

Ancient Sea Island Continuum By-Laws

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Preamble:

In accord with the principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) as expressed in Article II of the Bylaws of the UUA, we, as members and friends of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Beaufort, a member congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Association, join together to form a chapter of the Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans, Inc. ("CUUPS"), an Ohio non-profit religious corporation. This organization is intended to operate as an Earth-centered spiritual affinity circle of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Beaufort, 178 Sams Point Road, Beaufort, SC 29907 ("UUFB"). All references herein to the "Board" shall mean the Board of Directors of UUFB and all references herein to "Council" shall mean the leaders of the Chapter herein called "Ancient Sea Island Continuum".

Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be the Ancient Sea Island Continuum (ASIC).

Article II. Purposes

The purposes of ASIC are to

- A. Increase awareness & understanding of Paganism & Earth-centered spirituality upon the Sea Islands, the Low Country, and the Coastal Empire,
- B. Provide a safe, inclusive environment conducive to spiritual growth, exploration, & education in Pagan & Earth-centered spirituality,
- C. Uphold the principles of Unitarian Universalism while encouraging creativity, unique expression, & personal interpretation within each individual's spiritual path,
- D. Sponsor Earth-centered & Nature-based spiritual celebrations for members of ASIC, UUFB, and the general public.
- E. Inform the broader pagan community about Unitarian Universalism.

Article III. Chapter Year

The Chapter Year shall be the first day of January and shall end the last day of December.

Article IV. ASIC & UUFB

ASIC will contribute to the spiritual life of the UUFB congregation as well as providing education to the congregation by:

- A. Providing classes on the history, practices and benefits of living the Earth-centered spiritual path (A Year & A Day),
- B. Offering to provide the UUFB congregation Earth-centered Sunday services, at least twice a year.
- C. Integrating an educational aspect when an Earth-centered ceremony is offered at a UUFB Sunday service,
- D. Encouraging ASIC members to attend UUFB Sunday services,
- E. Recommending new ASIC members consider joining UUFB.

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Article V. Membership

A. Members

Membership in ASIC, for the purpose of voting, shall be open to any individual who declares their agreement with our Purposes and ASIC-UUFB Covenant, the Unitarian Universalist Principles, and the vision statement of CUUPS by signing the membership roster in the Sea Island Grimoire (SIG), and meets one of the following criteria:

1. A member in good standing, of both UUFB and CUUPS.
2. Self-declared Pagan-identified members of UUFB.
3. CUUPS members who live in the Sea Islands, the Low Country, or the Coastal Empire.
4. One of the thirteen founders of the Ancient Sea Island Continuum
5. Individuals who are active in the life of ASIC. Activity in the "life of ASIC" is defined as participation, once each month in at least six months of a year, in a posted ASIC or UUFB activity.

Minors (individuals under the age of 18) may participate in non-voting ASIC activities with a notarized consent form from their parent(s) or guardian(s). The notarized document will be retained in the SIG.

B. Privileges

1. Each member will be entitled to participate in or attend all ASIC activities.
2. Each member will be allowed to vote in Council elections, or to vote on matters submitted to ASIC membership.
3. Each member is entitled to one vote.

C. Annual Meeting

There shall be an annual meeting of the membership prior to or at the Imbolc Sabbat. Notice of this meeting shall be communicated to membership by the Herald at least thirty (30) days prior to the meeting.

D. Quorum and Proxies

One-third of ASIC members, represented in person or by proxy, shall constitute a quorum at a meeting. At all meetings of members, a member may vote by proxy, executed in writing by the member. Such proxy shall be filed with the ASIC Scribe before or at the time of the meeting.

E. Termination of Membership

Any member of ASIC can declare their intent to leave ASIC by notifying the Scribe, in writing.

The Council of ASIC shall have the authority to terminate any ASIC member whenever, in the Council's judgment, the best interests of ASIC will be served thereby. The issue will be decided by a 75% majority vote of the Council.

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Article VI. Governance

A. Council

Terms of service will be for the entire Chapter Year. There is no limit to how many terms a Member may serve in a particular office. A Council member may also serve concurrently; excluding positions of backup roles, in one Council Role. Anyone desiring to serve on the Council must be considered an active member of ASIC (as described in paragraph 10) and be approved by a 2/3 majority vote of the current ASIC Council. Council responsibilities will be as follows:

B. Roles

There are six roles represented on the Council:

1. The Guide (or a member of the Council designated by the Guide) shall preside at all ASIC meetings; and represent ASIC in meetings with the UUFB Board and with other UUFB groups, upon their request.
2. The Scribe (or a member of the Council designated by the Scribe) shall take attendance and minutes at all ASIC activities; report recent and planned ASIC activities to the UUFB Program Council monthly; maintain the SIG; and update the UUFB Administrator, at least monthly, with contact information for newcomers to ASIC activities.
3. The Herald (or a member of the Council designated by the Herald) shall maintain social media presence for ASIC, answer ASIC e-mail; assure articles are contributed to the UUFB Headline News at least monthly; provide the UUFB Minister all content intended for electronic and print distribution outside UUFB to review and approve; ensure that ASIC activities are distributed in a timely manner through the CUUPS newsletter, local media, and social media.
4. The Merchant (or a member of the Council designated by the Merchant) shall be responsible for providing appropriate signage on behalf of ASIC to receive funds at all ASIC activities; documenting and depositing all received funds per UUFB policy; notifying the UUFB Administrator of funds received; and function as the special event coordinator.
5. The Guardian (or a member of the Council designated by the Guardian) shall preserve order, maintain safety, encourage right relations, work with the Herald to secure social media and email for ASIC, and report all activities with groups outside UUFB to the Scribe.
6. Two Shape-Shifters will serve as at-large Council members; provide additional help in any Council role for any ASIC activity (temporarily upon request by another member of the Council, or for the remainder of a term as appointed by the Council to fulfill a vacant Council role).

C. Council Meetings

The members of the Council shall meet on a schedule of their own choosing prior to each Sabbath and such meetings shall be governed by the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order.

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D. Council Nominations and Elections

The members of ASIC shall nominate candidates to the Council pursuant to the procedures prescribed by sections 3.6 and 3.7 of the Bylaws. The election will occur at the annual meeting.

E. Resignations

A Council member of ASIC must notify the Scribe, in writing, of intent to resign.

F. Removals

A Council Member who fails to perform or whose actions are contrary to our statement of purpose may be removed from service after a reasonable mediation attempt has been made. If a settlement cannot be reached, a vote of no confidence will require 2/3 of all other active Council members. Members must be notified at least fourteen (14) days in advance of such a vote.

G. Vacancies

If a position is vacated by reassignment, resignation or removal, the Council will appoint a replacement.

Article VII. Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by a vote of sixty percent (60%) of the ASIC membership. To be presented to the ASIC membership as a ballot item, any amendment must be either (1) approved by a majority vote of the Council voting at any Council meeting or (2) approved by initiative of six (6) members of ASIC or ten (10) percent of ASIC membership (whichever is greater). All proposed amendments to these Bylaws must be reviewed and approved by the Council. No amendment to these Bylaws shall be effective unless approved by the Council.

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Article VIII. Adoption

These ASIC By-Laws shall become effective upon ratification by the Council at a Council meeting.

The above by-laws were approved at the March 21, 2015 meeting of the Ancient Sea Island Continuum. Below find the signatures of ratifying ASIC members:

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