

Sun Meadow Temple: 5 Year Review Final Results

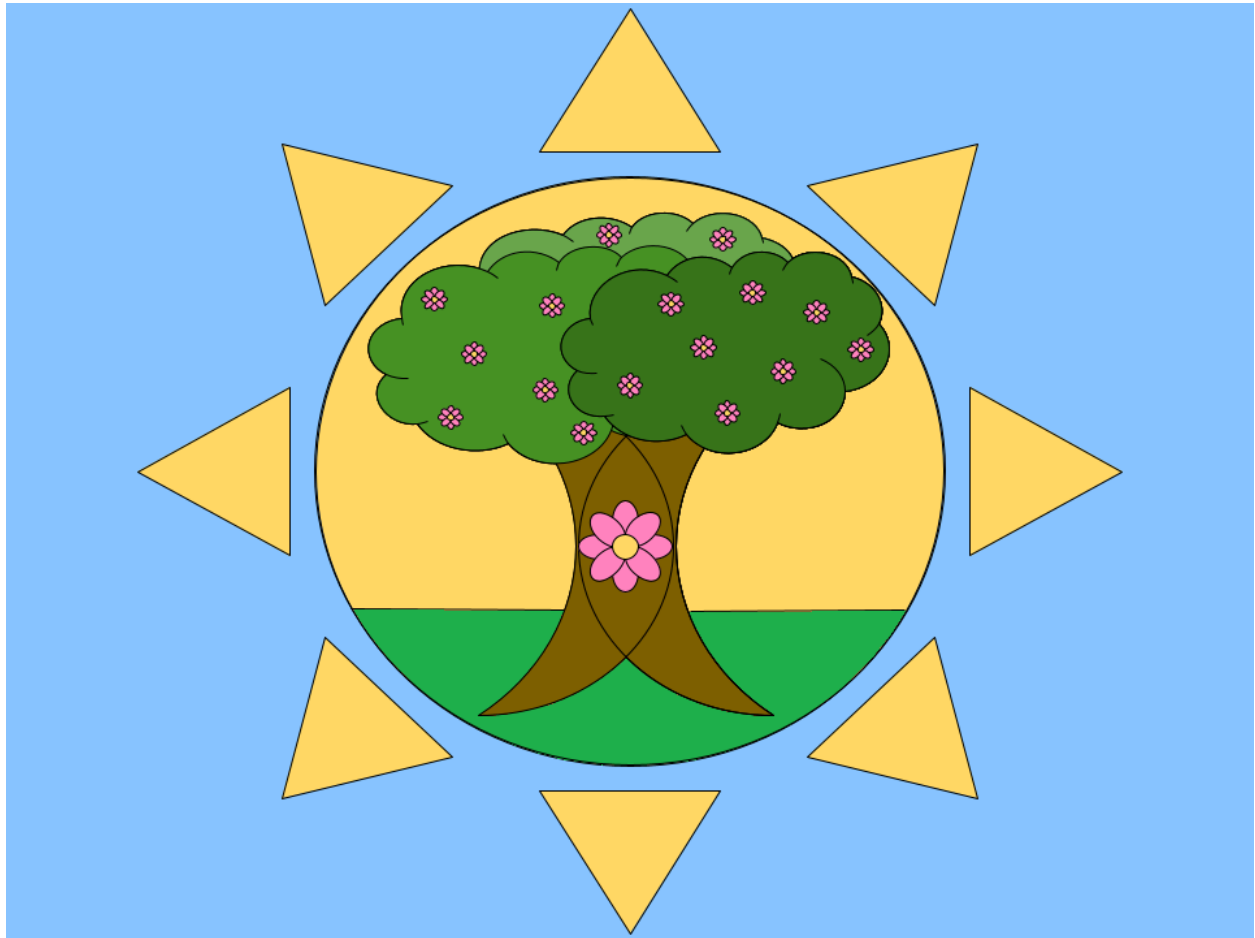


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Recommended Events Already Available

In our 5 year survey you happened to suggest some things that we already offer and while I try to communicate everything we do sometimes things get missed so below is the list of recommended things and where to find them.

Community Cookbook- available on our discord, reddit, and website under the library section. It was originally started as a holiday cookbook but contributions are still open.

Member Taught Classes- anyone can start to teach a class at any time. The application form is freely published in the Academy server. You are also free to host an Observance or event, simply use the ticket system to set this up.

Mod Training Program- we have a training program on google classroom and while our board is full there are currently open positions for many council members who are in charge of different areas of programming. The program for this can be found in announcements.

Study Room- this is the newly revamped academic chat. If you need help with school work or have an academic question it can go there for members to answer.

Movie Night- We are bringing this back. We had this originally but the platform we used changed their rules and made us unable to stream their movies. I have just discovered a way to bring this back and we have 2 upcoming movies.

Group Discussions- There were several comments asking for group discussions and I remind you that you all can tag the Question of the Day role for discussions as long as the discussions follow our rules and tenets.

Recommended Events Being Implemented

You all had some truly incredible ideas that I am dying to implement. They are absolutely fantastic. Below are the ideas and how they will be implemented.

