

## Sacred Well Congregation

### COVENANT OF HIGH HOLY DAYS

Approximate Dates (Gregorian)	Kith & Public Rites	Kindred Rites
13-26 December	Rite of Midwinter Christmas St. John the Evangelist	Mutternacht * Yule Mother Night Secret of the Unhewn Stone
1-2 February	Rite of Awakening Candlemas St. Brigit	Erweckung * Imbolc Stirrings
19-22 March	Rite of Spring Easter St. Edward	Sommerzukunfts * Vernal Equinox Summer Findings
31 April - 2 May	Rite of Exultation May Day St. Sophia	Walpurgisnacht * Beltane Lady Day
19-23 June	Rite of Midsummer St. John the Baptist	Sonnenwende * Litha Midsummer
30 July - 2 August	Rite of Thanksgiving First Harvest St. Oswald	Erntezeit * Lughnassadh Lammas
19-24 September	Rite of Autumn Harvest Home Michaelmas	Winterzukunfts * Mabon Winter Findings
31 October - 2 November	Rite of Remembrance All Hallow's All Saints Day	Urahennacht * Samhain Ancestor Night
11 November	Martinmas	Einherjährest Feast of the Fallen Warriors

SWC/IICRS

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IRS DLN: 406296021

## Combined Federal Campaign

National / International Agency  
Number: 10140



Please support us with  
your contribution.

## MISSION

Sponsor, endorse, and provide infrastructure for Nature-Centered military and community groups; provide support, education, and assistance to the served communities and beyond; provide information and resources for chaplains, military and community leaders, and Nature-Centered practitioners.

## VISION

To be a safe, welcoming, inclusive fellowship of nature-centered clergy and practitioners, and a forum of higher learning supporting all spiritualists who come seeking.

## VALUES

**Community Outreach:** Bringing services and support to practitioners of Nature-Centered communities.

**Education:** Bringing formal and informal models of experiential, academic, and intuitive learning resources to practicing Nature-Centered spiritual communities.

**Service:** Helping establish and sustain Nature-Centered spiritual communities.

**Consistency:** Serving the Nature-Centered spiritual community in unified language and behavior.

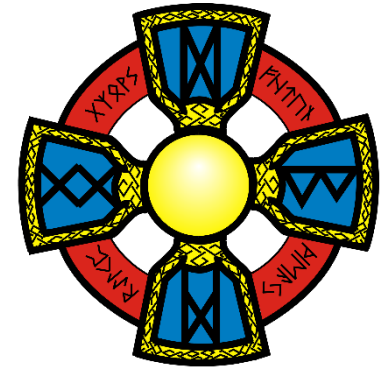
**Inclusivity:** Creates and supports space for spiritual practices that do not discriminate based on spiritual practice, race, ethnicity, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, marital status, or age.

**Intentional Investment:** Being intentional in who and how we choose to invest our time and resources.

**Sacred Community:** Being actively present and invested in our relationships with ourselves, others, our community, and nature.

Sacred Well Congregation  
An International Nature-Centered Church  
and Fellowship

PO Box 64  
Butler, Missouri 64730  
[www.sacredwell.org](http://www.sacredwell.org)  
Phone: 210-287-6514



The Sacred Well Congregation is a universalist, independent, non-evangelical Nature-Centered Church. We are organized for the purpose of conducting and promoting religious worship on alternative Spiritual Paths. Our Church provides open, public venues for the practice of the Old Religions; we promote community benevolence efforts, spiritual counseling, and religious educational programs.

We are recognized by the IRS as a 501(c)3 §170b1A1 Church.

All donations are fully tax-deductible.

# Sacred Well Congregation

## COVENANT OF FIVE TENETS

1. We reverence the God and Goddess as the representations of the Divine Reality that is at once immanent and transcendent in and throughout all of the infinite creation. We celebrate the manifestations of the Divine Reality through Rites of Seasons and Rites of Passage.
2. We live in reverence and respect of the Natural world, recognizing the Sacred Cycles of ebb and flow, birth and death, creation and destruction. We acknowledge the sanctity and intrinsic worth of all life forms, and in dearth of cause, will never by word or deed willfully cause harm to befall any creature, manifest or unmanifest.
3. We affirm as inalienable the Right of every individual "either alone, or in community with others, in public or in private, to manifest his or her religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observation." (Article 18, Universal Declaration of Human Rights). We recognize the responsibility of every individual for his or her own spiritual development and transformation, and that every individual is his or her own ultimate authority in all matters of spirit and religion.
4. To the extent of available spiritual and material resources, we will: teach those who seek; aid those in need; comfort those who for reasons of religion, conscience, ethnicity, or sex suffer oppression; and resist tyranny in all forms.
5. We live in peace and tolerance with all of humanity, neither converting to, nor seeking to convert those of other faiths and practices.

**The Sacred Well Congregation (SWC)** was organized in Hainin, Belgium on Midsummer Day, 1994, to provide an infrastructure and a sense of community for those who choose to follow alternative spiritual paths. The Covenant of Five Tenets establishes the congregation's Statement of Faith and Practice.

The founders and senior leadership of SWC follow the Greencraft™ Tradition of Craft Wicca. We regard all spiritual paths as sacred. Anyone who affirms the Covenant of Five Tenets and requests affiliation is welcome, regardless of their race, color, religion, creed, sex, marital status, national origin, mental or physical disability, political beliefs or affiliations, veteran status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, or any other protected status under state or federal law. We count among our members Wiccans, Druids, Asatru, and individuals from other Pagan traditions, as well as several open-minded individuals from mainstream religions who support religious freedom, pluralism, and tolerance for all sacred paths. Membership is unbinding and members may choose to come and go as their conscience directs.

SWC is a Religious Endorsing Body member of COMISS Network, working in partnership with educational institutions like Cherry Hill Seminary (CHS), Starr King School for the Ministry (SKSM), and United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities to prepare and ordain Nature-Centered/Pagan identifying individuals seeking certification as a chaplain through the Association of Professional Chaplains (ACP), College of Pastoral Supervision and Psychotherapy (CPSP), and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Similarly, SWC partners with CHS as an option for ordination for community ministers completing the Community Ministry Certificate program. SWC provides Denominational Sponsorship and Endorsement for several Military Open Circles worldwide, Civilian Open Circles

nationwide, and a Digital Open Circle. Approximately 15,000 participants have benefitted from the services, programs, and activities facilitated through The Sacred Well Congregation each year.

In January 2002, SWC established the International Institute for Cultural and Religious Studies (IICRS). The IICRS was organized to provide a venue, forum, and vehicle for interfaith academic study, research, and dissemination of information relating to contemporary and ancient cultural, religious, and social systems through access to a sizable research library and resource archive of out-of-print texts, original research papers, unpublished works, and English translations of foreign documents. SWC celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Litha 2024 with members across the United States, Canada, and Europe. The individuals affiliated with SWC span various communities: United States civilian communities, United States Armed Forces, Canadian civilian communities, Canadian Armed Forces, incarcerated individuals, and those under hospital care. We provide educational support to hospital spiritual care departments, the United States Armed Forces Chaplaincy Schools, and the civilian community. Several of the SWC senior leadership also serve as seminary professors at CHS and SKSM.

We welcome you to share in and expand our vision. Blessed Be.

Rev. Shane L. Nelson, MA, MDiv, BCC  
Executive Director  
Sacred Well Congregation

Rev. Dr. David L. Oringderff  
Executive Agent  
International Executive Counsel