

CENTERS FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING

Member Community Agreement — Substantive Changes Summary

2012 Affiliation Agreement → 2026 Member Community Agreement (final, post-Legal-review text)

How to read this document

▲ NEW provision	▼ REMOVED provision	↔ REVISED provision	— RESTRUCTURED
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This document identifies every substantive change between the 2012 Member Community Affiliation Agreement and the final 2026 Member Community Agreement (using the clean text following Leadership Council and Legal Committee review). Formatting, punctuation, and non-substantive rewordings are not noted. Section numbering references the 2026 text unless otherwise indicated.

Overview: The 2026 MCA is a substantial upgrade from the 2012 Affiliation Agreement: 18 new provisions, 22 revised provisions, 6 removals, and 3 restructured sections, 49 substantive changes in total. The major themes: (1) explicit Good Standing criteria and a graduated deficiency/probation/termination process replacing a single-sentence termination clause; (2) a formalized, theologically-framed Conscious Giving framework with a reciprocal Home Office giving commitment; (3) mutual obligations between the Organization and Member Communities, including mandatory mediation and financial transparency; (4) modernized language for digital, social-media, and data-protection contexts; (5) standard legal protections (integration clause, severability) absent from 2012; and (6) removal of transitional/moot language from the 2011–2012 ICSSL/UCSL merger and the SOMARK brand-approval process.

DOCUMENT TITLE & COVER PAGE

↔ REVISED	Renamed from “Member Community Affiliation Agreement” to “Member Community Agreement (MCA).”
▼ REMOVED	“Member Community Fax” field dropped from the cover page since fax is no longer collected.
↔ REVISED	Cover page adds a dedicated “City / State or Province / Country” line (2012 folded this into the title block instead of the contact-info section).
↔ REVISED	Preamble formally defines “MCA”/“Agreement,” “Member Community,” and “Organization”/“CSL” as quoted defined terms. 2012 used similar language but without the bolded, quoted defined-term convention.

PREAMBLE

↔ REVISED	ODM incorporation clause: dropped “attached to this agreement” (ODM is now incorporated by reference only, not physically attached), and ratification broadened from “at our Annual Meeting” to “at a duly called meeting” which allows Special Meetings to ratify ODM changes, not just the Annual Meeting.
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↔ REVISED	“We are one community with many locations” to “We are one Organization with many locations” done to match the ODM/Bylaws convention of calling CSL “the Organization,” reserving “community” for individual Member Communities.
↔ REVISED	“Through the development and support of a spiritual community with many locations...” to “Through the development and support of the Organization, with many locations...” Same terminology fix; the services list itself (training, educational materials, publications, inspiration and guidance) is unchanged from 2012.
↔ REVISED	“We value the constituencies...” paragraph streamlined to combine two sentences into one and dropped the redundant “Our Intention is that...” framing.
↔ REVISED	Mission statement replaced with Global Vision language: 2012’s “Our Mission...is ‘To awaken humanity to its spiritual magnificence...’” (an inaccurate paraphrase presented as a quote) to “In our Global Vision, as outlined in the ODM, we envision humanity awakening to its spiritual magnificence and discovering the creative power of thought...” which is now the ODM’s actual Global Vision language, word for word.
▲ NEW	Added transitional paragraph: “The foregoing Vision and Intention statements articulate the spiritual foundation of this relationship. The following Sections set forth the governance and operational obligations of our mutual agreement.” cleanly separates aspirational language from binding obligations.

INTRODUCTION

↔ REVISED	Section A: dropped “and other non-profit corporations affiliated with the Organization” from the list of what counts as a Member Community; added “teaching centers” as a new category alongside teaching chapters and focus ministries.
↔ REVISED	Section B: “expressions of God” to “expressions of Spirit” as more inclusive theological language.
▼ REMOVED	Section B: condensed and dropped “We are all in this Life together and we include everyone in our vision of a peaceful, loving world that works for everyone,” plus the entire block describing embracing “the evolution and revelation of higher consciousness,” practicing “the spiritual tools put forward by our founder, Dr. Ernest Holmes,” and being “open, receptive, and welcoming of all people, all faiths, and all paths to God.” None of this survives in the 2026 Introduction.
↔ REVISED	Section C: “The Community” → “The Member Community” — terminology consistency.
▼ REMOVED	“Recognition of Established Rights, Privileges, and Recognition” section entirely removed. This section (honoring ICSL/UCSL charters, the 2011 new-community moratorium, and the January 15, 2012 signing deadline) is no longer operative and has been omitted as moot.

