

The Circle of the Sacred Grove
Temple of the Old Religion
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The following is a list of bylaws as compiled by the Leadership of The Circle of the Sacred Grove, Temple of the Old Religion. (aka Church of the Old Religion). The Circle of the Sacred Grove is a non-profit religious organization registered in the state of Ohio and holding 501(c) (3) status with the Federal Government. **Our roots are in the Circean line of the Romano-Celtic Tradition and are a derivative of the religious form called Wicca. Wicca includes the practice of Witchcraft and the Craft.**

- I. This document was unanimously ratified by the Leadership of the Circle of the Sacred Grove Temple of the Old Religion on Feb. 22, 2022, This document supersedes, subsumes, and replaces all previously dated and/or updated, genuine or purported documents that chronicle bylaws for the Circle of the Sacred Grove Temple of the Old Religion and/or the Circle of the Sacred Grove Church of the Old Religion.
- II. Members of The Circle of the Sacred Grove are required to understand and follow the teachings as given by its founders, teachers, and other sources approved of by the Leadership of the Circle of the Sacred Grove. At no time may any member bring unnecessary attention or harmful attention to the Temple, its members, or to the craft itself. It is required that all members keep within the balance of nature and obey and respect all civil laws of the city, state, and country. Any member that does not comply by these laws and the bylaws of The Circle of the Sacred Grove will be brought before the Leadership of the Coven for intervention. Corrective action that will result varies based on the severity of the offense.
 1. Verbal counseling
 2. Write warning
 3. Sabbatical- involuntary
 4. Banishment/Warlocking
- III. Active members will have an opportunity to have their voices heard in biannual coven meetings.
- IV. Each dedicated member must understand and abide by the Laws of the Land, "Wiccan Rede", and follow the "Path of Light" and the "Thirteen Magickal Oaths" as set forth and instructed by The Circle of the Sacred Grove. (See Appendices A-C)
- V. Members will carry a status of active or inactive. Only active members are able to lead rituals, teach classes, and/or hold a Temple office. Members that are training for the clergy must attend classes and meet other requirements to reach the degree desired.
- VI. The Circle of the Sacred Grove recognizes eight Sabbats of celebration throughout the year. The eight Sabbats are referred to as "The Wheel of the Year". The Wheel of the Year consists of two types of Sabbats; "Greater Sabbats", of which there are four; and "Lesser Sabbats" of which there are four. These eight Sabbats are listed in their proper order and defined below:

Samhain – A Greater Sabbat falling on the date of November 1st and traditionally celebrated October 31st.

Yule – A Lesser Sabbat falling on and or between the days of December 20th-23rd traditionally celebrated on the day of the Solstice.

Imbolc – A Greater Sabbat falling on February 2nd and traditionally celebrated on February 1st.

Ostara – A Lesser Sabbat falling on and or between the days of March 20th-23rd and traditionally celebrated on the day of the Equinox.

Beltane – A Greater Sabbat falling on the date of May 1st and traditionally celebrated April 30th.

Litha – A Lesser Sabbat falling on and or between the days of June 20th-23rd traditionally celebrated on the day of the Solstice.

Lughnasadh – A Greater Sabbat falling on the date of August 1st and traditionally celebrated July 31.

Mabon – A Lesser Sabbat falling on and or between the days of September 20th 23rd and traditionally celebrated on the day of the Equinox.

- The Wheel of the Year is divided into two distinct halves: the "Dark Half of the Year" and the "Light Half of the Year". The Dark Half of the Year begins with the Greater Sabbat of Samhain and continues through to the Greater Sabbat of Beltane. The Light Half begins with the Greater Sabbat of Beltane and continues through to the Greater Sabbat of Samhain.

VII. Temple Events

A. **Field Trips** – We go places!

B. **Family Nights** – Family night can be held the night before a Sabbat Ritual is observed. It is a time for the coven to come together as a family and socialize with one other. There may be a folklore lesson involved, but not always. Leadership will decide when one is held.

C. **Classes/Workshop** – Come! Listen! Learn! Take many notes!

D. **Member Rituals** – Rituals for Initiates, Dedicates, and Probationary Members.

E. **Public Rituals** – Events for the greater community and are open to the public. This is determined by the Leadership of the Coven.

F. **Retreats** – A typically weekend-long spiritual intensive event.

G. **Service Work** – We endeavor to be stewards of our local and global community; various types of service work may be performed as a way to keep this commitment.

