "R.Sc.P." in advertising our Professional Practitioner services; however, we may not combine this professional designation with that of any other profession.
4. We may identify ourselves as licensed Practitioners of Religious Science and may include the "R.Sc.P." designation with other professional designations in biographical information when published or when acting as a speaker or facilitator.

Section E: Legal Reporting

We commit to knowing what needs to be legally reported, and to whom, within the state of our residence of practice.

1. Local, state, and federal reporting requirements are not included in the Professional Practitioner Code because they vary and are frequently revised. We are responsible for obtaining, reading, understanding and complying with the applicable and appropriate reporting requirements for our state of residence.
2. We provide open and honest communication with clients. We inform clients of confidentiality guidelines prior to beginning a

Practitioner session. If a client mentions any reportable violation (such as child or elder abuse, to name just two possible reportable violations), we immediately advise our client that we must “break confidence” and report this information to the appropriate legal authorities. The client then has the opportunity to end the session if desired.

When we report information to legal authorities in our capacity as Professional Practitioners, we inform our Minister if the “victim” or “perpetrator” is a member of or involved with the spiritual community. If the individual is not involved in the spiritual community, we may use our discretion in informing the Minister of our action; however, it is always advisable to do so.

3. To facilitate record keeping and informing clients of their rights, we take advantage of the forms provided in the Practitioner Handbook. The Practitioner Handbook can be obtained from GEMS.

Section F: Confidentiality

We treat our client records with the utmost care, respect, and concern for confidentiality. We store records and dispose of records only in ways that maintain complete confidentiality and in compliance with the law.

Section G: Income Reporting

We are legally required to declare the income we receive from Professional Practitioner services in compliance with all local, state, and federal requirements (for example, under the 1943 Self-Employment Contribution Act) or any revisions or replacements thereto.

Section H: Communication

We agree to notify GEMS in writing within thirty (30) days if there are changes in the following personal information:

- Name
- Address
- Telephone number
- Email address
- Spiritual community membership

Article V: Licensing Requirements and Procedures

Section A: Application and Approval Requirements

All students desiring to become Professional Practitioners must meet the following requirements:

1. Maintain membership in a UCSL member spiritual community for a minimum of eighteen (18) months immediately prior to application.
2. Be an active, loyal and supporting member of a UCSL spiritual community member organization. For interpretation of the terms "active, loyal and supporting" see Appendix A.
3. Satisfactorily complete all Professional Practitioner classes, a psychological profile, and the application form for licensing provided by GEMS; obtain the recommendation of the sponsoring UCSL Minister; and pay all required fees.
4. Complete the Professional Practitioner's Covenant. New Practitioners are asked to sign this agreement as a conscious commitment to sacred service. A copy of the signed and dated agreement should be given to the Practitioner's sponsoring Minister any time prior to the candidate's oral panels.
5. Satisfactorily pass the written licensing test, which is designed to evaluate knowledge, and the oral panels, which are designed to evaluate consciousness.

Section B: Recommendations

Students who have satisfied requirements of Sections A 1 through A 4, above, can be recommended to GEMS for licensing by their UCSL Minister or Ecclesiastical Representative. If an applicant has transferred his/her membership between two or more UCSL community members during the preceding eighteen (18) months, a recommendation from the Senior Minister of each spiritual community involved is required.

Section C. Granting and Issuing of Licenses

Licenses are issued by GEMS for a period of two (2) years and shall be subject to renewal in accordance with Section E, below.

Section D: Delays in the Licensing Process

The candidate must pass the written test before being scheduled for the oral panels. If a candidate does not pass the written test, GEMS will give a written explanation of the reason(s) for the failure to the candidate, via the supporting Minister. The candidate must wait one year before taking the written exam again.

A unanimous decision by an oral panel is required to pass a candidate. If the oral panel does not reach consensus in passing the candidate, the panel or the candidate may request another panel, with new panel members, to be conducted on the same day, or as soon as possible. If the second panel reaches consensus that the candidate should not be passed, the panel will give recommendations for addressing areas of needed improvement to the candidate and the candidate's sponsoring Minister. The candidate has the right to be re-paneled at the next annual oral panels.