SECTION ONE — COMMUNITY MEMBER TERMS (formerly Affiliation Terms)

↔ REVISED	Section renamed from “Affiliation Terms” to “Community Member Terms.”
↔ REVISED	1.3: dropped the clause about encouraging “direct involvement of those who have the appropriate motivation, talents, and gifts” as redundant with the surrounding language.
↔ REVISED	1.4: added “For U.S. Member Communities” qualifier, scoping the 501(c)(3) Bylaws-alignment requirement to U.S. communities only since international communities are no longer implicitly covered by U.S. tax code language.

▼ REMOVED	1.4: dropped the requirement that the Member Community “submit current bylaws for approval by the Leadership Council and any future proposed changes to their bylaws.” Communities no longer have to submit bylaws or bylaw changes to the Leadership Council for approval which is a real reduction in Home Office oversight authority.
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SECTION TWO — AGREEMENTS

▼ REMOVED	2.1: dropped the transitional sentence honoring charters granted under the former ICSL/UCSL structure, as moot.
— RESTRUCTURED	2012’s 2.2.1 (state/local law and insurance compliance) is promoted into the new 2.2, broadened from “state, province, or local laws” to “country, state, province, or local laws.” 2012’s 2.2 (the group exemption letter) is relocated to become new 2.11 (see below).
▲ NEW	New 2.2 also adds a safeguarding, risk management, and data protection requirement since no equivalent existed in 2012.
▲ NEW	2.3 (new): Communications compliance requires the Member Community to maintain current contact information, designate a primary contact, and subscribe to official Organization communications. No 2012 equivalent.
↔ REVISED	2.4 (formerly 2.3): “registration fees” to “applicable Education Fee”; and “completion of documentation by the Member Community” to “the Member Community’s timely report of student completion” which reallocates the actual certificate/diploma documentation to the Organization, leaving the Member Community responsible only for reporting.
↔ REVISED	2.5 (formerly 2.5–2.6): Conscious Giving substantially rewritten. Replaces the “Committed Giving Form” model with an explicit, theologically-framed 10%-suggested Conscious Giving expectation.
▲ NEW	New explanatory paragraph after 2.5 plainly lists what Conscious Giving funds (magazine, licensing, education, Ethics, Global Support Services, Global Programs, marketing); there was no 2012 equivalent.
↔ REVISED	2.6 (formerly 2.4): Annual Report now also requires a pledge for next year’s Conscious Giving, not just certification of delegate eligibility.
▲ NEW	2.7 (new): Home Office reciprocal giving commitment where CSL commits to returning 10% of community-supported contributions back to the movement. No equivalent in 2012; this is a mutual-accountability provision running the other direction.
— RESTRUCTURED	2.8 (formerly 2.7 + 2.8 merged): combines the Organization’s commitment to maintain/expand its ministries with its commitment to sound business practices and good stewardship.
▲ NEW	2.8 adds an explicit transparency obligation for “regular reporting of financial statements in complete transparency” which was not present in 2012.
▲ NEW	2.9 (new): explicitly lists what a Member Community in Good Standing retains such as services, voting, credentialing, trademarks, governance participation. No 2012 equivalent.
▼ REMOVED	2.9 (2012) the SOMARK, Inc. brand-approval process is fully removed. Member Communities no longer need SOMARK’s separate approval under its Brand Identity Manual for new branded uses since we are in the process of closing that corporation.
↔ REVISED	2.10 (formerly 2.9.1): trademark-monitoring / sample-furnishing duty expanded from “print, electronic, broadcast media” to also cover “social media, livestreamed, recorded, and online content.”

