

Reclaiming's Principles of Unity

Note from Mysteries of Samhain organizers: The Principles of Unity are the closest thing we in the Reclaiming Tradition of witchcraft have to a doctrine or a creed. In order to call oneself a Reclaiming Witch, one must affirm these principles. You do not have to be a Reclaiming Witch to attend our camp! However, we are a social justice-oriented and antiracist tradition that affirms all genders and gender histories, and you must agree to abide by those aspects of our principles.

At the International Dandelion Gathering in September 2019, we as a tradition agreed to ask people to understand the Principles of Unity not just as a statement of purpose but as a statement of action.

*All people in leadership in Reclaiming are empowered to ask people who harm others to depart our gatherings and return only when willing to act in the spirit of the Principles of Unity. In other words, **repeated and hurtful behavior or speech—in particular, any that targets members of a marginalized group—will not be tolerated.** If you have concerns about something you see or hear at camp, you can ask any MOS team member for help.*

“My law is love unto all beings...” —The Charge of the Goddess

The values of the Reclaiming tradition stem from our understanding that the earth is alive and all of life is sacred and interconnected. We see the Goddess as immanent in the earth's cycles of birth, growth, death, decay and regeneration. Our practice arises from a deep, spiritual commitment to the earth, to healing and to the linking of magic with political action.

Each of us embodies the divine. Our ultimate spiritual authority is within, and we need no other person to interpret the sacred to us. We foster the questioning attitude, and honor intellectual, spiritual and creative freedom.

We are an evolving, dynamic tradition and proudly call ourselves Witches. Our diverse practices and experiences of the divine weave a tapestry of many different threads. We include those who honor Mysterious Ones, Goddesses, and Gods of myriad expressions, genders, and states of being, remembering that mystery goes beyond form. Our community rituals are participatory and ecstatic, celebrating the cycles of the seasons and our lives, and raising energy for personal, collective and earth healing.

We know that everyone can do the life-changing, world-renewing work of magic, the art of changing consciousness at will. We strive to teach and practice in ways that foster personal and collective empowerment, to model shared power and to open leadership roles to all. We make decisions by consensus, and balance individual autonomy with social responsibility.

Our tradition honors the wild, and calls for service to the earth and the community. We value peace and practice non-violence, in keeping with the Rede, "Harm none, and do what you will." We work for all forms of justice: environmental, social, political, racial, gender and economic. Our feminism includes a radical analysis of power, seeing all systems of oppression as interrelated, rooted in structures of domination and control.

We welcome all genders, all gender histories, all races, all ages and sexual orientations, and all those differences of life situation, background, and ability that increase our diversity. We strive to make our public rituals and events accessible and safe. We try to balance the need to be justly compensated for our labor with our commitment to make our work available to people of all economic levels.

All living beings are worthy of respect. All are supported by the sacred elements of air, fire, water and earth. We work to create and sustain communities and cultures that embody our values, that can help to heal the wounds of the earth and her peoples, and that can sustain us and nurture future generations.

These revised Principles were adopted by the Reclaiming Community at the Dandelion Gathering in 2012.