VIII. The Circle of the Sacred Grove dress code is as follows:

A. **Field trips & Family Nights** – No torn or tattered clothing is to be worn. Clean garments of a casual sort are acceptable.

B. **Classes** – No torn or tattered clothing is to be worn. Clean garments of a casual sort are acceptable. All visible clothing must be predominately black. Black robes are acceptable and encouraged for classroom teaching.

C. **Rituals** – Robes or cloaks that are a solid color and long (below the knee) must be worn during rituals unless Priestess and Priest of the ritual say otherwise. During the light half of the year, the High Priestess and Priest may waive the rule regarding the wearing of robes due to hot weather. Should this rule be waived, then clean garments of a casual sort may be worn, however, no torn or tattered clothing is to be worn. Appropriate colors depending upon the type of ritual as defined below.

1. **Esbats** – Black robes, unless Priestess and Priest of the ritual say otherwise. High Priestess and High Priest have the final say.
2. **Sabbats** – Black robes or clothing matching the colors below, unless Priestess and Priest of the ritual say otherwise. High Priestess and High Priest have the final say. If wearing a robe in ritual, black clothing is not required underneath.

Sabbat	Color Robe	Sabbat	Color Robe
Samhain	Black	Beltane	Black or pastel colors
Yule	Black	Litha	Black or pastel colors
Imbolc	Black, white, or gray	Lughnasadh	Black, white, or gray
Ostara	Black, white, or gray	Mabon	Black, white, or gray

- Robes may be lined with other colors. Please be advised that purple robes and purple-lined robes are reserved for Elders and can only be worn by one having Eldership within the Temple. Any ornamentation on robes must be approved by the Leadership of the Coven beforehand.

D. **Service Work** – Clothing appropriate to the activity being performed is appropriate.

IX. Levels of Participation in the Coven: There are many degrees of participation or membership within The Circle of the Sacred Grove. All levels of participation have a right to anonymity. The High Priestess, High Priest and tradition determine advancement through each degree. A person of degree from other traditions will adhere to the same system as the novice student, with the understanding that although we respect their experience from their tradition of origin, we are dedicated to keeping the teachings of our tradition intact and complete. Elevations will occur at the discretion of the High Priestess, High Priest and tradition. Elders are the living essence of our craft, and thusly must be treated with the utmost respect. Elders are offered to partake of Feasts before others, and when they enter a room, it is obligatory that everyone stand as a gesture of respect. Most degrees require an individual to wear a cingulum. A cingulum is the length of the cord of a determined color and/or color combination and is worn around the waist during Rituals.

- To be considered as an *Active Member* of the coven:
1. One must attend at least 6 Sabbat Rituals throughout a year.
 2. Be participating in a pledge/donation to the temple.
 3. Come to at least one coven meeting a year.
 4. Stay in communication with the Leadership of the Coven through phone, email, text, or Messenger.

A. **Guests** – Is a person who wants to celebrate a public ritual with us.

1. Prerequisites

- a. Shows an interest in celebrating a public ritual with us.
- b. Read the welcome packet before coming
- c. If an individual is a member of another group, must have approval from the leadership of both groups to participate

2. Responsibilities

- a. Respect the rules of the coven.
- b. Participate in the Public Ritual (Have fun).
- c. Bring a donation to the Temple.

B. **Friends of the Grove** – is a person who wants to celebrate the craft with us but does not wish to start their formal training.

1. Prerequisites

- a. Show an interest in the craft
- b. Willingness to help during events
- c. If an individual is a member of another group, must have approval from the leadership of both groups to participate
- d. Friends of the Grove are invited to public rituals and family nights, and certain Temple events.
- e. An oak leaf pendant is given to a Friend of the Grove.

2. Responsibilities

- a. Maintain an interest in the craft
- b. Respect the rules of the coven
- c. Participate in Family night and/or Sabbat Guest Circles.
- d. Help clean up during and after events
- e. Contribution to feast and/or a donation to the Temple.
- f. Bring a snack to family night.

C. **Neophyte** – A student of our tradition. They wear a white cingulum and are given an acorn pendant.

1. Prerequisites

- a. Seek to study our tradition
- b. Must have an introductory interview with the High Priestess and Priest of the Coven.
- c. Complete Introductory course(s) as set forth by the Leadership of the Coven
- d. Commit to studies that last a traditional period of at least a “year and a day.” This could take longer.
- e. Complete the Three-Day Ritual.
- f. Complete the Acorn Meditation.