▲ NEW	2.10 also adds an affirmative duty to “follow branding guidelines provided by CSL” 2012 only required furnishing samples on request, with no duty to actually follow branding guidelines.
— RESTRUCTURED	2.11 (formerly the main clause of 2.2): the group exemption letter provision, reframed so the Organization, not the Member Community, is the grammatical subject: the Organization “maintains and administers” the exemption letter, with Member Community inclusion stated as the result rather than the obligation.

SECTION THREE — GOOD STANDING (substantially expanded)

↔ REVISED	3.1: streamlined to a single sentence (“...intends to remain in Good Standing with Centers for Spiritual Living, as delineated here in this Section Three”), dropping 2012’s vague cross-reference to “the ratified edition of the...Bylaws current at the time of any issue relating to Good Standing.”
▲ NEW	3.2: adds six explicit, enumerated Good Standing criteria: Financial, Reporting, Communication, Governance, Legal and Ethical Compliance, and Operational Integrity. 2012 contained no definition of Good Standing at all beyond a bare reference to the Bylaws.
▲ NEW	3.3: adds a notice requirement: the Organization must notify the Member Community in writing of any out-of-Good-Standing determination, specifying the basis and an opportunity to correct.

SECTION FOUR — DEFICIENCY, PROBATION & TERMINATION (formerly a single-sentence Termination section)

▲ NEW	Entirely new graduated process. 2012’s Section Four was one sentence (“Affiliation...may be terminated only as provided in the ratified edition of the...Bylaws”). 2026 adds: 4.1 Notice of Deficiency (minimum 60-day Correction Period); 4.2 Correction Period (good-faith remediation); 4.3 Probationary Status (capped at 180 days); 4.4 Emergency Suspension of Privileges for serious harm or ethical violations.
▲ NEW	4.5 Termination is now tripartite: by the Member Community (30 days’ notice), by the Organization after probation failure (with the 180-day cap now restated inline), or by the Organization on 30 days’ notice under the Bylaws’ general grounds which is a matching notice period for the Organization that 2012 never had.
▲ NEW	4.5 also adds a post-termination obligation to immediately cease using and remove all CSL/Science of Mind® branding, IP, and curriculum from all public and internal communications, signage, and digital and physical presence. No 2012 equivalent.

SECTION FIVE — ASSETS & LIABILITIES

↔ REVISED	5.3: insurance changed from optional to mandatory. 2012 merely “encourages” the Member Community to carry liability insurance; 2026 requires it — “shall, at its own expense, obtain and maintain appropriate liability insurance, including at minimum such coverage types and limits as may be prescribed in the Organization’s Policies & Procedures Manual.”
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SECTION SIX — DISPUTE RESOLUTION (substantially expanded)

▲ NEW	6.1–6.2: added mandatory pre-litigation mediation so that parties must attempt good-faith mediation with a mutually agreed neutral mediator within 45 days of written notice. 2012 only referenced Colorado venue/law and deferred “detailed procedures” to the Policies & Procedures Manual, with no mediation commitment in the Agreement itself.
▲ NEW	6.3: added a 90-day mediation timeline after which binding arbitration or litigation may proceed.
↔ REVISED	6.4: added “without regard to conflicts-of-law principles” to the Colorado venue/law clause which is standard legal clarification absent from 2012.
▲ NEW	6.5: An IP emergency injunctive relief carve-out is added so that either party may seek immediate court relief to protect trademarks and IP without first completing mediation.

SECTION SEVEN — DULY AUTHORIZED AGREEMENT

▲ NEW	7.3: added an integration/entire-agreement clause so that the Agreement, ODM, and Policies & Procedures Manual together constitute the complete agreement, superseding prior understandings. Standard contract boilerplate absent from 2012.
▲ NEW	7.4: added a severability clause so that if any provision is held invalid, the remainder continues in force. Also absent from 2012.
↔ REVISED	Signature block: CSL’s signatories changed from “Spiritual Leader, Centers for Spiritual Living” and “President, Centers for Spiritual Living” to “Executive Director” and “Leadership Council Chair” which reflect the organization’s current governance structure.