

# TAKOMA PARK METAPHYSICAL CHAPEL

## (An Incorporated Non-Profit Chapel)

### CONSTITUTION

#### PREAMBLE

We, the members of Takoma Park Metaphysical Chapel, a chartered affiliate of the United Metaphysical Churches, in the state of Maryland, in order to form a more perfect and efficient organization, establish intelligent cooperation, insure harmonious action and financial success, hold worship services, provide for the advancement of educational and religious study, the promulgation of the philosophy and religion of Metaphysics, and to secure the blessings of equal liberty and protection under the law to ourselves and our posterity as a people, hereby establish this Constitution for the guidance, direction and control of Takoma Park Metaphysical Chapel (hereinafter referred to as the 'Chapel').

No provision shall be included herein that conflicts with the Constitution and By-laws of the national organization of the United Metaphysical Churches, or which conflicts with any State or Federal law, nor shall any article or provision of this Constitution be amended so that it causes such conflict.

No By-laws shall be adopted which are contrary to, in conflict with, or inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Constitution, to which all By-laws shall be subordinate; nor shall any By-Law be so amended whereby such amendment causes contradiction, conflict, or inconsistency with any of the provisions of this Constitution.

#### ARTICLE I

### Chapel Name

#### Section 1 - Chapel Name

The name of this Chapel shall be Takoma Park Metaphysical Chapel. The initials 'TPMC' shall stand as an abbreviation of the name of this Chapel. The Chapel shall also be referred to as the Takoma Park Chapel.

#### ARTICLE II

### Declaration of Principles

#### Section 1 - Declaration of Principles

The following Declaration of Principles is published to the world, not as a creed binding on the conscience of the individual, but as the consensus of a very large majority of American metaphysicians on the fundamental teachings of metaphysics:

1. We believe in Infinite Intelligence.
2. We believe that the phenomena of nature, both physical and spiritual, are the expressions of Infinite Intelligence.

3. We affirm that the correct understanding of such expression, and living in accordance therewith, constitute true religion.
4. We affirm that the existence and personal identity of the individual continues after the change called death.
5. We affirm that communication with the so-called dead is a fact demonstrated by the phenomena of mediumship.
6. We believe that the highest morality is contained in the Golden Rule: "Whatsoever ye would that others should do unto you, do ye also unto them".
7. We affirm the moral responsibility of the individual, and that he makes his own happiness or unhappiness as he obeys or disobeys Nature's physical and spiritual laws.
8. We affirm that the doorway to reformation is always open to any soul here and hereafter.
9. We affirm that the Precept of Prophecy contained in the Bible is a divine attribute proven through mediumship.

### ARTICLE III

## Chapel Purpose

### Section 1 - Purpose

It shall be the purpose of this Chapel to:

- Promulgate the philosophy and religion of metaphysics
- Foster the study of metaphysics
- Teach the principles revealed in the lives and teachings of the great religious teachers
- Minister to the spiritual welfare of all peoples in this community
- Teach that physical death is a transition in the continuity of the soul
- Dispense charity, comfort the bereaved, and minister to those in need.

### ARTICLE IV

## Board of Directors

### Section 1 - Responsibility

The Board of Directors shall have the general management and control of the affairs and activities of the Chapel not otherwise provided for by the Constitution and By-laws.

### ARTICLE V

## Membership

### Section 1 - Procedure to Become a Member

The Chapel will receive into its membership those persons of any age who have completed the following:

1. Attended a New Member Orientation (explaining the principles of the religion of metaphysics, or by Letter of Membership Transfer from another Church of the United Metaphysical Churches.
2. Membership application accepted by the Board of Directors.
3. Paid current annual dues.
4. Upon being publicly received into the fellowship of the Church.

## Section 2 - Member in Good Standing

A member in good standing shall have attended an orientation meeting, submitted an application for membership which was accepted by the Secretary of the Board of Directors, been inducted publicly and paid current annual membership dues (or have had dues waived by the Board of Directors).

## Section 3 - New Member Eligibility to Vote

A new member shall be allowed to vote at any meeting when said member has:

- A. Attained the age of eighteen (18) years.
- B. Paid annual dues.

