



DIRECTORY OF SERVICES

The Covenant of the Goddess is a federation of Witchcraft covens and solitaires which was created in 1975 to secure for Wicca the same rights enjoyed by other religions in a free society. It is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a tax-exempt religious organization. COG currently has about 130 member covens of various traditions, as well as many solitary members. Most of the membership is organized into about a dozen regional Local Councils in the United States. COG also has members in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United Kingdom. COG officers and many of our members are accessible on the Internet. Here we share information, discuss ideas, meet others, and educate people in cyberspace about the Craft. Our website is: <http://www.cog.org>

This directory summarizes the services offered by COG to its members. For more details on our activities, visit www.cog.org
For information on how to apply for membership, email membership@cog.org or write to:
Covenant of the Goddess P.O. Box 1226, Berkeley, CA 94701
Please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your inquiry.

National Advocacy for Wicca

When national issues are at stake, such as legislation which discriminates against Wiccan organizations, youth programs which refuse to serve Pagan children, or facilities which do not make equal accommodations for Wiccan participants, the Covenant is there to speak out as an advocate for the Craft. One recent success was the Pentacle Quest, in which COG, Circle, and other Wiccan organizations joined with Americans United for the Separation of Church and State to sue the Veterans Administration over delays and refusals to grant Wiccan military personnel headstone markers showing the pentacle as a symbol of their religion.

Sometimes an individual Wiccan or coven finds they need help - a local zoning board forbids coven meetings, a judge threatens to remove a child because a parent is Wiccan, an employer fires a Wiccan for religious reasons, or an administrator denies access to a community center. COG officers can provide information and technical assistance, and can help to gather resources from Wiccans around the country.

Networking--Regionally, Nationally and Internationally

COG helps bring Witches together, whether it is organizing a Local Council or putting a single coven or Witch in touch with the larger Wiccan community. We are here to build connections to make it possible for Witches to meet, work, and celebrate together, secure in the rights and privileges enjoyed by all religions.

Public Information & Education

Public Information Officers interact with the media, government agencies, and other organizations to disseminate accurate information about Wicca. The COG Press Packet, developed especially to inform media representatives, and other informative literature is available for local use.

Interfaith Networking

Members of COG have been active in interfaith networking since the 1980's. Since 1993, when COG co-sponsored the World Parliament of Religions, COG has sent delegates to many US and global Interfaith conferences, actively befriending religious leaders from all over the world, and educating them about the Craft. We continue to create connections and to engage in interfaith dialogue on issues of concern to all religions.

Ministerial Credentials

Member priests and priestesses who meet their coven or tradition requirements as trained clergy are eligible for ministerial credentials from COG. These credentials have helped many Wiccan clergy to gain recognition locally so they may legally perform marriages, visit hospitals and correctional facilities as chaplains, and perform other pastoral functions.

Handfasting Certificates

Elegant certificates are provided for priestesses and priests planning to officiate at handfastings, or betrothed couples who want a Wiccan document commemorating their vows. *Please note:* The certificate alone does not validate a marriage in the eyes of the law. Check state and local ordinances to learn the requirements for a legal marriage.

Children's and Youth Resources

We sponsor a web-based guide to books, movies, games and other resources for families who are raising children in a Wiccan tradition.

Youth Religious Awards

The Hart & Crescent Award is a medallion and certificate which may be earned by youth members of any nature religion 11 and older. Young people must meet certain requirements outlined in a booklet, available online: <http://www.cog.org/projects/hartcres.html> For adults, the Distinguished Youth Service award is available by nomination. COG is developing an award for younger children, called the Over the Moon award.

Information & Referrals

People from all over North America and the world write and email us, asking questions, seeking accurate information about Wicca, or wanting to get in touch with local covens. We serve as an information network, responding to requests ranging from national news services or inquiring teens. For general information about the Craft, we suggest visiting our website, www.cog.org

Merrymeet Festival

Each year COG holds its annual business meeting, Grand Council, in the context of a festival called Merrymeet, which is held in a different region of the United States each year. This festival, usually in August, is known for its excellent workshops on magick and aspects of the Craft, for its amateur talent night, concerts, rituals, artisans and merchants. The setting is often a country resort with camping, cabins and a meal option, but we have also used hotels, partnered with another regional festival, and used a university campus to maximize comfort and convenience while controlling costs. Non-members are welcome to attend.

The Leadership Institute

This is a day-long adult training program on Witch and Pagan leadership topics such as group process, legal issues for Pagan religious organizations, program planning, interfaith, outreach and networking, and other topics. The focus changes every year. The Institute is scheduled the day before Merrymeet each year, at the same site, so participants can enjoy both events.

Training Resources

COG members may contribute training materials for Wiccan priests and priestesses which they have developed, such as curricula, workshop outlines, learning exercises, and rituals. Copies of these are available to members on our website.

Identity /Pride

Embroidered emblems, pewter pendants, enamel lapel pins and small ceramic bowls and magnets with the COG logo are available for members who wish to show their affiliation with the world's largest federation of Witches.