A candidate has two (2) years following completion of class work in which to initiate the licensing process. If more than two years elapse, the candidate is required to audit at least 90 hours of the Professional Practitioner course of study. If more than five (5) years elapse, the candidate is required to retake the entire Professional Practitioner course of study before initiating the licensing process.

Section E: License Renewal

1. Renewal Dates

After initial issuing or reinstatement of a license, Professional Practitioner licenses must be renewed every two years. License renewal is not required for those Practitioners who have been granted Retired or Emeritus status in accordance with Section I, below.

2. Renewal Process

Practitioner license renewal is a process of reassessment, recommitment, and re-declaration of intention. License renewal is the responsibility of the Practitioner. It requires a review and recommitment of the Practitioner to a life of spiritual service, and the fulfillment of the following requirements:

A. Abide by the Professional Practitioner Code at all times.

B. Be an active, loyal and supporting member of a UCSL spiritual community member organization. For definition of the terms "active, loyal and supporting" see Appendix A.

C. Accumulate 250 Continuing Licensing Units (CLUs) every two years, from at least two (2) different categories (See Appendix B)

D. Accumulate at least 35 Continuing Education Units (CEUs) every two years (See Appendix B).

E. Document at least two demonstrations of healing according to the requirements in Appendix C. This documentation shall be submitted to the Senior Minister (See Item 2 G, below), who will insure that this information will not be seen by any person other than another Minister or a licensed Practitioner of Religious Science who is subject to the confidentiality requirements of this Practitioner Code.

F. Complete the Professional Practitioner's Covenant on page 12 of this Code. The completed page does not need to be submitted to GEMS as part of the professional license renewal process; however, Practitioners are asked to sign this agreement with each license renewal as a conscious renewal of sacred service.

G. Complete the Practitioner license renewal form provided by GEMS. This form includes a summary list of the activities for which CLUs and CEUs are to be credited. Submit this form and the two documented demonstrations (Item 2E, above), to the Senior Minister for review. Obtain the Minister's recommendation and signature on the license renewal form and then send the form and the renewal fee to GEMS within 90 days following the renewal date. Do not send the documented demonstrations to GEMS. The license shall be declared inactive if this 90- day requirement is not met. If the spiritual community is temporarily without a Senior Minister or acting Senior Minister, the completed Practitioner license renewal form and documented demonstrations are submitted to the UCSL Ecclesiastical Representative (ER) for that spiritual community or his/her designee, who will complete the recommendation and sign the form.

If all other requirements are met, the only valid reason for a spiritual community Minister or ER not to recommend the renewal of a Professional Practitioner's license is for violation of the Practitioner Code. In this event, the Minister or ER must provide a separate statement citing the specific violation of Code with the renewal application and must notify the Practitioner immediately. Upon receipt of this renewal application and written statement of Code violation by GEMS, appropriate steps shall be taken in accordance with the Professional Standards Manual.

Section F: Interim License

An interim license for either Professional or Affiliate (see Section H below) Practitioners is issued by GEMS for the purpose of facilitating a Practitioner transfer and/or reinstatement of an inactive license. It has a fee established by GEMS and is valid for a period of up to eighteen (18) months. A Practitioner holding an Interim license has all the rights, responsibilities and duties of a regularly licensed Professional Practitioner.

Section G: Licensing RSI and Independent Church Transfers

A Professional Practitioner license with other than UCSL may be transferred when the following requirements have been met:

1. For RSI Practitioner Transfers:
 - a. Provide a valid RSI Practitioner License and a letter of reference from RSI.
 - b. Apply to GEMS for an Interim UCSL License for one (1) year, pay appropriate fees and maintain membership in a UCSL church during that year.
 - c. During the interim year, undertake a personalized course of study, which may include Professional Practitioner courses and be supervised by the local Minister.
 - d. Abide by the Professional Practitioner Code at all times.
 - e. Be an active, loyal and supporting member of a UCSL spiritual community member organization. For definition of the terms "active, loyal and supporting" see Appendix A.
 - f. Abide by the Professional Practitioner Code at all times.
 - g. Satisfactorily complete all interviews, psychological profiles, any individual requirements, and the written and oral tests as required of all UCSL Practitioners.
 - h. Apply to GEMS for a Professional Practitioner License as a first license. CLUs do not apply until renewal.
2. For Independent Church of Religious Science Practitioner transfers:

- a. Provide a valid Practitioner license from the independent church.
- b. Successfully complete an educational evaluation by GEMS.
- c. Fulfill requirements for RSI transfer practitioners see “For RSI Practitioner Transfers” above.
- d. Submit four (4) letters of reference (one from a UCSL Minister, two from UCSL Professional Practitioners and one from the independent church organization).