## Section 4 - Suspension of Membership

Voluntary suspension of membership may be requested in writing by any member in good standing (as defined in Article V, Section 2) to the Board of Directors. Upon confirmation of majority member of the Board of Directors, a letter of suspension will be given, relieving the member of the obligation of dues payment during said period. Similarly, this suspension may be lifted by the petition of the suspended member to the Board of Directors. Reinstatement is confirmed by an affirmative vote of majority member of the Board of Directors, written notification, and payment of annual dues in arrears.

### ARTICLE VI

## Dues

### Section 1 - Establishment of Dues and Assessments

The dues and assessments levied by the Chapel shall be established by majority vote of the Board of Directors after notice to the membership as provided herein.

### Section 2 - Amount of Annual Dues

The annual dues of each member shall be \$35.00 per person or \$50.00 per family, payable upon completion of the qualifying steps specified in Article V, Section 1, and thereafter at the beginning of each Chapel year. Members joining in the last quarter of the Chapel's year may prorate initial membership dues with application. No one will be denied membership based upon inability to pay. The dues to the National Association will be included in, and paid from, the yearly dues paid to the Chapel.

### ARTICLE VII

## Regular Meetings

### Section 1 - Worship Services

Worship services for the advancement of those purposes germane and relevant to the object of this Chapel shall be held weekly on Sunday and on any other day of the week at such stated times as may be determined by the Board of Directors or by the congregation meeting in regular or special session.

## Section II - Annual Membership Meeting

The Annual Membership Meeting of the entire congregation shall be held the third (3rd) Sunday in March of each year. The exact time of this meeting shall be fixed by the Board of Directors. Notice shall be sent by the Corresponding Secretary to each member at least thirty (30) days prior to the scheduled date thereof, and stating the purpose of the meeting.

### ARTICLE VIII

## The Ministers of the Association

### Section 1 - Role of Senior Minister

The Senior Minister of the Chapel shall provide spiritual leadership and guidance, and instruct members in the science, philosophy, and religion of Metaphysics.

### Section 2 - Call or Dismissal of Minister

The sole and absolute authority and discretion to call or dismiss any minister shall be vested in the Board of Directors, and any such action, to be fully final and effective, must be confirmed by a majority vote of those present at an Annual Meeting, or a special meeting duly called for that purpose. Until and unless the dismissal of a minister is confirmed and approved by the membership, as set forth in the preceding sentence, a minister shall be entitled to the benefits and burdens of his/her office and calling.

### Section 3 – Role of Assistant Ministers

Any and all assistant ministers shall serve the Chapel as leaders, healers, counselors, teachers, and/or channels. They shall be under the guidance of the Senior Minister.

### ARTICLE IX

## Amendments

### Section 1 - By-laws

By vote of majority of the dues paying members in good standing at a regularly called Membership Meeting, the members may enact or amend any By-Law consistent with, or not in opposition of, this Constitution, and may suspend, modify, or repeal any By-Law previously enacted.

### Section 2 - Constitution

The Constitution of the Chapel may be amended by vote of majority of the dues paying membership present and in good standing, provided that notice of the proposal of such amendment shall have been given in writing to all dues paying members not less than 30 days prior to the Membership Meeting called for such purpose.

### Section 3 - National By-laws

The Chapel shall also be governed by the laws of the United Metaphysical Churches. The Constitution and By-laws of the United Metaphysical Churches will govern any point of question not covered by this Constitution and Bylaws. Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order unless otherwise stated by the Constitution and By-laws of Takoma Park Metaphysical Chapel or the United Metaphysical Churches.

### Section 4 - Quorum

A quorum for the transaction of business at any Annual or special Membership Meeting shall consist of majority of the dues paying members in good standing.

## ARTICLE X

# Dissolution

### Section 1 - Dissolution

Upon dissolution of the Chapel, no part of the net assets of the Chapel shall be paid or delivered to or for the benefit of any private person or individual. Upon dissolution, the net assets of the Chapel shall be paid over to the United Metaphysical churches, to act as trustees of such assets, paying all verified and outstanding debts or liabilities from proceeds of such assets. After the two year waiting period (described in National By-laws, Article V, section 9 (c,d.)) the remaining assets shall be paid and delivered to one or more local non-profit organizations who are not politically active and are consistent with the purpose of the Chapel as expressed in Article III, section 1, and as may have been recommended by the Board of Directors at the time of dissolution notice.