

GLOBAL HEART EXAM STUDY GUIDE
UNITED CENTERS FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING
Organization Design Model

The “External” Vision and Mission Statements (from the 2000 Convention):
We inspire and serve our local and global community in spiritual evolution. We support individuals in their personal growth and spiritual transformation.

The “Internal” Vision and Mission Statements (from the 2000 Convention):
We are a global presence and resource for spiritual awakening. We implement our vision with the highest levels of service and professional excellence.

- **Our Vision**

- **Key Elements within The “Global Heart” Vision:**

- Whereas in this information age the “global brain” has become an operative reality, we envision the emergence of the Global Heart to balance and guide the further evolution of humanity.

- We see a world free of homelessness, violence, war, hunger, separation and disenfranchisement.

- We see a world in which there is generous and continuous sharing of heart and resources.. .a world in which forgiveness, whether for errors, injustices, or debts, is the norm.. .a world in which borders are irrelevant. .a world which has renewed its emphasis on beauty, nature and love through a resurgence of creativity, art, and aesthetics ... a world in which fellowship prospers and connects through the guidance of spiritual wisdom and experience ... a world in which we live and grow as One Human Family.

- The spiritual community of “United Centers for Spiritual Living” is united and actuated by this compelling vision of a healthy world — a world experiencing Global Heart -- and is ardently committed to bringing this vision forth through its ministries and its transformative teaching. We envision “UCSL” as a bridge across the illness and illusion of separation thereby dynamically empowering the vision of Global Heart. “UCSL” is 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”**

- **Key Elements Within The “Global Heart” Mission:**

- “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.

Shared Values and Guiding Principles

OUR SHARED VALUES:

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

Our Proposal for Further Articulation of our Shared Values:

- **Safety:** A climate emerges in which all are encouraged to reach out to help and be helped; a climate conducive to honest reflection, change and growth; a safe haven where our assistance programs and support efforts flourish. (This further articulates the values of caring and compassion)
- **Diversity and Inclusivity:** Diversity is appreciated and inclusivity is practiced. (This also further articulates the values of caring and compassion.)
- **Growth:** Growth is envisioned as a core value for individuals, churches and centers, and our entire Spiritual Community experiences a resurgence of vitality and initiatives for expansion. With our emphasis shifting from politics, separation, power strategies, and contentiousness to spiritual community and growth, we envision ourselves as a “learning organization”, continually cultivating a flow of realizations that inspire continual enhancements and evolution.
- **Prosperity:** Through the richness of our teaching and its application, we value the experience and expression of prosperity as a means to provide resources to empower our vision and mission. The consciousness and practice of tithing becomes joyous spiritual practice for our Spiritual Community, as a whole, and for every affiliated church, center and community.

Our Guiding Principles:

Science of Mind Treatment; Visioning; Co-creation

Leaders as Vision facilitators

Congruence

Accountability

Team work

Open communication

Our Proposal for Guiding Principles to Empower our Shared Values:

- **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. We propose that vision teams operate at the center of our community and within each activity, group, program and ministry. We propose that the offices of minister and practitioner coordinate the function of discerning and representing our pathway through these practices.
- **Leaders as Vision Facilitators:** As a guiding principle, we propose that leadership at all levels must be 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 the pathway, Furthermore, our leadership involves as many as possible in service to the vision and continually cultivates more leaders.
- **Congruence:** The proposed guiding principle of congruence suggests 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.
- **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.
- **Teamwork:** At all levels, we work together to achieve our goals and to develop an ever richer, more involved and impactful Community.
- **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.