A Community BOS/Prayer Area- This was a truly wonderful idea that was suggested by a few of you. I plan to implement this in 2 ways; a channel in the discord and a guidebook. All prayers put in the channel will need to indicate if they are allowed to be published in the guidebook.

A Hobby Channel- the minecraft channel will be revamped into a general gaming and hobby channel.

How You Found Paganism Archive- Similar to the running Pagan Friendship archive this will be an archive of how you found your deities and came to Paganism.

Library Changes- There were multiple requests to improve the library section to include resources. This is something that will take a while to execute but I will be adding a variety of free public domain texts for different additions to our library.

Community Assistance Chat- Now to whoever had this truly fantastic idea know that you have all the credit. This will be a chat where if people need specific assistance that is something the community can answer they can put their request in here. Venting and advice/questions will also remain open for their specific purposes as well. This chat will have delayed implementation until the organization is converted.

Safety Concerns about Membership List

Many of you have brought up concerns about our membership list and putting your name on it due to current ... well everything. Here are the things you need to know. There is a membership list. That list is saved privately and I am literally the only person in the world who has access to it. In addition to this, as of 2025, I am the only person on the paperwork. To repeat, nobody other than me has access to the membership but me and that includes the government. This also will not change no matter what option we choose.

Sun Meadow Temple Tenets

Approved Changes

****Respect for the forces around and interacting with you.****

Gods and Spirits are around you and interact with you and deserve respect. They should be treated well even if you are not directly interacting with them.

****We are all part of the web of existence and should respect the diversity that occurs in our universe.****

We are all a part of this diverse universe existing in its uncommon beauty and rare opportunity. All things exist in community with others, nature, and the universe and should work for the collective benefit of all.

****Morality is complex and people should strive to be ethical and moral in all situations.****

The world is morally complex. Situations must be judged on their own ethical and moral merits. Moral and ethical behavior should be practiced until it becomes habitual.

****Everyone should be free to explore and investigate their own identity and ideas****

Everyone should have the opportunity, at any age, to explore their own identity and ideas whether it is gender, sexuality, expression, beliefs, ideology, and passions.

****All human beings have innate merit and dignity****

All humans are worthy of existence and should be treated with kindness and respect. We hold with the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

****All people have the right to autonomy****

All people have the right to autonomy. They can decide what happens with their body and make their own choices.

Sun Meadow Temple Beliefs

Approved Changes

****Closed Practices and Cultural Appropriation****

All closed practices need to be respected and kept closed. Members of these practices are 100% welcome to join and participate in our ministries and ceremonies as well as to teach other members if they wish. However, members cannot and should not participate in these practices without being taught and properly let in. Any messing about with closed practices will result in immediate action as this behavior is incredibly inappropriate. Any form of cultural appropriation will NOT be tolerated and is reprehensible.

****Freedom of Pantheon****

Our members are open to choosing their own pantheon and mix of deities. Nontheism (as in not working with deities but working with other entities) and eclecticism are accepted practices. You are free to worship deities across pantheons. Deities should always be respected and well regarded.

****Bigotry****

Bigotry of any kind is intolerable and completely abhorrent. This includes bigotry masqueraded as closed practices including folksiness and trans-exclusionary radical feminism. It is despicable and will NEVER be tolerated. Any form of this will result in immediate suspension of membership pending a decision from the Council. If you don't like this feel free to leave. Seriously go away.

****Science****

Science is real.

****Proselytization****

Do not do this, we are not out to harass people and try to convert them. If you mention it and someone asks questions it is perfectly acceptable to discuss it and explain it to someone. If they ask for more resources and information feel free to give it but ONLY IF THEY ASK. We are not here to convert people so don't do it.

New Training Portions

Our leadership training is very comprehensive but I feel that there needs to be some additions to the previous lessons. Our current training includes child abuse signs and reporting requirements, general supportive and counseling, identifying suicidal ideation, basics of Paganism and the rules and views of Sun Meadow Temple. Most of the added sections are covered in the previous ones but I now feel they need their own sections.

Signs of Sexual Abuse and Domestic Violence

Developmental Psychology

Leadership

Online Safety

All of the current training will also be updated. If you are interested in a leadership role please dm me and let me know and I will let you know when these updates are complete.

Events Final

All of our provided holiday and event celebration ideas were voted on at the beginning of the organization's existence and it is time they are looked at again. No one proposed any changes so these remain the same.

Welcomings

Welcomings are to bring new babies into the world and celebrate new life.

- We will wear blue to symbolize refreshment
- We will give a small speech to the gods or in general to welcome the new baby
- We will give them a pouch for good luck with mint, rosemary, and lavender and a small piece of obsidian (these can be changed for allergies)

Coming of Age

Coming of Age Ceremonies will be held at age 16 to acknowledge the growth and growing persons and welcome them to being more adults.

- The participants will cross a symbolic bridge and light a candle on the other side to symbolize the crossing into adulthood and the fire of passions and the future.
- They will give a small speech about their beliefs and future plans and a journal to keep their future experiences documented
- We will read the poem at this time of change

Unbaptisms

An Unbaptism is not required if you were previously Religious—it is a fully optional ceremony done for some members to spiritually cut ties with their past church and start anew. It is designed to erase and help to heal spiritual wounds.