When the preceding requirements have been met, the candidate shall be granted the license, which is then issued by GEMS.

Section H. Licensing Affiliate Practitioners

Practitioners licensed in another religious organization are deemed to be Affiliate Professional Practitioners at the time that their religious organization and its Minister(s) apply for Affiliation with UCSL. Affiliate Practitioners applying to UCSL for a Professional Practitioner license shall:

1. Be an active, loyal and supporting member of a UCSL spiritual community and member organization. For definition of the terms “active, loyal and supporting” see Appendix A.
2. Complete the application form for a Professional Practitioner license provided by GEMS.
3. Submit the application for a Professional Practitioner license to GEMS with the following items:
 - a. A valid Practitioner license from the affiliating religious organization.
 - b. A letter of recommendation from the Senior Minister.
 - c. A transcript of all education/training completed that supports the qualification of the Affiliate Practitioner for licensing as a Professional Practitioner.
 - d. All required fees.
4. Complete the Professional Practitioner’s Covenant on page 12 of this Code. New Practitioners are asked to sign the covenant as a conscious commitment to sacred service.

5. Satisfactorily complete all interviews, psychological profiles, any individual requirements, and the written test and oral panels as required of all UCSL Practitioner candidates. CLU and CEU requirements do not apply until the first renewal of the Professional Practitioner license.

6. License renewal for Affiliate Practitioners after initial issuance of a UCSL Professional Practitioner license shall be the same as for any other Professional Practitioner, in accordance with Article V, Section E, above.

Section I: Variation of License Status

1. A Professional Practitioner has the following options with regard to license status

a. Leave of Absence (LOA) - May be chosen for up to two (2) years. (See Definitions) Prior to completing the leave, application must be made to GEMS in writing for reinstatement of license or the license automatically shall be considered inactive. The individual may not use any form of Religious Science Practitioner designation or charge a client fee.

b. Inactive Status - May be the result of late renewal or late application for reinstatement following a leave of absence. The individual may not use any form of Religious Science Practitioner designation or charge a client fee. The individual may apply to GEMS for reinstatement. See Section J, below, regarding reinstatement.

c. Retired Status - A voluntary decision by a licensed Practitioner who has served a minimum of ten (10) continuous years as a UCSL Professional Practitioner. A Practitioner in retired status may use the designation "Religious Science Practitioner (Retired)" but shall not charge a fee for client services as a Practitioner. A licensed Practitioner in retired status may participate in the ecclesiastical program of a UCSL spiritual community solely at the discretion of the Senior Minister of that community. If the Practitioner chooses to reinstate, see guidelines under Section J, below.

2. The following conditions are true for all three variations of status listed above

- a. The individual is required to notify both GEMS and the member spiritual community or sponsoring Minister in writing of the status, specifying the reasons for their choice and for the effective dates for the change in license status.
- b. The individual may continue to use spiritual mind treatment for others in a personal, rather than a professional, capacity.

Section J: License Reinstatement

A Practitioner may request reinstatement of an inactive license by applying to GEMS for reinstatement and fulfilling the following requirements. If the person has taken an official leave of absence, the time periods noted below begin at the end of the leave of absence. Affiliate Practitioners who hold inactive or suspended licenses in the affiliating organization at the time it is accepted as a member organization of UCSL are not eligible for reinstatement as a UCSL Professional Practitioner.

Inactive or suspended Practitioners must

1. In the first year following non-renewal, submit
 - a. The reinstatement application and fee
 - b. A statement of recommendation from the Senior Minister of the spiritual community in which membership has been established.
2. In the second year following non-renewal, submit
 - a. The reinstatement application and fee.
 - b. A statement that specifically gives the reasons for the inactive period and why the Practitioner feels that the license should be reactivated.
 - c. Three (3) letters of recommendation for reactivation, two from Professional Practitioners and one from the Senior Minister.
3. From the beginning of the third year until the end of the fifth year following non-renewal, the individual must complete the requirements of Section J-2, above; apply for an interim license for one (1) year; pay applicable fees; and
 - a. Be an active, loyal and supporting member of a UCSL community member organization for a minimum of twelve (12) months immediately prior to application and during the

Interim license year. For definition of the terms "active, loyal and supporting" see Appendix A.

b. During the interim license year, undertake a personalized course of study, which may include Professional Practitioner courses and which is supervised by the sponsoring Minister.

c. Abide by the Professional Practitioner Code at all times.

d. Satisfactorily complete the interviews and oral panel for licensing as required of all new UCSL Practitioners.

