



Memorandum to LifeSpirit Clergy

Date: 7 April 2022

Re: Alternate Clergy Recognition by License, Not by Title.

Traditionally members of the clergy are privately “licensed, ordained and commissioned” by their ecclesiastical supervisors. There are a number of interchangeable titles which members of our Clergy may adopt. LifeSpirit Collaborative Congregations collectively allow its clergymen and clergywomen, or, generally, clergy or clergyperson, to adopt whatever titles with which they feel comfortable or which may reflect their faith history.

Anyone who has successfully completed all prerequisites required by LifeSpirit Seminary is **O r d a i n e d a n d** Licensed as a LifeSpirit Clergy Person, no matter what title or lack of title they choose. In law and in custom, licenses are valid for a defined time frame. The Licenses LifeSpirit grants are valid until revoked. Revocation occurs if the Clergy violates the conditions of the Letter of Direction, or if the Clergy fails to comply with regular requests for updates and acknowledgment of changes to the Letter of Direction, or fails to notify LifeSpirit of any changes to contact information, including name changes, address changes, email or web site changes, alterations or additions. LifeSpirit, as the Overseeing Body has an obligation to monitor Clergy compliance.

Here are some of the titles which may be considered by any member of LSCC clergy:

Ordained Minister (or Minister)	Pastor (restricted to the head or heads of a local congregation)
Ordained Clergy	Priest, Priestess
Clergy (clergyman, clergywoman, clergyperson)	Rev. (which may stand for Revelator (Revealer) in LifeSpirit Doctrine)
Chaplain	Ordained [and/or] Licensed Holistic Practitioner Parson

LifeSpirit By-Laws also recognize the positions of Pastor, Student Minister and Deacon (who is a Trustee handling congregational financial affairs). Further any member of the LifeSpirit Clergy may adopt a Clerical name (as, for example, I have adopted *Rev. Esnur*).

Specialized terms such as bishop, prophet, evangelist, missionary, preacher, teacher (rabbi), Rinpoche, padre, abbot, rector or Rev. Dr. (for a minister who also has an earned doctoral degree in any discipline), Gothi or goði (plural goðar, fem. Gyðja) are reserved for special circumstances and may be used ecclesiastical approval.

We are a private association of collaborative congregations that includes a diverse core belief spectrum, preparing our holistic practitioner Clergy through the recognized LifeSpirit Seminary. We allow and encourage our graduates to choose under what label they wish to practice. Some graduates have decided that, because decorations of ordination may erect a barrier between Clergy and Communicants or interfere with Religious or Secular relationships, and, to separate the work from the position of recognition, they opt for no ‘religious’ credential. In practice and in our recognition, they each carry full authority to conduct all sacerdotal duties and should be recognized as LifeSpirit Clergy.

Given on the above stated date, in the 48th Year since the Founding of the Church

Rev. Esnur
Founding Trustee