2. Responsibilities

- a. Learn the Tradition
- b. Perform service work
- c. Setup and cleanup before and after events
- d. Participate in all Sabbat Rituals, Family night, Rituals, and Esbats.
- e. Donate \$10 per class (Working off class time by volunteer work can only account for half of the Neophyte classes.)

- f. Bring a snack to Family Night
- g. Bring a dish for Ritual Feast
- h. Seek a sponsor from the Third Degrees approved from the Leadership of the coven between Yule and Imbolc
- i. Remain an active probationary member.
- j. Probationary members are not allowed to attend a Wiccan event not approved by the Leadership of the Circle of the Sacred Grove during their neophyte year.

D. First Degree Initiate – this person who has successfully completed all of the required training as given in the Neophyte year. This individual is identified by a green cingulum. He/she is called Witch and is considered initiated in the Romano-Celtic tradition.

- 1. Prerequisites
 - a. Complete the Course Study approved by the Leadership of the Coven.
 - b. Complete the Initiation Rite.
 - c. Completed the required reading
- 2. Responsibilities- if attending a Sabbat
 - a. Help setup and cleanup after events
 - b. Bring a snack to Family Night if coming.
 - c. Contribution to feast and/or a donation to the Temple.
 - d. Can attend members' rituals, family night, and most Temple events.

E. First Degree Dedicate – is an initiate who has communicated in writing (by mail or email) the wish to join and be a full standing member of the Circle of the Sacred Grove. Once a member they are given a tree seal pendant and can take on the Coven's surname of "Lyonesse".

- 1. Prerequisites
 - a. Complete the Course Study approved by the Leadership of the Coven.
 - b. Complete the Initiation Rite.
 - c. Complete the required reading
 - d. Writing a petition requesting full membership is required.
- 2. Responsibilities
 - a. Participate in most Temple events
 - b. Help with setup and cleanup during events
 - c. Implement a service project as approved by the Leadership of the Coven.
 - d. Follow the pledge agreement approved by the Leadership of the Coven.
 - e. Bring a snack to Family Night.
 - f. Bring a donation or a donation and dish for Ritual Feast.

F. Second Degree – Initiate Priestess or Priest of our Temple. They wear a blue cingulum.

- 1. Prerequisites
 - a. Study the First-Degree curriculum
 - b. Study the Lesser Sabbats
 - c. Study the Esbats
 - d. Obtain a Second-Degree guide to answer questions.
 - e. Pass Second Degree Test as administered by the Leadership of the Coven.
 - f. Complete the Rite of Vassago
 - g. Complete the 5th Gate Rite

- h. Implement a service project
- i. Plan and lead rituals for each Lesser Sabbat.
- j. Plan and lead a Full Moon Ritual and an Esbat.
- k. Complete the required reading
- l. Petition the Leadership of the Coven for elevation
- m. Must stand before a panel of Elders and Third Degrees.
- n. Obtain unanimous approval from the Leadership of the Coven

2. Responsibilities

- a. Carry the title of Lady (for women) or Lord (for men)
- b. Participate in most Temple events
- c. Must be an active member in good standing.
- d. Help setup and cleanup after event
- e. Set a good example for others
- f. Be available to provide assistance and answer questions from members and guests.
- g. Work closely with and be a guide for the First Degrees.
- h. Follow the pledge agreement approved by the Leadership of the Coven.
- i. Bring a snack to family night
- j. Bring a donation or a donation and dish for Ritual Feast.

G. Third Degrees – Ordained Priestess or Priests of our Temple. They wear a red cingulum. Tree seal pendant can have a crystal of your choice added to it.

1. Prerequisites

- a. Served as a guide for a First Degree
- b. Study the Second Degree curriculum
- c. Must have served as an apprentice teacher.
- d. Design a workshop and teach it to the Leadership and eventually other members.
- e. Pass Third Degree Test as administered by the Leadership of the Coven.
- f. Study the Rites of Passage
- g. Plan and lead rituals for all eight Sabbats.
- h. Plan and lead at least two Esbats and one Dark Moon.
- i. Dedicate your life to the service of the Craft.
- j. Complete the required reading
- k. Petition the Leadership of the Coven for elevation
- l. Obtain unanimous approval of the Leadership of the Coven
- m. Must possess a spiritual fortitude gained through a major spiritual transformation in their character, which allows others to see the magick within them.