4. After five years, the license is declared void. To be reinstated, the applicant must repeat Practitioner I and II training in its entirety, including all tests, oral panels and licensing procedures required of new applicants.

5. An individual whose Practitioner license has been suspended as a result of disciplinary action must seek reinstatement in accordance with the Professional Standards Policies and Procedures Manual.

Section K: Endangered Licenses

1. A Professional Practitioner convicted of a felony shall have her/his license revoked immediately.

2. A Professional Practitioner subject to disciplinary action may have her/his license suspended. (See Article VII, below.)

3. Failure to give full cooperation to the Professional Standards process may result in a permanent revocation of a Professional Practitioner license. (See Article VII, below)

Article VI: Specialized Service

Section A: Practitioner Emeritus

A Practitioner Emeritus is an honorary recognition granted by the United Center for Spiritual Living. A Practitioner Emeritus is recognized as a Professional Practitioner in good standing for life, with all the rights and privileges of a fully licensed Professional Practitioner without the necessity of fulfilling renewal requirements. To achieve this recognition the Professional Practitioner must:

1. Be in service for twenty (20) years as an active Professional Practitioner; and,
2. Be recommended by his/her Minister.

Section B: Youth Practitioner

A Youth Practitioner is one who has completed all the requirements for becoming a Professional Practitioner but who is not yet over the age of eighteen (18). GEMS shall decide whether to grant the title of Youth Practitioner on a case-by-case basis. The International Youth and Family Ministry of UCSL has established the following parameters for potential Youth Practitioners:

1. The minimum age for enrolling in Professional Practitioner I class is 16.
2. Youth is defined as ages 13 through 18.
3. Youth Practitioners may counsel only other youth as Professional Practitioners.
4. Youth Practitioners may be paid for their professional services notwithstanding individual state laws. Upon reaching the age of eighteen (18) a Youth Practitioner automatically becomes a licensed Professional Practitioner with all the rights, privileges and responsibilities as described in this Code.

Section C: Special Focus Ministry

Wherever the term “spiritual community” is used in this Code, it includes Special Focus Ministries (SFM). A Professional Practitioner may, with his/her sponsoring Minister’s approval, serve in a SFM. A SFM Ministry is any ministry that furthers the teachings and principles of Science of Mind through forms other than regular spiritual community pulpit ministries, and that is consistent with the mission and purpose of UCSL. SFMs must have the following three elements: It must have a UCSL Minister as the spiritual leader. It must be organized with UCSL approved bylaws. It must have a signed spiritual community covenant with UCSL.

Section D: Outreach Practitioner

An Outreach Practitioner is a Professional Practitioner who works mostly outside of a local UCSL spiritual community, performing sacred service and undertaking ministries, chaplaincies and/or other programs that serve the larger community and that represent Science of Mind and the Global Heart at work in the world. Most of the CLUs earned by an Outreach Practitioner will be in activities which are not part of the ecclesiastical program of a local UCSL spiritual community, but which are still in alignment with Appendix A of this Code.

A Professional Practitioner may elect to be recognized as an Outreach Practitioner as a result of physical distance from the local spiritual community, or because of a calling to work in spiritual service areas in the larger community. These circumstances may prevent the Practitioner from fully participating in the ecclesiastical program(s) of the local

spiritual community. When a Professional Practitioner elects to be an Outreach Practitioner, he/she must:

1. Identify a UCSL Minister and spiritual community who will sponsor the outreach activity. Sponsoring means, at a minimum, recognizing the outreach activities of the Practitioner as meeting the requirements of being an "active, loyal, and supporting" member of that community by representing it in the larger community. (See Appendix A) The sponsoring Minister acknowledges that much of the Practitioner's work is not part of the local ecclesiastical program(s), and that the local requirements of Practitioners are not fully applicable to the Outreach Practitioner. The sponsoring Minister accepts that the work of the Outreach Practitioner is in consonance with the activities defined in Appendix B of this Code for accumulating CLUs for license renewal.
2. Notify GEMS of the election to be designated as an Outreach Practitioner of the sponsoring local spiritual community and/or Minister.
3. Satisfy all the requirements of Article V for License Renewal, with the exceptions that (a) the "active, loyal and supporting" criterion is satisfied by representing the local spiritual community in outreach activities, and (b) many, if not all, of the CLUs have been earned outside of the local spiritual community.

Section E. Global Heart Practitioner

Global Heart Practitioner is a special designation assigned to a Professional Practitioner who upon meeting specific qualifications may hold his/her license through UCSL Home Office. This designation is granted on a case-by-case basis with qualifications to be determined by GEMS based on the individual Practitioner and the individual situation. Only the Ecclesiastical Core Coordinator of UCSL can recommend a Professional Practitioner for the Global Heart Practitioner designation.

Article VII: Conflict Resolution

Section A: Professional Standards and Policy and Procedures Manual

UCSL requires high standards of professional conduct from all Ministers and Professional Practitioners. The CSL and CORE Council, or their designees, are empowered and responsible for enforcing adherence to the UCSL bylaws and codes (Education, Ministerial, and Practitioner), and The Professional Standards

Policies and Procedures Manual details the entire process of handling allegations, or perceived allegations, of any Code violation(s). The Professional Standards Policies and Procedures Manual can be obtained from GEMS.

Section B: Informal Options for Guidance and Support

We recognize there is a spiritual solution for every problem. Any appearance of conflict or disagreement between a Professional Practitioner and a Minister, other Practitioner, the local spiritual community or its Board of Trustees, the CORE Council, or UCSL can be an opportunity to grow spiritually. By acknowledging that conflict is revealing a sense of separation that can be healed, we commit ourselves more than ever to our inner work during these times. As Practitioners we are trained to use the healing modality of prayer; we pray to solve problems. We use our skills in meditation, spiritual mind treatment and visioning to become clear about the issues, the people involved, and the importance of the matter to all parties. As we become clearer, we gain a higher level of trust: trust in ourselves, trust in the Ministers and Practitioners with whom we work, and trust in Spirit to guide us.

We may seek assistance and counsel from another Professional Practitioner to remind ourselves of the basic Religious Science principles of Oneness and Wholeness. We use these principles to create a space of acceptance, empathy, and forgiveness within us. When we meet with the person with whom we are in conflict, we approach that person in an attitude of compassion, honesty and love. We explain ourselves and our perceptions and feelings, clearly knowing we are being guided to a resolution that is for the highest good of all concerned. We respectfully and actively listen to the other person as they speak their truth. We conscientiously work with the other person to come to a harmonious and fair resolution of our situation.

We do not engage in gossip about the person with whom we experience conflict, nor do we complain to others about our grievances with that person. Other than the individual with whom we are in conflict, we communicate only to those persons, such as our chosen Professional Practitioner, our Minister, or our Ecclesiastical Representative, who will respect the confidentiality of the situation and who are in a position to help us achieve spiritual recognition and harmonious outcome.

Section C: Formal Options for Resolution

In cases where a Professional Practitioner becomes aware of a violation of the Practitioner Code or Ministerial Code and cannot resolve the situation with the individual Practitioner or Minister through the use of spiritual counseling, treatment, or visioning, the Practitioner may go beyond local resources by requesting mediation or by filing formal charges of Code violation.

1. **Mediation.** Conflict mediation and nurturing are available through the Ecclesiastical Representatives (ERs). While mediation does not replace the process of filing charges against those who allegedly have violated Code, Practitioners are encouraged to request such mediation prior to filing formal allegations. Assistance from ERs aids in resolving disputes and differences. The ERs may assist in determining which matters lend themselves to mediation and when formal charges should be filed according to the Professional Standards and Policies and Procedures Manual.