Spiritual Leaders for the Community

- **Community Spiritual Leader (CSL):** We propose that the key leader for the Community be designated as the Community Spiritual Leader (CSL); that this be a paid, full time position; and that the role of the CSL be significantly expanded beyond that of our current President.
 - **Role of the Community Spiritual Leader:**
 - To bring spiritual wisdom, charisma, purpose and light to our Community
 - To serve as our spokesperson to the world and to be present at major events
 - To share, articulate and stimulate the Vision and Mission
 - To be instrumental in forming and maintaining strategic alliances and to remain current on creative initiatives and innovations on the world scene that may affect or present opportunities for the Community to synthesize declarations and papers on the stands and viewpoints of the Community on key social or global issues
 - To participate in designing shared global or community service projects
 - To appoint the coordinator of the Visioning Core and to serve on the Visioning Core
 - To participate in the deliberations of the CORE Council
 - To recommend to the Core Council the hiring of the Director of the Partnership Program and to interface with this director and with the Ecclesiastical Mentors; to determine the number and location of Ecclesiastical Mentors and to appoint same. To supervise and coordinate the activities of the four Core Coordinators (see Fulfillment Structure)
 - **Qualifications of CSL:** an ordained minister for at least seven years, having served as a senior minister or key program director; deep spiritual commitment and maturity; strong verbal, communication and organizational skills; able to delegate and provide strong leadership; able to collaborate and create alliances within and outside the Community; visionary; excellence in representing our Community in the world.
 - **Term:** five-year term and may succeed themselves
 - **Election:** The Nominating Team of the Community shall present a nominee or slate or nominees for the CSL who shall be elected by a simple majority of appropriate gatherings.
 - **Support:** The CSL shall be supported by a staff and shall receive compensation as determined by the Council.

Community Youth Leader (CYL): To further emphasize the importance of the youth in our Community and world, we propose that the office of Community Youth Leader (CYL) be established.

- **Role of Community Youth Leader:**
 - Represent our Community and youth in the world and at major events

- Represent and advocate regarding youth viewpoints in Community unfoldment
- Speak and facilitate at youth camps and events as possible
- Create strategic youth alliances as possible
- Participate on the Visioning Core Chair of the “Youth Council”

Qualifications of CYL: a youth up to age 21, and a member of a church or group within the Community; educated in the principles of our teaching; demonstrated leadership in local and Community-wide youth programs; letters of recommendation from the minister of their church, from two adults and from two youth within the Community.

- **Term:** one year, and may succeed themselves only once; thereafter may serve as mentor to the youth council and to other Community Youth Leaders,
- **Election:** at the Youth National Camp.
- **Support:** The Community Youth Leader shall receive an expense stipend to be determined and allocated by the Council

Annual Gatherings

Gatherings of representatives of the total community would be held annually at various locations as chosen by those voting at the gatherings. The emphasis for the gatherings would be upon inspiration, education and deepening, sharing and testimony, music and rejoicing, recruitment for key projects within the Community and in the world, and the renewing of commitment for our Vision and Mission. Business processes would be kept to an absolute minimum. We envision our Community moving out of the competitiveness of regionalism and politics, out of the doldrums of procedures and morass of by-laws. We envision a climate of love, safety, trust, enthusiasm and an absolute reliance upon the guidance of Spirit.

- **Key Organizational Activities**
Key organizational activities would include the election of members of the CORE Council, the Nominating Team, the Visioning Core and, in certain years, the election of the Community Spiritual Leader. In these elections, each church, center, or community affiliated with the United Centers for Spiritual Living would be allowed one vote representing the consensus of its practitioners. and one vote representing the consensus of the lay community members. The Wisdom Council would have one vote representing the consensus of the retired ministers. The United Clergy of Religious Science would have one vote representing the consensus of its membership. It is envisioned that these votes would be determined at educational caucuses occurring in each church, center, community or group prior to the gatherings. Another key organizational focus for the gatherings would be the reports of the CORE Council on the preceding and current year operational directions and plan.
- **At the Gatherings:** the Chair of the CORE Council would preside over business processes. The Community Spiritual Leader, or their designee, would preside over all other sessions.

The Visioning Core

The "Visioning Core" receives visioning and co-creation input from teams throughout the Community and melds this into a unified direction, a core vision, which will constitute our evolving pathway. The visioning core recommends the most timely and spiritually indicated next steps for our Spiritual Community. A coordinator of this visioning core, appointed by the Community Spiritual Leader from its membership, would convene the visioning and synthesis sessions. Note: It should be remembered that visioning teams would be in place in every department, activity, ministry and function of the community and would channel their input into this core.

- **Composition:** (11) Our Community Spiritual Leader, our Community Youth Leader, plus three ministers (each ordained for at least three years), three practitioners (each licensed for at least three years) and three laity who have demonstrated significant involvement in their church or center, as well as within the Community at large.
- **Terms:** The three ministers, three practitioners and three laity would be elected to three-year terms at the annual gatherings of the Community and may be reelected to one successive term.
- **Qualifications:** Commitment to the Vision; impartial, having no agendas; able to go beyond precedent and history and into possibilities; spiritual maturity; experienced in visioning and co-creation processes and dedicated to being sensitive to the impress of Spirit.