2. Responsibilities

- a. Teach the craft to others
- b. Plan Temple events
- c. Participate in all Temple events
- d. Be available to provide assistance and answer questions from members and guests
- e. May be called upon to be a mentor to a neophyte
- f. May be called upon to lead a ritual and step into a leadership role at any time.
- g. Follow the pledge agreement approved by the Leadership of the Coven.
- h. Be a living example of the craft.
- i. Bring a donation or a donation and dish for Ritual Feast.

H. **Elders** – Elders of the Grove. They wear a gold, silver, and purple cingulum

1. Prerequisites
 - a. As defined by Community of Elders.
2. Responsibilities
 - a. As defined by the Community of Elders
 - b. Counsel to the Leadership of the Coven.

X. **One of our functions as a Temple is to train members in our tradition to be able to lead rituals/workshops.** The High Priestess and High Priest will select the individuals responsible for leading these events. The prerequisites to be considered to lead these observances are as follows.

- A. Must be a dedicated member of the Temple
- B. Must be an active member of the Temple
- C. Must have completed ritual Handmaiden/Summoner training.
- D. Must have performed the duties of the ritual Handmaiden/Summoner.

E. **Ritual-** [is a gathering where one does magickal working such as an Esbat; honor/celebrate the Sabbat or non-magickal working event performed in a ritualistic manner (usually performed in a casted circle, but not always).]- Those wishing to lead a ritual must submit their name to the Leadership of the Coven a month prior to the desired ritual date. First Degrees leading Esbats must design these rituals in accordance with our tradition. Others that are leading a ritual may design their rituals in accordance with our tradition; however, rituals can be opportunities to explore the concepts of other traditions.

F. **Sabbats-** [is honoring the Gods and celebrating the seasons. (The four lower Sabbats, the four greater Sabbats).] – Those wishing to lead a Sabbat Ritual must submit their name to the Leadership of the Coven within the week following the prior Sabbat. The Leadership of the Coven will select a Priestess and Priest from the submitted names. If no names are submitted, the Leadership of the Coven will appoint a Priestess and Priest from the eligible members of the Temple. First degrees leading their first Lesser Sabbat must select a Ritual from the Temple archives. An experienced Priestess/Priest will be selected to lead the Ritual with them. Second Degrees leading their first Greater Sabbat must adapt a Ritual from the Temple archives. An experienced Priestess/Priest will be selected to lead the Ritual with them. Sabbat Rituals will be designed in accordance with our tradition.

1. **Members-only ritual-** only for active members and probationary members of the Circle of the Sacred Grove. Leadership of the Coven holds the right to limit who is allowed to attend due to degrees and advanced teachings/magick the said ritual may have.
2. **Public rituals-** are open to invited guests, and Friends of the Grove. These rituals will be led by Priestess and Priest learning our tradition. A ritual in writing must be submitted to the Leadership of the Coven two weeks before the date of the said ritual. Leadership must approve said ritual.

G. **Esbats**--(is a circle that a person or group focus on a task or problem using ritual to perform magick that can complete the task or help fix the problem.) – Those wishing to lead an Esbat ritual must submit their name to the Leadership of the Coven a month prior to the desired ritual date. First Degrees leading their first Esbats must select a ritual from the archives. First Degrees leading Esbats must design these rituals in accordance with our tradition. Others that are leading Esbats may design their rituals in accordance with our tradition; however, Esbats are also opportunities to explore the concepts of other traditions.

H. **Workshops**- are a way for members to learn about a new concept, technique of magick, and/or new tradition. Workshops can only be led by a second degree wishing to learn how to teach. Workshops do not have to follow our tradition. When a member submits their name to teach a workshop, the workshop topic must also be included with a brief explanation of what will be taught, and why they wish to teach this topic.

I. The following applies to all coven events:

1. The member wishing to lead a ritual/workshop must be submitted their name to, and be approved by, the Leadership of the Coven one month prior to the date of the said event.
2. Finished ritual/workshop must be submitted in writing to and approved by the Leadership of the Coven two weeks to the date of the said event.
3. The Priestess and Priest are responsible for the cleanup of the ritual/workshop area afterward. Activities may be delegated as necessary and appropriate.