2. **Formal Charges of Code Violation.** If the informal sources of guidance and support described in Section B above fail to resolve a conflict, and (a) one or both parties are not open to mediation, or (b) if mediation also fails to resolve the conflict, then one or more parties to the conflict may file charges of Code violation with the UCSL Professional Standards Core. This should be considered an action of last resort, and, when formal charges of Code violation have been filed, all Professional Practitioners who have become parties to the complaint must fully cooperate with the provisions of the Professional Standards and Policies and Procedures Manual. The Professional Standards Core can be contacted through the GEMS office of UCSL.

Section D: Ecclesiastical Representatives

ERs are ordained Ministers appointed by the Community Spiritual Leader to represent UCSL as they engage in relationship with the people and spiritual communities that comprise UCSL in the world. The intention of ERs is to offer and provide all spiritual community members – Ministers, Practitioners and laity – a safe and open environment for honest communication and support. Remaining anchored in visioning and prayer, ERs act as liaisons between spiritual communities and Home Office. They are committed to performing their functions and activities with integrity, love, compassion, knowledge and spiritual truth, and to act always in service for the highest and best of all concerned.

The ERs are dedicated to implementing the Global Heart Vision throughout the United Church Community. They serve in a variety of capacities, but for the purposes of this Article of the Professional Practitioner Code, their most pertinent role is to provide a healing presence in spiritual communities experiencing difficulties. Ecclesiastical Representatives welcome your requests for listening, prayer, guidance, and referral in times of concern, challenge, or conflict within a spiritual community.

Contact information for the Ecclesiastical Representatives can be found on the UCSL website: <http://www.religiousscience.org>

APPENDICES

Appendix A

Active, Loyal and Supporting

The Minister(s) and Professional Practitioner(s) are the ecclesiastic team of the spiritual community; as such, they work together to cultivate a spirit of wisdom and mutual appreciation and trust. The Professional Practitioner shares a sacred leadership with the Minister as co-creators guided by a divine ideal, united by visioning, and leading from principle.

The active, loyal and supporting Professional Practitioner is enthusiastically involved in the events of the spiritual community both as a Professional Practitioner and as fellow member of the congregation. S/he appreciates and honors the leadership of the Minister and Board of Trustees or CORE Council; understands his/her role as a model of Science of Mind principles in action; and is aware of and cares about the healing and spiritual growth of individuals, the spiritual community and the community at large. With a loving heart and a commitment to the Highest Good, the active, loyal and supporting Professional Practitioner offers time, talent, creative expression and verifiable financial support with a tithing consciousness to his/her spiritual community.

Active, loyal and supporting Professional Practitioners endeavor to maintain harmonious and respectful relationships with the Ministers, the Practitioners, and the communities in which they serve. These relationships are characterized by open communication and willingness to collaborate for mutual growth and understanding.

Definitions

Active: Attends church frequently and frequently participates in the life of the spiritual community. Often or regularly assists in the programs and events Professional Practitioners provide for the spiritual community. Where frequent church attendance may be challenging, the Professional Practitioner uses initiative in finding creative outlets for his/her sacred service in the community and works with her/his Minister to develop such outreach.

Loyal: Holds the best and highest interests of the spiritual community always in mind. Encourages and acts to promote harmony and oneness within the community of Minister(s), fellow Professional Practitioners, and members. A Professional Practitioner's loyalty is healthy, balanced, grounded in Truth, and congruent with the Shared Values and Guiding Principles of UCSL.

Supporting: Gives financially, in an identifiable manner, to the spiritual community with a tithing consciousness. It also means asking, "What can I do for my spiritual community?" to assure its harmony, growth and spiritual integrity.

Appendix B

Continuing Licensing Units (CLUs) and Continuing Educational Units (CEUs) For Professional Practitioners

The purpose of CLUs and CEUs is two-fold. First and foremost, they encourage the continued deepening of the Professional Practitioner's consciousness of healing. Second, they acknowledge the Professional Practitioner for furthering the awareness, skills and service that both deepen consciousness and better serve humanity.

Any combination of CLUs totaling 250 every two years from at least two different categories listed under the CLU section is required for license renewal. The requirement for 35 CEUs in each two-year renewal period is distinct from CLUs in order that Professional Practitioners honor the ongoing enrichment of their spiritual growth and professionalism.