The C.O.R.E. Council

The "C.O.R.E. Council" (from an acronym meaning Consciousness of Reality Evolving) would serve a function similar, yet not identical, to a corporate board of trustees. It is the final decision making body for the Community. It's most important role would be to take the input flowing from the Visioning, Stewardship and Manifestation Cores and synthesize them into a clear direction and operational plan for the Community. The Council would deal with issues of timing, application of resources, as well as with the overall health and unfoldment of the Community. The Chair of the Council and its other officers would be selected from its voting membership. The Community Spiritual Leader would be a voting member of the council. The CORE Council would meet at least bimonthly to facilitate the business and unfoldment of the Community. At each annual gathering, the CORE Council would share the results of the operational plan for the year just completed and receives input on the directions and plan for the year ahead.

- **Composition:** (11) — the Community Spiritual Leader, plus two ministers (ordained for at least five years), one practitioner (licensed for at least five years), and three lay community members who have demonstrated significant involvement in their church or center, as well as within the Community at large; the four Core Coordinators serve as ex-officio, advisory, voting members.
- **Election:** by community members at the annual gatherings from a slate prepared by the Nominating Team of the Community.
- **Additional qualifications for the six elected members:** supremely experienced in the philosophy and functioning of the community; spiritual maturity; specialized or highly developed gifts and talents essential to the guidance of the Community; excellent business or organizational acumen; impartial, serving the welfare and advancement of the entire Community rather than partisan representation of any groups or special interests.

Nominating Team

A nominating team would serve the Community on an ongoing basis. The role of this team would be to seek out the most highly qualified nominees to fill each available position within the organizational model of the Community. It is envisioned that this team would bring great prayer, visioning and scrutiny to its deliberations, thus providing the Community with nominees, or slates of nominees, most gifted and prepared for their proposed service. The team would provide nominees or slates of nominees, for members of the CORE Council, the Nominating Team, the Visioning Core and, in certain years, the Community Spiritual Leader. A report on nominations for all offices would be submitted to the Community at least 90 days prior to each gathering. No nominations would be taken from the floor of the gatherings, however write-in nominations could be submitted to the team up to 60 days prior to gatherings. Such nominations would only be presented to Community members at the gathering were the write-in nominees found to meet all qualifications.

- **Composition:** (10) - two ministers (ordained for at least five years) and one minister from the visioning core; two practitioners (licensed for at least five years) and one practitioner from the visioning core; and four lay community members who have demonstrated significant involvement for at least five years in their church or center, as well as within the Community at large
- **Terms:** The two Visioning Core members (one minister and one practitioner) would serve one- year terms only; all other members would serve two-year terms that would be staggered so that half would be replaced each year; members of the nominating team may be elected to one successive term.
- **Additional Qualifications:** Track record of significant involvement in the organizational functioning of the Community; spiritual maturity; impartial, serving the welfare and advancement of the entire Community rather than partisan representation of any groups or special interests.
- **Support:** The expenses of the Nominating Team would be provided for in the budgets approved by the CORE Council.

Partnership Program

One of the most exciting and potentially powerful aspects of this model is the Partnership Program. This ongoing program places responsibility for the nurturing of evolving or fledgling churches or groups that are vital and well established. It is a model for growth and development of our groups and for the circulating of our wealth of knowledge, insight and resources. Rather than a home office or a small group of beleaguered ecclesiastical officers being charged with fulfilling this function, the total Community would embrace this role.

Each established church or center would commit to supporting and mentoring at least one fledgling or evolving group. Some stronger groups might work with several groups. Smaller churches or centers might team together in the support of a group. A supporting church might elect to foster a brand new group in a strategically chosen area of the country or world.

The supporting churches or centers would take the mentored church “under their wing,” establishing an in depth and loving relationship. A set of agreements and commitments would be developed clarifying the roles and responsibilities of both the supporting and mentored group. The supporting group or church would provide a reasonable amount of financial aid, along with board support, ministerial guidance, and access to technology, special programs, speakers, marketing, practitioner support, prayer partnerships and other invaluable resources. Once a mentored church or group has progressed to a point of strength and readiness, it would then join the ranks of supporting churches/groups and mentor an evolving or fledgling group. Such a model, when perfected and implemented, holds the

possibility for creating a geometric growth phenomenon for our movement It also delivers resources and support in an efficient and more direct manner.

