

## MEMBERSHIP POLICY AND PROCEDURES

Policy: The assembly shall have a policy that addresses how to become a member, the benefits of membership and the process for addressing members who do not abide by the member covenant.

Procedure I: Anyone can choose to be a member of Awakening Together (AT) if it is the calling of his or her heart to be a member. The process for becoming a member and maintaining membership are:

- A. Each member shall agree to the following member covenant:
  1. As a member of Awakening Together, I profess a heart-felt desire to realize one universal truth. I willingly join this assembly of equals committed to discernment and awakening. I accept the assembly's purpose as my purpose and its core values as my core values. I agree to:
    - i. Support each member of this assembly on the path of awakening they feel called to follow.
    - ii. Listen to each member of this assembly, respect each member of this assembly and allow each member to be where he/she is on the divine path of awakening.
    - iii. Practice letting go of the belief that I am a specific and separate individual apart from the whole.
    - iv. Embrace that which my inner wisdom says is helpful to awakening without idolizing any scripture, teaching or teacher as truth itself.
    - v. Honor all appearances and all experiences as guided by my inner wisdom while continually reflecting on that wisdom and/or changeless truth.
- B. Each member may retain membership with their traditional religion and still maintain good-standing as a member in AT. This provision is adopted so as not to exclude any who for whatever personal reason(s) feel the need or desire to continue the practice of their traditional religion. Retention of membership in one's traditional religion should not preclude one from following his/her heartfelt calling to seek for the spiritual growth opportunity that the traditional religion did not fulfill and that membership in AT would provide. The decision to join AT as a member comes not from intellectually based discernment, but is a calling emanating from the heart.
- C. AT will conduct a membership census every three years to re-confirm membership and update the membership database. Those who have been a member for less than a year are exempt from the membership census.

Procedure II: AT members have the following privileges, which are not afforded to friends. (A friend is defined as anyone and everyone who is not an AT member.)

- A. AT members may exercise their right to vote in member board elections.
- B. In any instance in which a vacancy should arise on the AT member board, any member of AT may nominate either him/herself or another AT member to fill the seat.
- C. Members may serve on a member board subcommittee by invitation of the member board or the subcommittee chair. Members may also request an invitation to serve on a subcommittee.

- D. Members may attend member board meetings by invitation of the member board. Members may also request an invitation to attend a member board meeting.
- E. Members may apply for the AT Minister Preparation Program (MPP). Members may also take classes from the MPP without any interest or intention of becoming a minister.
- F. Members may apply to be administrators in our Sanctuary. (Reference the Sanctuary Policy and Procedures.)
- A. Members may submit articles to be posted on the AT website. The Office of the President-Minister shall approve or disapprove of articles.
- B. Members may apply to have their blog or website directly linked on the AT website. The office of the President-Minister shall approve or disapprove of application.
- C. Members may submit comments and suggestions to the President-Minister. The President-Minister shall respond or delegate the comments/suggestions for response as appropriate.
- D. Members may apply for scholarships for AT pilgrimages, retreats, courses or other events with an associated cost. (Reference the AT Scholarship Policy and Procedures.)

Procedure III: Members are expected to abide by the Member Covenant and all AT policies and procedures that apply to members. Members who do not abide by the covenant or policies and procedures are subject to the following:

- A. Members shall abide by the AT Sanctuary Policy and Procedures. Any member who does not abide by the Sanctuary Policy and Procedures is subject to loss of privileges as stated in the Sanctuary Policy and Procedures.
- B. Members shall abide by and honor the Member Covenant. Any member who does not abide by the Member Covenant will be asked to meet with an AT member board trustee to review the covenant agreed to and discuss any issues. If the member is no longer in agreement with the covenant, the member will be asked if he/she would like to resign their membership. If the member chooses to retain his/her membership, but continues to be noncompliant with the Member Covenant, the member may lose some or all member privileges as determined by the member board. Any member privileges which have been revoked can be reinstated by the member board when the member demonstrates willing compliance with the Member Covenant.