CEUs must be chosen from the section entitled "Continuing Education Units." Please remember, as stated in "How to Use This Code" on page 6, *"...if an activity is not mentioned in the Code, that doesn't mean it can't be done or is forbidden.* Practitioners are encouraged to use visioning and their own divine intelligence to work with Ministers to create sacred service that delights their hearts, fulfills their self-expression, and creates a positive influence in their clients' lives." This concept is also true for earning CEUs and CLUs. Practitioners and Ministers can work together to determine what other forms of activities may earn units for relicensing.

Continuing Licensing Units (CLUs)

1. Treatment/Prayer

- a. Vigil of Prayer/Ministry of Prayer/High Watch or similar activity at church, conferences, conventions, classes or small groups 1 per hour. At conferences and conventions from midnight to 6:00 A.M. 3 per hour
- b. World Ministry of Prayer 2 per hour. Midnight to 6:00 A.M. weekdays and all hours on Saturday/Sunday 3 per hour
- c. Private client session 2 per hour

2. Teaching: Certificated UCSL classes, non-certificated classes, workshops, seminars and authorized UCSL Study Groups

- a. Create and prepare workshop or class to be presented 5 per hour

- b. Preparation for presentation of existing class 2 per hour
 - c. Presentation of existing class 2 per hour
 - d. Class assistant, attendance and preparation 2 per hour
 - e. Youth and Family ministries 2 per hour
3. Published (or accepted) Materials related to SOM Principles
- a. Book 100 each
 - b. SOM Magazine meditations 3 per day
 - c. Magazine articles 15 each
 - d. Professional audio or video tapes 100 each
 - e. Song or poetry 15 each
4. Attendance/Participation
- a. Service leader in absence of Minister 10 per service
 - b. Service assistance (any duty) 5 per service
5. Professional Activities
- a. Visitations: hospital, convalescent home, hospice, jail, etc. 2 per service hour
 - b. Guest speaker: preparing and presenting 25 per event
 - c. Serving in other areas of the spiritual community; e.g., Board of Trustees, Committee chairperson, Special Events Coordinator, Visioning Team, Special Study Groups, etc. 1 per service hour
 - d. Funerals and Memorials: preparing and presenting 25 per event
 - e. Small group facilitator; e.g., Foundation Class small groups, etc. 2 per service hour
 - f. Ritual Blessing Ceremonies, e.g., New Home, New Baby 3 per event
 - g. Community Service: Determined by Minister; Such activities are for the general purpose of taking SOM principles into the world to

raise consciousness; to bring peace and harmony to the planet; or to provide caring and ministry to the troubled. Examples include suicide hot lines, Battered Women's Shelters; tutoring/mentoring programs for children, Meals on Wheels, etc.

h. Assisting in other area UCSL local spiritual communities as Professional Practitioner, teacher, study group leader, etc. See appropriate listing

Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

1. Seeing a Professional Practitioner as a client 3 per hour
2. Classes: college courses, Holmes Institute classes, or other institutional classes approved by the Minister that would increase the professionalism or consciousness of the Practitioner. Successful completion of the course is required. 1 per hour. Maximum 30 units
3. Attending workshops, seminars, retreats or educational conferences 1 per hour. Maximum 6 units per day journey.

Appendix C

Documented Demonstrations

The purpose of requiring documented demonstrations at the time of re-licensing is so that each Practitioner will pause and take the time to be aware of the healing work that is accomplished by the use of spiritual mind treatment and the principles taught by Ernest Holmes. Spiritual mind treatment is the very basis of Religious Science teachings.

Two documented demonstrations are required for renewal of the Practitioner's license as follows:

1. One documentation is to be the result of the Practitioner's own demonstration that occurred as a direct result of spiritual mind treatment for self.
2. The second demonstration must be the result of spiritual mind treatment for another person or a client in one of the following ways:
 - a. The Practitioner may write an account of the demonstration as related by the person/client without disclosing the person/client's name. This type of documentation does not require written permission of the person/client for submission.
 - b. The Practitioner may submit a testimonial, personal thank you note, or other written acknowledgement from the person/client. This type of documentation *requires written permission* from the client. The written permission does not need to be submitted with the documentation, but must be retained in the Practitioner's files.
 - c. The Practitioner may write an account of a specific situation for which s/he joined with others in using spiritual mind treatment to achieve a common goal, e.g., a group project for the community, specific fundraising initiatives, successful special events, implementing new programs, Ministry of Prayer healings, etc.