XI. **Coven Jobs**- There are many roles involved in tending the growth of the Temple. The individuals performing these duties sacrifice a tremendous amount of their own time and energy to keep the Temple running smoothly. Leadership of the Coven is as follows:

A. **High Priestess/High Priest**- Leads the Coven (cingulum will be red with a silver or gold cord in them)

1. Prerequisites
 - a. Must have a third degree
 - b. Must have been a member in good standing for no less than five years.
 - c. Must have leadership ability
 - d. Must be dedicated to the service of the Temple
 - e. Must have the ability to treat others with *justice, fairness, and respect*.
2. Responsibilities
 - a. Everything
 - b. Make final decisions
 - c. Teach neophytes
 - d. Establish precedent
 - e. Mediate conflicts when necessary
 - f. Enforce the bylaws
 - g. Listen to the Voice of the Temple
 - h. Spiritual leaders of the Temple
 - i. Be available for spiritual counseling

B. Elders-A part of the Leadership of the Coven

1. Prerequisites
 - a. Selected for eldership by other Elders in the Coven.
2. Responsibilities
 - a. Counsel to the High Priestess and High Priest

C. Temple Maiden

1. Prerequisites
 - a. Must be a Third Degree
 - b. Apprenticed to the High Priestess
 - c. Selected by High Priestess and High Priest
2. Responsibilities
 - a. Assistant to the High Priestess
 - b. Stands in for the High Priestess when necessary.

D. Temple Summoner

1. Prerequisites
 - a. Must be a Third Degree
 - b. Apprenticed to the High Priest
 - c. Selected by High Priestess and High Priest
2. Responsibilities
 - b. Assistant to the High Priest
 - c. Stands in for the High Priest when necessary

➤ **Other Temple Positions**

E. Temple Scribe-secretary

1. Prerequisites
 - a. Must have interest to perform the duties, which require dedication and sacrifice
 - b. Must be dependable
 - d. Must be an active third-degree member
 - e. Selected by the Leadership of the Coven
2. Responsibilities
 - a. Take minutes of business meetings
 - b. Can appoint a dedicated assistant.
 - c. Keep track of attendance for Classes, Family Night, and Rituals
 - d. Inform all members about announcements of location and/or time changes for events using phone, email, or Facebook Messenger.
 - e. Send cards/ecards to members for birthdays and get well wishes
 - f. Keep and distribute an updated phone list

F. Temple Quaestor- Treasurer

1. Prerequisites
 - a. Must have interest to perform the duties, which require dedication and sacrifice
 - b. Must be dependable
 - c. Must be an active third degree member
 - d. Selected by the Leadership of the Coven

2. Responsibilities

a. Collect donations

1. Classes:

- Intro to Wicca Class-donation is \$10 a class
- Neophytes – \$10 per class
- Keeping records of ‘class time barter’ by volunteer work

2. Pledges—an agreed amount between an active member and the Leadership of the Coven.

3. Friends of the Grove/Guests –Sabbat donations.

- Can appoint a dedicated assistant.
- Record and log donations on Leadership of the Coven approved forms.
- Make deposits in a timely manner
- Record expenses monthly
- Make biannual reports at business meetings
- Purchase supplies as directed by the Leadership of the Coven
- Pay Temple bills monthly based on list provided by the Leadership of the Coven

G. Temple Watcher

1. Prerequisites

- a. Must have interest to perform the duties, which require dedication and sacrifice
- b. Must be an active member of the coven with good standing
- c. Must be at least second degree
- d. Must be dependable
- e. Selected by the Leadership Of the Coven

2. Responsibilities

- a. Be knowledgeable about laws regarding religious freedom, freedom of assembly, trespass, citizen’s arrest, and related matters
- b. Develop contacts and resources within law enforcement organizations.
- c. Devoted to the defense of religious freedom, civil liberties, and Pagan rights.
- d. Become skilled in conflict resolution, magickal/psychic self-defense, and some form of defensive martial art.
- e. Share his/her knowledge and skills with other Temple members and help them learn self-defense techniques
- f. Maintain security at Temple events. When indoors: checking locks, closing curtains. When outdoors: finding safe places for events, setting wards, posting sentries if needed.
- g. Have contingency plans ready for emergency situations at Temple events and for long-range situations; train and rehearse Temple members in said plans.
- h. Keep track of organizations, proposed laws, individuals, or trends that may threaten the Temple or the Craft as a whole, and inform the Temple of these at quarterly business meetings
- i. Recover items belonging to the Temple
- j. Delegated when necessary

H. Feast Mistress/ Master

1. Prerequisites

- a. Must have interest to perform the duties, which require dedication and sacrifice.
- b. Must be dependable
- c. Selected by the Leadership of the Coven
- d. Must be an active member

2. Responsibilities
 - a. Organize feasts
 - b. Organize feast cleanup
 - c. Steward the feast tote
 - d. Ensure that Elders, High Priestess and High Priest of the Coven, and Priest and Priestess leading the ritual (in that order) are offered a plate at feast before others. (They can refuse).
 - e. Appoint a neophyte assistant.

