

CENTERS FOR SPIRITUAL LIVING

The Member Community Agreement: A One-Page Overview

For delegates and Member Communities ahead of the October 2026 vote

WHAT IS IT?

The Member Community Agreement (MCA) is the updated governing agreement between CSL and its Member Communities, replacing the 2012 Affiliation Agreement. It defines what CSL commits to provide and what each community commits to in return.

WHY NOW?

The 2012 agreement was written during the ICSSL/UCSL merger and never kept pace afterward. It had no defined Good Standing criteria, a single-sentence termination clause with no notice period, and none of the standard legal protections a professional agreement needs.

What stays the same:

The Global Vision, Guiding Principles, Shared Values, and the teaching of Science of Mind are unchanged. Communities remain self-governing. What has changed is how clearly the relationship is defined and how fairly it is administered.

SIX KEY CHANGES

- 1. Good Standing and a fair process:** Clear criteria for Good Standing, plus written notice, a 60-day correction period, and up to 180 days of probation before termination.
- 2. Conscious Giving, both ways:** A suggested Conscious Giving from communities in support of our movement, matched by a new commitment: the Home Office returns 10 percent of community-supported contributions to our movement.
- 3. Mutual obligations:** CSL now commits to financial transparency and to maintaining and expanding its ministries, not just listing communities' obligations.
- 4. Modernized for today:** New requirements for current contact information, data protection, and branding coverage across social media and online content.
- 5. Standard legal protections:** Mandatory mediation before litigation, an integration clause, and a severability clause, none of which existed in 2012.
- 6. Legacy cleanup:** Removal of obsolete 2011 to 2012 merger language and the retired SOMARK brand-approval process.

WHAT DELEGATES ARE VOTING ON

A yes vote adopts the MCA in full as the updated governing agreement, replacing the 2012 Affiliation Agreement. Communities will then sign the MCA in place of the prior agreement. No other immediate action is required.

WANT MORE?

This MCA is the result of several years of work by a dedicated committee, hours of zoom meetings with hundreds of interested members for brainstorming and then feedback, discussion by 50+ members during the recent Reno convention, review by Leadership Council and a Legal Committee review. Please see the change log and the backgrounder for more details.

The Leadership Council has endorsed the MCA and recommends your vote to adopt.