Water

- One option is to have “unholy water” poured over one’s head or hands to be cleansed
- This would erase the baptism and wash it away

Cord Cutting

- Another option is to have a cord cutting ceremony where 2 candles are tied together with twine and burned to represent the separation between two entities
- This would cut spiritual ties with the church

Burning

- The final option is to have a burning ceremony where you put your regrets or sorrows or past on a piece of paper and burn it in a bowl
- This lifts the weight of the past and turns it to dust—relieving you of your burdens

Initiations

An Initiation is a welcoming ceremony to Pagans available to all ages.

Welcoming words under the gods

- Welcoming the new person to the old gods
- Can include specific gods or be customized to be pantheon-specific

Dancing and Singing

- Can be around a fire
- Can be specific to pantheon
- Music

Offering

- Basic offering to the gods can be food or wine or other things

Feast

Weddings

The officiant will introduce the ceremony and give a small speech if the couple requests.

Hand Fastings

- Vows are picked or written by the couple
- A piece of fabric related to either the couple or a new special one for the ceremony
 - They can have the temple make one for a small fee with colors and other things
- The fabric will be wrapped about the couples hands

Bead Giving

- When the invitations come out they will come with a plain bead (if the couples want)
- The invitee will be requested to either decorate or paint the beads
- The beads will be returned to a jar during the beginning of the wedding or during the reception

Bonfire

- During the reception a bonfire will be lit if the couple wants (also depending on state and local laws)
- The couple can dance around the fire along with their guests as part of the celebration

Tea Ceremony

- The couple would brew the tea (in any flavor they like) in a small pot that can be rented (from me) or bought by the couple
- They will both drink from the tea in a cup symbolizing the union of the couple

Funerals

The officiant will introduce the ceremony and give a small speech if the family requests typically this will thank the gods or do similar things.

Memorial Plants

- The family can pick a plant and either keep it with them in a garden or potentially on our land if we ever get a piece of property
- It can be any plants and there can be a memorial plaque with the name and date

Burial

- The family will be able to do anything they can afford or whatever the deceased requests they do with the body in the will
- We will then do a ceremony out in nature to scatter the ashes or plant the body tree thing or whatever the family has done

Poems or Sayings

- People can read poems or saying or tell short stories about the deceased
- Many of these can or would also be thankful of the gods

Wearing Green

- We wear green to symbolize the circle of life and the celebration that we have been granted it (note do not wear this to other funerals as it may be considered offensive and inappropriate always follow proper dresscode for non-temple events)

Holiday Final

All of our provided holiday and event celebration ideas were voted on at the beginning of the organization's existence and it is time they are looked at again. No one proposed any changes so these remain the same.

Solstices

- Bonfires (or sparklers/candles if bonfires forbidden)
- Food/Feasts
 - Shortbread Cookies (modified for season)
 - Tea
 - Seasonal Fruits and Veggies
 - Roasts seasonal
- Making Lanterns Sun Decorations
- Meditation
- Songs and Dances or Readings
- Special Outfits (colors for those broom closet)

Equinoxes

- Picnics
- Food
 - Shortbread Cookies (modified for season)
 - Tea
 - Seasonal Fruits and Veggies
 - Roasts seasonal
- Decorations (flowers or leaves for fall)
- Songs and Dances
- Things that celebrate balance
- Special Outfits (colors for those broom closet)

Samhain/Halloween

- Trick or Treat
- Pumpkins and other food
- candles
- Bonfires
- Decorations
- Ancestor worship

New Moons

- Candles
- Plant Seeds
- Readings to bring back the moon
- Buy a Book
- Dream journal
- Meditation
- Special clothes
- Set intentions

Full Moons

- Make Moon water
- Baths (scented with herbs)
- Dancing under the Moon
- Flowy clothes (colors for those broom closet)

Revamp Option 1 Final Choice

I personally am COMPLETELY THRILLED y'all picked this one. This was the right answer even if I could not tell you that. This will fix so many of the problems, concerns, and struggles.

Summary:

For this option we would no longer work with money in any way. We would dissolve our registration with the state and federal government and operate like a local knitting club. We would have a Club Charter instead of bylaws. Our membership list would simply be transferred over to this style of organization. One of the benefits of this is that it provides us more protection from the current administration.

List of Changes:

- International Members can join and have full participation.
- No More Membership Tiers
- Higher Level of Legal Protection (but not bowing to Fascism)
- More Community Fund Raising Opportunities
- I did find a solution to the Marriages Loophole so we can still perform Marriages.
- Immediately begin Products (I will need to set up a system but otherwise it can start right away).
- Changes NO Day-to-Day Operations so events, observances, and everything else will continue as normal.
- Left Over Funds will be donated to charity- I am in contact with several I know and trust and will likely choose one of them.
- No More Horrid Tax Meeting (I will only need to bug you 2 times a year instead of 3)

Please note it will take me a minute to implement these changes as I am doing so from farther away but everything will change eventually.