I. Trunk Mistress/ Master

1. Prerequisites
 - a. Must have interest to perform the duties, which require dedication and sacrifice
 - b. Must be dependable
 - c. Selected by the Leadership of the Coven
 - d. Must be an active member
2. Responsibilities
 - a. Pack/unpack ritual supplies from wooden trunk and large totes
 - b. Maintain all ritual equipment in wooden trunk.
 - c. Must meet with Priestess and Priest leading ritual to see what is needed for ritual.
 - d. Must keep an inventory check list of ritual equipment
 - e. Must request needed supplies from the treasurer after each Sabbat
 - f. Bring CD player, drums, rattles, and extension cords and other ritual totes needed for ritual.
Can delegate when needed.
 - g. Can appoint a neophyte assistant.

J. Temple Archivist-Librarian

1. Prerequisites
 - a. Must be an active member of the Coven.
 - b. Chosen by Leadership of the Coven
2. Responsibilities
 - a. Maintain coven libraries
 - b. Keep up to date records of loaned out books.
 - c. Must keep communication with Temple Watcher on overdue books out for a month or longer.
 - d. Can appoint neophyte assistant

K. Temple Wyrlist- in charge of the coven's herb resources.

1. Prerequisites
 - a. Must be an active member of the Coven.
 - b. Chosen by Leadership of the Coven
2. Responsibilities
 - a. Maintaining the herb supplies
 - b. Organizing and supervising the harvesting and processing of herbs and herb supplies.
 - c. Can appoint neophyte assistant

XII. Contributions- All donations and monies taken in by the Temple go directly and only for the use of the Temple as a whole and for temple activities. No profit will be made by anyone. The Leadership of the Coven will retain control of \$50 in petty cash accounted for by the Quaestor.

XIII. **Business meetings** will be held biannually: one around Beltane, and the other around Samhain.

IX. Leaving the Temple. We understand that it is sometimes necessary for members to leave our Temple, or simply take a break to be on their own. Although this is usually a voluntary act, at times this may be dictated as a corrective action by the Leadership of the Coven as the result of an intervention.

A. **Sabbaticals**- A sabbatical is a period where an individual does not participate in Temple events. A sabbatical may be voluntary or involuntary; voluntary sabbatical must be submitted in writing by mail or email to the Leadership of the Coven. Involuntary sabbatical duration will be determined by the Leadership of the Coven per situation. If the individual wants to be reinstated in the coven, they must submit it in writing and get approval from the Leadership of the Coven. Voluntary sabbatical can return at any time they feel they are ready but must submit it in writing to the Leadership of the Coven for approval. Any member on sabbatical is still a member of the Circle of the Sacred Grove and is therefore required to adhere to the bylaws.

B. **Resignation**- A resignation occurs when a member wishes to leave the group. Resigning is the voluntary revocation of membership within the Circle of the Sacred Grove. The Leadership of the Coven requests that a resigning member submit a letter of resignation.

C. **Hiving**- An individual that has obtained the third degree has the right to hive from the Temple and form a group of their own under the charter of the Circle of the Sacred Grove.

D. **Branching off**- An individual that has obtained the third degree has the right to branch off from the Temple and form their own group under their own charter.

E. **Banishment/Warlocking**- The revocation of any and all membership, licenses, and titles as a consequence of breaking the sacred oaths of the Circle of the Sacred Grove.

X. **Ritual tools**- tools used for the practice of our faith by its members are to be kept at home unless they are being transported to/from activities approved and conducted by the Temple. These tools will be contained in a protective case, bag, or box at all times during the transportation process. The tools are as follows:

A. **Chalice**: A cup to hold water, juice, or wine during ritual. It is considered sacred.

B. **Athame**: A knife with a blade no longer than 10 inches, double-edged. It is used for drawing in or focusing energy. It is never used as a weapon or for physical cutting of any kind. It is kept in a scabbard until needed during ceremonies. It is considered sacred.

C. **Robe and Cingulum**: Worn to denote unity and rank among members during ritual. There are considered sacred.

D. **Ceremonial Sword**: A blade of 26 inches. It is presented in ceremony as the symbol of the power of our faith. It is never used as a weapon or for physical cutting of any kind. It is only handled by the High Priestess and High Priest. The sword is contained in a scabbard and case when being transported and when not being used. It is considered sacred.