Regardless of which type of documentation a Practitioner uses, the documented demonstrations are submitted to the Practitioner's sponsoring Minister for review and approval along with all of the other renewal forms. However, the documented demonstrations are not sent to GEMS, but are either retained in the Practitioner's file by the sponsoring Minister or are returned to the Practitioner for safekeeping.

Addendum 01-11-06

Article V: Licensing

Section K: Endangered Licenses

A Professional Practitioner convicted of a felony will have her/his license suspended immediately upon conviction. Upon a finding of facts and analysis of the Professional Practitioner's case by the Professional Standards Committee (See UCSL Professional Standards Policies and Procedures Manual: Section Four Hearings), the committee may reinstate, suspend or revoke the Professional Practitioner's license. Should the Professional Standards Committee decide to suspend or revoke his/her license, the Professional Practitioner may appeal that decision. (See UCSL Professional Standards Policies and Procedures Manual: Section Six Appeals).

Global Heart Practitioner Code Language Changes **Approved by the CORE Council on November 17, 2005**

Article VI

Section E: Global Heart Practitioner

Global Heart Practitioner is a special designation assigned to a Professional Practitioner who upon meeting specific qualifications may hold his/her license through UCSL Home Office. The Global Heart Practitioner designation is intended to acknowledge Ernest Holmes' original idea that Practitioners do not only serve in Religious Science churches, but in some cases go into the churches of other denominations to share the teachings of Science of Mind. It also opens new possibilities for Practitioners and Religious Science to be present in the world beyond the limitations of serving through a church and thus expands potential contact with spiritual seekers who may never attend a church. This designation may be applied when that of Outreach Practitioner (see Article VI, Section D) does not adequately support the work of the Practitioner's ministry. For example, a Global Heart Practitioner may work as a staff member of the UCSL Home Office. Because the circumstances that may give rise to the need for a Global Heart Practitioner are diverse and, by their nature, out of the ordinary, this designation is granted on a case-by-case basis.

To apply for the designation of Global Heart Practitioner a Practitioner must be licensed for a minimum of two (2) years and have gone through at least one license renewal process. Exceptions to the renewal qualification may be considered by the Community Spiritual Leader and Ecclesiastical

Core Coordinator. The Ecclesiastical Core Coordinator of UCSL grants or denies the designation of Global Heart Practitioner using the following process:

- 1) The Practitioner must complete and submit to the UCSL Ecclesiastical Core Coordinator the application for Global Heart Practitioner designation that may be obtained from the UCSL website www.religiousscience.org.**
- 2) The Ecclesiastical Core Coordinator and the Ecclesiastical Representatives together evaluate the merit and potential success of the applicant's proposal.**
- 3) The Ecclesiastical Representatives and the Ecclesiastical Core Coordinator reach consensus regarding the proposal. Global Heart Practitioners serving at Home Office will be monitored by the Ecclesiastical Core Coordinator, who also evaluates the Practitioner for renewal. Global Heart Practitioners serving outside of Home Office will be monitored by their appropriate Ecclesiastical Representative, who will evaluate the Practitioner for renewal.**

Appendix D
Approved February 2006 by UCSL CORE Council
Policy for Practitioners of any Future
Disaffiliating Spiritual Community

All active licensed Practitioners of a disaffiliating spiritual community will be given a one year transition period beginning on a date to be determined by the Community Spiritual Leader and the Ecclesiastical Core Coordinator.

Within the year's transition period all Practitioners with active licenses are eligible to:

1. Transfer their licenses to and become members of other UCSL covenanted spiritual communities

2. Apply for the status of Global Heart Practitioner, a new designation established in the 2004 Practitioner Code under Article VI, Section E. An application, available from the UCSL website www.religiousscience.org under the GEMS button, is required to request the Global Heart designation.

If a Practitioner does not choose and successfully implement one of these two options within the designated transition period, his/her UCSL license will become inactive.

Any Practitioner student who completes his/her course of licensing study through the disaffiliating community will be considered a full-fledged member of that community with no direct relationship to the UCSL Practitioner Training Program. These Practitioners may apply to transfer their licenses to UCSL according to the guidelines in the UCSL Practitioner Code under Article V, Section G: Licensing RSI and Independent Church Transfers.