

Living House Commitments We Aspire To at 157 Common Street

Commitment to co-living

When Joseph and Aravinda first decided to move to 157 Common Street, they never intended to be the only people occupying this multiple bedroom house. As such they began offering rooms on a work exchange basis to individuals who will help them to co-create a living house and live the rEvolution. Their current intention is to transition from a quarter-time and more transactional work-exchange model (10-hours per week in exchange for room) to a half-time (around 20 hours per week) and more collaborative arrangement.

Commitment to living the rEvolution

Living rEvolution is a groundswell shift in humanity's relationship with life on earth as we move towards relationships that affirm and sustain the community of life on earth rather than degrade and destroy it. Living rEvolution is about living the changes we want to see in the world, living these new relationships, and inviting and engaging others in this rEvolution. The members of this living house are committed to increasingly living the rEvolution in their personal lives and collectively as a household as well as help support it more widely.

Commitment to personal transformation

We have each been wounded, stunted and conditioned in toxic ways. We commit ourselves to learning, growing, healing, and deepening consciousness and supporting each other in this process.

Commitment to community

We are committed to deepening in community. As part of that commitment, we are developing a shared culture for this living house that supports community. We offer periodic events that seek to engage with the wider community as well.

Commitment to living cosmology

Worldviews of separation and domination are causing great harm. We commit ourselves to de-conditioning these toxic worldviews and re-conditioning ourselves with worldviews of connection and mutual-enhancement.

Commitment to living democracy

We are committed to re-engaging with the civic process on all levels – from the local community, to the bioregion, to the continent, to the world. Our allegiance is to the living earth and we pledge ourselves to work towards a biocracy – where all beings on this planet have a voice.

Democracy should simply be the process by which we make decisions together in an equitable and fair way. Humans have a long way to go with governance of our human systems and there is much work to be done with human decision-making processes. Just as there is much work to be done with incorporating more-than-human perspectives and concerns into our decision making processes.

Commitment to fairness and inclusion

We are committed to access to opportunity and every voice being heard. We work to elevate voices that have been marginalized within this house and within the larger society we are a part of.

Commitment to healing and justice for all

We commit ourselves to healing the wounds of the past, of injustice, of inequality, of man's inhumanity to man, of anthropocentrism. When oppression shows up in household dynamics we pledge to engage with it in as loving, and calling in of a way as is possible in that moment, but with the primary focus being on interruption of harm and transformation of patterns so as to stop harm.

Commitment to relocation and bioregionalism

We are committed to knowing this place on earth where we live – the local waters, the local land, the local sky, the local species, the local community of all life. We strive to conduct our lives in ways that affirm the health of this ecosystem where we live and of which we are a part.

Commitment to local and regenerative economy

We strive to increasingly purchase goods and services from local and independent businesses that contribute to the local economy or otherwise help to regenerate ecosystem health.

Commitment to gift economy

The way money is currently structured is toxic. To reduce its hold on us, we commit to increasingly participating in the gift economy. Some ways this household does this is by brewing enough kombucha to share and hosting bi-weekly gatherings for the community. We would like to grow in this area and offer gift circles and other gift economy activities. A gift economy relies on a web of gifts. It is not barter, rather you give to someone, and someone else may give to you. We are committed to helping others to learn about gift economy and increasingly participate in it.

Commitment to conscious communication

So much of our communication habits is the default that we learned from family and society. It is often very shallow communication. We are committed to deep listening and to honoring the other. Nonviolent communication is a nice tool we can practice in conscious and compassionate communication.

Commitment to compassion

We are committed to the welfare of all beings and strive to work for the benefit of all.

Commitment to presence

There are so many distractions in today's society. Our world needs us to show up with our presence. We commit ourselves to supporting each other to deepen in mindfulness, for our lives to increasingly be mindfulness practice – as we walk, as we eat, as we talk, as we breathe. May our lives be our meditation. May our lives be our prayer of service. We commit ourselves to mindful living increasingly in all aspects of our lives.

Commitment to service

We dedicate ourselves to work for the healing of our world and the welfare of all beings.

Commitment to spirituality

We commit ourselves to honoring the best in many spiritual traditions that honor and affirm life and that support us in the work we want to do in the world. We also commit to not coercing our spirituality on anyone in a way that is unwelcome.

Commitment to living food

The industrial food system is causing great damage to the living earth. We pledge to increasingly reduce the amount of food we eat from the industrial food system and increase the amount of local, organic, and regenerative food we eat. This includes knowing and getting food from local farmers as well as growing much of our own food. We are committed to increasingly eating with the seasons, and eating food from the bioregion we live in. We strive to decrease the amount of animal products we eat that come from tortured animals. Eating is a sacred act as we take the physical world into our body and it becomes part of us. We pledge to increasingly eat with consciousness of the intimacy the act entails, and to increasingly bring our awareness and gratitude to all beings who contributed to bringing that food to our plate. Eating should be delicious and a joyous occasion. We commit to sharing this passion for living food with all who come to the house.

Commitment to moving towards zero waste; cradle to cradle; waste = food

Our commitment is to steadily decrease the amount of landfill garbage we produce in this household. We will compost all food scraps, recycle whatever can be recycled including paper, cardboard, glass, plastic and aluminum - while working to reduce and eliminate recyclable containers as that requires energy and work to eliminate disposable packaging and other wastes that go into the landfill.

Commitment to conservation

We strive to reduce the amount of resources and energy we use by being mindful to turn off lights when not in use, using moderate amounts of water, and regulating the heat so as to maintain a balance of comfort and efficiency.

We strive to know the impact of the energy and resources we use. We commit to learning about where is our electricity coming from, where is our gas coming from, where is our sewage going to, etc.

Commitment to regeneration

Sustainability of a broken system is not enough. We are committed to moving increasingly toward all of the provision of our needs being done in a way that helps to also regenerate the health of the community of life on earth. Food is an easy place to start with this, but we would like to move in the direction of all of our needs being met in a way that also helps to regenerate the health of the biosphere.

Commitment to health and wellbeing

We are committed to the health and physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of all who live here and all who visit. We strive to live in ways that support our and others health and wellbeing. The body is a temple. We have been conditioned to trash our bodies. We commit to increasingly loving and caring for our bodies and wellbeing.

Commitment to self care and care of each other

We are committed to growing in our ability to deeply care for ourselves and each other and nourish ourselves including but not limited to with food, rest, play, beauty and creativity.

Commitment to integrated intelligence

The western world has elevated rational intelligence about all other modes of intelligence. We strive to honor holistic intelligence which includes rational, body, emotional, intuitive, and spiritual intelligence.

Commitment to widening circles

We commit to living the changes we want to see in the world in our daily lives and increasingly invite others to do the same. Our desire is that the way we live our lives can be an invitation to others to do the same, and that this house is a place of learning and reorientation for all who come – with both the yard, and how we embody community, the food we serve, etc. All of it can be in invitation to others to live the rEvolution in their own lives.

Commitment to celebration/gratitude

Life is a gift. We commit to cultivating an orientation of gratitude and joy for the world around us.

Commitment to healthy masculine and feminine

There are so many toxic messages in our culture about masculinity and femininity and gender in general. We strive to make this house a place of healing gender wounds, where healthy masculinity and femininity without rigid gender boxes can be expressed.