E. **Cauldron**: A round pot on three legs used in the center of our ritual area, usually containing a lit candle. It is considered sacred.

F. **Candles, incense, and thurible** (container to burn incense in) to be used during rituals. There are considered sacred.

G. **Pentacle:** The altar pentacle is usually a disk or plate of metal or wood used as a focal point for magical work. It is considered sacred.

RULES OF CONDUCT

I. Classroom Etiquette

- A. You will be on time for class. Please call if this is not possible.
- B. Call ahead if you are unable to attend class.
- C. Making up work missed is your responsibility. You need to contact the teacher to schedule a make-up session. **THIS IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY!**
- D. During class time all discussions need to be limited to class work, so we don't run late.
- E. Other discussions and visiting can take place before and after class or during breaks.
- F. Questions during class are welcome.
- G. If you need to make an appointment with the Leadership of the Coven, for any reason, you must call the said party to schedule the meeting, and you must be on time for that appointment.

II. Ritual Etiquette

- A. Will show up for setup at the time indicated by Priest and Priestess leading the ritual.
- B. Will call/text if running late for ritual: if more than 15 minutes late will not be allowed in ritual but can watch from outside and can participate in post-ritual activities.
- C. Must help with either setup or take down.
- D. Will let High Priest or High Priestess know in advance if not able to help with either setup or takedown.
- E. Will dress appropriately for ritual.
- F. Will not bring mundane conversation into the ritual.
- G. Weapons are not allowed in ritual (Athame/sword are not consider as weapon)
- H. Only the coven sword is allowed in ritual; no other sword will be permitted.
 - I. The Leadership of the Coven will not tolerant any harmful comments, intent, and/or discrimination of any kind towards any race, religion, sexual orientation, ethnicity, background, or disability. **Disciplinary action will be taken!**
- J. No firearms are allowed at any coven events!
- K. No illegal drugs are allowed at any coven events!

III. Respect for the Coven

- A. At no time must any member bring unnecessary attention or harmful attention to the temple, its members, or to the craft itself. This includes post on social media.
- B. If a member breaks a city or state law, they are to bring it to the attention of the Leadership of the Coven, and accepted whatever action they deem appropriate, as well as, what the courts decide.
- C. Each member must keep within the balance of nature and live within the civil laws of the city, state, and country.

IV. Resolving Conflicts

- A. Attempt to resolve in perfect love and trust outside of class--**do not involve other members.** (This is to be done privately, not publicly such as with social media sites).
- B. **Gossip will not be tolerated!**

C. If no resolution can be reached in this way, consult with mentors for help in resolving the situation.

D. Any dispute between members that cannot be resolved privately or with the help of mentors will then be brought to the attention of the High Priest and High Priestess. Any dispute between our members and another group will be dealt with by the Leadership of the Coven straight away.

V. Leadership Promise.

Please remember your Leadership of the Coven is here to serve and guide you. You may approach us with any problems, questions, or situations you feel we could help you with. We will not do things for you but will help you do them for yourself. We always observe strict confidentiality unless there is a threat to yourself or another; in which case the information will be given to the proper authorities.

VI. Bylaw locations:

Copies of these bylaws will be kept with the High Priestess and Priest, the homestead, and on the coven website.

Amendments

I. Children in the Temple:

A. Circle of the Sacred Grove will not allow any person under the age of 18 training without having a parent or guardian in the coven.

B. A child, with a parent as a member, may take the three-day ritual at the age of 16. Their neophyte training can start at the age of 16 at a slower pace if the child chooses to start. A child will not be initiated until at least the age of 18.

C. Once a member's child has turn 18:

➤ **Three Day Ritual completed**—they can be considered an adult member of the coven under their own standing, separate from their parents.

➤ If training is complete and they have passed the initiated test they may be initiated.

➤ If training is not completed, they will be considered a Neophyte.

➤ **Three Day Ritual not completed**—they will still be considered a member of the coven but must follow the Friend of the Grove rules.

D. Children, who are under the age of 10, must be with a parent or guardian while in circle at all times. As long as the child shows respect to the circle and all who are in it, they will be allowed in circle. The persons leading the ritual, or the Leadership of the Coven have the right to ask a parent or guardian to escort their child from the circle if they are interfering with the ritual. Plus, a child can ask to leave the circle at any time, but their parent or guardian must go with them. Once they have left the circle, for whatever reason, they will not be allowed back in, but can watch from the outside. This is to ensure that all experiences, in a circle, are not interrupted.

