

THE PURPOSE OF THE COVENANT

The Covenant of the Goddess, founded in 1975, is an advocacy organization that seeks to foster cooperation amongst Wiccans and Witches; to secure legal protection; to provide education through outreach and to nurture its members through dialog and community.

FUNCTIONS

The Covenant publishes a newsletter; issues ministerial credentials; sponsors a national festival; stands as a resource for information on Witchcraft and Wicca; engages in interfaith work, and local community outreach through its Local Councils.

STRUCTURE

The Covenant of the Goddess is incorporated as a non-profit religious organization in California, though it has grown to be an international organization. It is a confederation of covens and solitaires from various traditions, who share in the worship of the Goddess and the Old Gods and subscribe to a common code of ethics. The Covenant holds a Grand Council annually to decide matters which require deliberation by the full membership. Decisions are usually made by consensus.

THE CODE OF ETHICS

- An ye harm none, do as ye will.
- Since our religion and the arts and practices peculiar to it are the gift of the Goddess, membership and training in a local coven or tradition are bestowed free, as gifts, and only on those persons who are deemed worthy to receive them. However, a coven may expect each of its members to bear a fair share of its ordinary operating expenses.
- All persons have the right to charge reasonable fees for the services by which they earn a living, so long as our religion is not thereby exploited.
- Every person associated with this Covenant shall respect the autonomy and sovereignty of each coven, as well as the right of each coven to oversee the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical development of its members and students in its own way, and shall exercise reasonable caution against infringing upon that right in any way.
- All persons associated with this Covenant shall respect the traditional secrecy of our religion.
- Members of this Covenant should ever keep in mind the underlying unity of our religion as well as the diversity of its manifestations.
- These ethics shall be understood and interpreted in light of one another, and especially in light of the traditional laws of our religion.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

To learn more about the Covenant of the Goddess, visit our web page at www.cog.org or write to us at the address below. Specific questions may be addressed via email with the appropriate elected member of the CoG board of directors.

THE CoG WEB SITE

www.cog.org

FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/covenantofthegoddess

TWITTER

[@cogtweet](https://twitter.com/cogtweet)

PINTEREST

[CoG Pins](https://www.pinterest.com/cogpins)

GENERAL INFORMATION

info@cog.org

MEMBERSHIP

membership@cog.org

CREDENTIALS

credentials@cog.org

ASSOCIATES PROGRAM

membership@cog.org

MERRY MEET

merrymeet@cog.org

NEWSLETTER AND PUBLICATIONS

newsletter@cog.org

MEDIA CONTACT

pio@cog.org

THE COVENANT OF THE GODDESS
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THE COVENANT OF THE GODDESS

Assuring Pagan Rights Since 1975

AN OVERVIEW OF THE COVENANT

CONFIDENTIALITY

All information given to the Covenant of the Goddess or any of its officials is considered strictly confidential, unless clearly stated otherwise. No information about members is published or given out without explicit written permission. Direct access to the Covenant's mailing list is limited to the Board of Directors. Maximum privacy is assured.

NEWSLETTER

Each Sabbat the Covenant publishes an electronic newsletter of Craft and Pagan news, original articles, announcements and Covenant business. Members may download the newsletter from the Covenant's website. Individuals and non-members may subscribe to a hard-copy of the newsletter for \$30.00 for eight issues. Sample copies are available at \$5.00.

INTERNET AND NETWORKING

The Covenant of the Goddess maintains a visible online presence at www.cog.org. The Covenant also hosts a Facebook Page, sharing links and news of interest with members and non-members alike (www.facebook.com/covenantofthegoddess). In addition, the Covenant is on Twitter (@[cogtweet](https://twitter.com/cogtweet)) and Pinterest (CoG Pins). There are also two independent blogs that are routinely updated with specific activity information; the Public Information Officer maintains one blog at www.covenantpio.blogspot.com and the National Interfaith Representatives report on their work at www.covenantinterfaith.blogspot.com.