A paid Director would coordinate this Partnership Program with guidance from the Community Spiritual Leader. The Director would also work with Ecclesiastical Mentors established in various areas to monitor the effectiveness of the group pairings and to further network resources discovered throughout the Community. These Mentors would be ministers in established churches or groups appointed by the Community Spiritual Leader. It should be at the discretion of the CSL to determine the amounts and locations of these Ecclesiastical Mentors. A training program would be developed to prepare the Mentors for their role. The Director and Mentors would encourage adherence to the Vision and Mission, values and guiding principles, and enlist the assistance of the Mediation and Peacemaking Team should conflict resolution be required. The Community Spiritual Leader, Director and Mentors would develop and evolve all agreements and policies guiding the program so that true progress is being achieved while also insuring that the evolving or fledgling groups are contributing meaningfully and appropriately to their own growth as well as to the unfoldment of the Community.

The Director and Mentors would also work to discern strategically powerful sites for new works.

This partnership Program is envisioned to produce a community that is truly a healthy family. The Community would care for the challenges and possibilities of all its members and greatly enhance the sensitivity and responsiveness of efforts to support and empower our groups.

The Practice of Visioning

Prepared by Rev. Don V. Morgan

*Let yourself be Silently drawn
By the stronger pull
Of what you really love*
Rumi

Why Do Visioning?

Visioning is the core practice that we are now choosing as a way to revitalize our Religious Science movement. Our ability to practice visioning together and in each of our communities will help us to find more aligned ways to work together, deepen our spiritual relationship, and better serve the world.

Visioning is a powerful way to discern a path of action that achieves results far beyond what was thought possible before.

What is Visioning? Visioning is the practice of aligning ourselves with Divine Wisdom. Rev. Michael Beckwith says, "Visioning is a process by which we train ourselves to be able to hear, feel, see, and catch God's plan for our life or for any particular project we're working on." At the core of visioning is our ability to deepen and act upon our increasing faith, rather than becoming lost in our doingness. It is a practice that always is for our self transformation.

Some Ways To Do a Visioning

Everyone can do visioning. The best way to vision is the way that works for you. Your discovery of how you make visioning work for you and your community is more powerful than following a particular form. The power in visioning is in the way it is practiced in your community. It is not a short term technique but a lifetime practice which should take place during every meeting and gathering. Below are two forms of visioning that you might try.

First Example: The Agape Visioning Process

This is a meditative process which aligns the participant with God's vision for a specific purpose. It is developed by Rev. Michael Beckwith. The leader can do a visioning by using the following steps.

1. State the purpose for the visioning time. Then lead into meditation by:
2. Become still in body and mind in preparation for going into the silence within.
3. Anchor the process in unconditional love.
4. Ask, "What is the vision that God sees for this?" "What does it look, sound, feel like?" "What are the qualities of God as expressed through this vision?" Leave silent time after each question.
5. Ask, "What is my part in this vision" "What is it I can know?" "What is it I can realize?" Leave silent time after each question. Avoid using the word "do" at this time as it puts the mind to work thinking rather than receiving.
6. Ask, "What is the gift I bring to this vision?" Be in silence.
7. Ask, "What do I need to release in order to be this vision?" "What do I need to embrace in order to be this vision?" Silent time.
8. Surrender to the vision.
9. Commit to the vision. After coming out of the meditation, each person shares what they received and the responses can be written down. Visioning on a regular basis is a powerful way to create. The number of people is less important than the commitment to the process.

Second Example: The Spiritual Discernment Visioning Process

This visioning process involves the asking of a powerful question. The leader can follow the steps below.

1. Do treatment/prayer for the ability to be aligned with Spirit.
2. State the purpose for the visioning. (Example we are here to choose a new president of the board)
3. Guide the participants into a meditative and still place while affirming the oneness and closeness of Spirit right now.
4. Explain that a question will be asked and there will be a few moments of silence to align with Spirit and discern God's Wisdom in the form of an idea, picture, feeling, symbol, etc.
5. Ask a powerful question. The question needs to be open at the top," being free of personal agenda and open to as yet unknown possibilities. (Example - "Who has the vision, skills, and heart to best lead our community as president of the board?")
6. Give thanks and gratitude for the Divine Wisdom given.
7. Share what was discovered together.