E. Children, who are 10 and older, (with a parent who is a member) can be in circle with or without their parent or guardian, as long as the child shows respect to the circle and all who are in it. The parent of this child must be present at the event but does not have to be in circle with said child. If they want to leave circle, they may leave with or without their parent. They will not be allowed back into circle but can watch from the outside of the ritual circle area as long as they are quiet and show respect for the circle and those in it.

F. If a child, 13 and up, wants to attend an open circle, but does not have a parent or guardian as a member of the coven. They may attend the circle but must have a parent or guardian present with them for their first ritual. The parent or guardian may be in circle with them or watch from the outside of circle. Once the parent/guardian has visited a ritual and meet with the Leadership they will then submit the Circle of the Sacred Grove's permission form stating they give their consent for the said child to attend a ritual at the Circle of the Sacred Grove without a parent or guardian present. Studying with the coven will not be allowed until the age of 18.

II. Donation and pledge policy -We, the leadership of the Circle of the Sacred Grove Temple of the Old Religion, are introducing a new donation and pledge policy as of January 1st, 2019.

a) We ask that all initiated members pledge at least \$5 a month, which equals \$60.00 a year.

b) When an initiated member, friend of the grove or guest attends a ritual, they will be asked to donate \$10.00 or \$5 and a dish to share at feast.

c) The persons exempt from ritual donation are the following: (They are asked to still bring a dish for feast)

- Priestess/ Priest of the ritual,
- The person providing the ritual space.
- Elders
- Neophytes that are actively taking/paying for classes.

d) Children under the age of 18 are exempt.

We set forth our hands in approval, ratification, and enactment of this document on this day, February 22nd, 2022. *Signed Bylaw copies will be held at the coven's homestead for viewing*

Lady Arawyn Lyonesse,
Elder High Priestess/President

Lord Gwydion Lyonesse,
Elder High Priest/Vice President



Lady Gaia Lyonesse, Acting Secretary

Lamaria Lyonesse, Acting Treasurer

Wiccan Rede

Bide the Wiccan Rede ye must
In Perfect Love and Perfect Trust.

Eight words the Wiccan Rede fulfill:
"And ye harm none, do what ye will."

LEST IN THY SELF-DEFENSE IT BE,

Ever mind the rule of three.
Follow this with mind and heart,
and ye shall merry meet
and merry part.

The Path of Light

- I. Take not the life of thy fellow man, nor that of any living creature, save that which is necessary to preserve and sustain thy life.
- II. Seek not to obtain that which does not rightfully belong to you and accept only that which is your just due.
- III. Honor the Earth, for it was ordained by the Gods that they should bring forth life.
- IV. Share with thy partner the Divine Spark of love and be ye also prepared to nourish Love as though it were a Sacred Flame.
- V. Seek to satisfy the desires of the mortal flesh with Love, for in doing, thou come closer to the Mighty Ones.
- VI. Let thy words be as Sacred Oaths unto thy fellow man, for deceit is an abomination before the Gods.
- VII. Help one another; love one another, as ye are so loved by the Gods.
- VIII. Confess thy faults to no man, for only the Gods can grant pardon and guidance.
- IX. Judge no man for his seeming faults, nor degrade before others, for judgment is the providence of the Gods.
- X. Make not sacrifices of the flesh and blood from any other living creature, for man hath no right to destroy what he cannot create.
- XI. Observe the Feasts of Remembrance, drink the nectars of fruits and eat the meal cakes. And honor the Gods in the manner set down of old.
- XII. Seek not to call forth the Spirits of the Dead, nor the elementals for blasphemous reasons.
- XIII. Worship not the symbols themselves, but rather the truth that they represent, for they are but paths to the Gods.

The Thirteen Magickal Oaths

- I. Acknowledge the Great Sabbats
- II. Acknowledge the Lesser Sabbats
- III. Mediate each week
- IV. Attune yourself with the Elemental Forces
- V. Light a candle to the Goddess and God
- VI. Interpreted the Circumstance of life in a Spiritual Way
- VII. Keep your word as a Sacred Oath
- VIII. Respect and Love your Magical Tools as they are now a part of you
- IX. Observe the New and Full Moon
- X. Keep a Magical Journal so you will understand your journey
- XI. Remain true to your inner light
- XII. Strive for Balance between your spirit and mundane life.
- XIII. Keep an altar and respect it as it is a reflection of your inner self