FINANCES

The annual membership tithing is established each year at Grand Council to cover the various expenses of the Covenant. Additional financial resources are gained from fundraising. Direct contributions to the Covenant of the Goddess are greatly appreciated and are fully tax-deductible.

LOCAL COUNCILS

A Local Council is a smaller branch of the Covenant, consisting of at least three member covens from at least two different traditions, in reasonably close geographic proximity to one other. Local Councils must meet at least twice a year, though many typically meet more often. A Local Council may choose to initiate independent projects, sponsor local festivals and workshops, and generally works together for common goals close to home. As the Covenant continues to grow, we encourage new member covens in close proximity to form new Local Councils.

THE ASSOCIATES PROGRAM

There are many Witches or Wiccans who, for various reasons, do not meet the requirements for membership as defined by the Covenant. Following a pilot program in 1992, the Associates Program was adopted by the Covenant in 1998 and enabled the Covenant to reach out to a greater number of Witches and Wiccans to better serve the Craft community as a whole. Information about this program can be found at the Covenant's website, or by contacting the National Membership Officer at membership@cog.org.

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Any Goddess-supporting coven or individual may be eligible for membership in the Covenant of the Goddess if certain criteria are met. Inquiries regarding membership should be sent to the National Membership Officer. If a coven or solitaire is in an area near a Local Council, the National Membership Officer will forward the inquiry to the appropriate officer of that Local Council.

GENERAL CRITERIA FOR COVEN MEMBERSHIP

To be eligible for membership, a coven must:

- Generally focus theology and ritual, etc., around the worship of the Goddess and the Old Gods (or the Goddess alone).
- Believe in and follow a code of ethics compatible with that of the Covenant.
- Have been meeting at least monthly for six months or more.
- Have three or more members formally accepted into the clergy.
- Be a cohesive, self-perpetuating group.
- Identify themselves as "Witch" or "Wiccan."

REQUIREMENTS FOR MEMBERSHIP

An applicant must be recommended without reservation by two individuals well known to the Covenant.

The appropriate Membership Officer (National or Local) shall verify information regarding the criteria and requirements.

ASSEMBLY OF SOLITAIRES

This is the term we use to collectively represent members who are Solitaires, i.e., practicing alone. Local Councils may devise its own standards for the admission of Solitaires, in harmony with national guidelines.

MINISTERIAL CREDENTIALS

The Covenant may grant Ministerial Credentials to its members. Once granted, the member is responsible for registering as clergy in their own state, as well as understanding and abiding by all laws which apply to clergy in their area.

In order to be eligible for Ministerial Credentials as a Priestess or Priest, a member must have accepted a commitment to the requirements of that coven's Tradition of our religion and have undergone at least one full year of active training for the ministry of that Tradition.

To be eligible for Ministerial Credentials as an Elder, in addition to the above a member must have undergone an additional year of active training for the ministry and be fully able to form a coven, admit members, and train them in the tenets and practices of their Tradition.

Credentials must be renewed each year; the National Credentials Officer can provide more details.

INTERFAITH

The Covenant of the Goddess is proud to support positive interfaith relationships. Our representatives are members of various interfaith organizations and they are actively engaged in many exciting and innovative activities. They are volunteers who serve as a matter of personal conviction. Each representative works at her or his own direction, according to personal opportunities, resources and interests. These volunteer representatives comprise the membership of our Interfaith Committee, and rely primarily upon personal finances to fund their activities. For more information about CoG's interfaith activities, visit the CoG website at www.covenantinterfaith.blogspot.com.

MERRYMEET—THE NATIONAL FESTIVAL

The annual Grand Council or national business meeting is held as part of MerryMeet, our annual national festival. This festival is open to the entire membership as well as to Pagans and Witches who are not part of the Covenant. The festival is usually held at a secluded campground or resort, and moves to a different area of the country each summer. In addition to the council meeting, the program of the festival has included workshops on aspects of the Craft, concerts, a potluck feast, talent shows and the opportunity to purchase (or barter for) art, crafts, and ritual tools by Pagan artisans. Registration information is available from the Second Officer at merrymeet@cog.org.