

**ARTICLES OF RELIGION**

**CHURCH OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN USA**



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### **PREAMBLE**

The Church of the American Indian USA, established in time immemorial, expresses in these articles of religion the principals of the Church, and the uniform code derived from the theologies of the faiths of original North American people. These articles do not express the complete faith of our Church, but express the cornerstone from which the foundation of the Church manifests its faith. These articles attempt to expound the truth and equity of the original instructions given to the people by the Creator in the beginning.

### **Article 1**

#### ***Of Faith in the Heavenly Creator***

There is one Great Spirit, neither male nor female, who is everlasting, without body, parts, or passions; of infinite power, wisdom, and goodness; the Creator and preserver of all things both visible and invisible. And in the unity of one Great Spirit is of one substance, majesty, mind and power; and may appear to us in many forms and varieties as either male or female.

### **Article 2**

#### ***Of Faith in the Original Instructions***

The Great Spirit walked among the people of the Earth and gave to them original instructions by which to live and relate with all created things. That these original instructions, although vary in practice from place to place, are sacred and comprise the essence and basis for which all of humankind should conduct themselves compassionately with one another in both the seen and unseen Creation around them.

### **Article 3**

#### ***Of the Faith in Self Empowerment***

The Great Spirit gave to the created the ability to overcome all obstacles through the personal power of prayer, humility and sacrifice. Having unlimited compassion, the Great Spirit will let no one suffer if they call upon assistance in a sincere and genuine manner. The Great Spirit has gifted us with our conscience to guide us in the Will of the Creator.

### **Article 4**

#### ***Of the Faith in the Circle***

The Great Spirit has given to all things a cycle by which they must abide. That these cycles are sacred and we should endeavor to honor, respect, and protect them. Activities, both ceremonial and secular, that follow a cycle or incorporate a

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circle where the created are gathered will have the very presence of the Great Spirit among them and the favor of the Creator's will shall be with them.

### **Article 5**

#### ***Of Faith in the Balance and Harmony***

The Creator made all things in balance. There is man and woman, day and night, sky and earth, sun and moon, and the good mind and the bad mind. This balance and harmony in life is sacred and we should endeavor to respect, honor and protect the balance and harmony where ever we recognize it or know it to be.

### **Article 6**

#### ***Of Faith in the Trickster, the Sacred Fool***

The creative power of the Great Spirit has created the trickster to teach us by example, and to balance the practical and sensible with the impractical and the insensible. Like the Creator, the Trickster may take on many guises such as the rabbit, the coyote, in either the form of male or female, in whatever identity it needs to carry out its mischievous plots. The trickster is a counter balancing spiritual force and reminds us of the importance of order and purpose. Although the trickster may appear to act contrary to the Creator's law, the trickster is carrying out its sacred duty as intended by the Great Spirit.

### **Article 7**

#### ***Of Faith in the Medicine Plants***

That the Great Spirit established on Earth all the plant life necessary to sustain, protect and heal the created of any plague or disease that may fall upon us. That these medicine plants patiently wait to be found and teach the lessons they have to offer, and they freely give of themselves for our needs as the Creator intended them to in the beginning.

### **Article 8**

#### ***Of Faith in the Creation***

We are a part of the Creation and are inseparable from it. We should endeavor to acknowledge the balance of our reciprocal relationship with the seen and unseen Creation around us. We acknowledge that it is our duty to gift back to the Creation as we take from it, and to offer thanks as we accept our gifts.

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### **Article 9**

#### ***Of Faith in Sacred Space***

As a part of our ability to commune with the Creation and the Great Spirit, there exists sacred space consecrated by the Creator at places where we may commune, and there exists sacred space consecrated by humankind at places where we may commune regularly. These sacred locations, although not requisite to commune with Creation, are gifted to the created to facilitate our communion with Creation, and we shall endeavor to protect them and make them freely available to all those who seek to commune with Creation.

### **Article 10**

#### ***Of Faith in Universal Salvation***

We come forth from the Earth by the will of the Creator, and we will all return to the Earth from which we came. Our spirit is a part of the Creation of the Great Spirit, and when we cross over the Creator receives us home. The Creator leaves no created being out of acceptance.

### **Article 11**

#### ***Of Faith in the Worth and Dignity of all Created Things***

We are apart of the same fabric of life, and must respect all created things. The Great Spirit by creating all has given every thing in the creation inherent worth and dignity of which all other created are to respect and appreciate.

### **Article 12**

#### ***Of Faith in the Many Paths to the Creator***

The Great Spirit has seen fit to include diversity of people, culture, and expression within the Creation. We are given many paths to the Creator, which are appropriate to each and of their own kind. We are to respect all paths and methods of communing with one another and the Creation.