

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST, SCIENTIST, SAN JUAN CAPISTRANO EXPLAINING THE AFFIRMATION PROCESS

Dear Prospective Member:

We are deeply grateful for your interest in becoming a member of First Church of Christ, Scientist, in San Juan Capistrano. The purpose of this letter is to guide you through the process of completing the “Affirmation Form” and to eventually become fully engaged as an active member.

A word about the Affirmation Form...

When our group initially came together to explore more meaningful expressions of church, we challenged ourselves to consider non-traditional methods for defining our organization and its relationship to individual participants. It was our intent to eliminate as much as possible any sense of boundaries or status between members and “non-members.” We wanted everyone to feel fully embraced and fully welcomed to participate and contribute in a way that was most meaningful to them. We concluded that membership in our church is best seen as an expression of one’s “affirmation” of the teachings of Christian Science as well as the unique purpose and mission of our group, rather than the sense that membership is a statement of having achieved a level of “demonstration.” So the form you’ll need to complete for membership is titled, “Affirmation Form.”

A word about the process...

The process of joining our Society is designed to support your growth in taking this important step and to assist you in understanding some of our unique characteristics. Here’s how the process works:

Step One: Obtain Prospective Member Packet

The Prospective Member Packets are available from the Administrator or can be downloaded from the website.

Included in the packet are:

- Affirmation Form
- Introduction to our Society
- Bylaws
- Prospective Member Info Form

Step Two: Submit Prospective Member Information Form RIGHT AWAY!

This brief form provides the Administrator with contact information so that we can keep in touch with you as you proceed through the “affirmation” process. It is best to submit this form immediately upon obtaining the Prospective Member Packet.

Step Three: Complete Affirmation Form and return to the Administrator

In this step you'll need to seek two current members to serve as your Sponsors. Their role is to have a conversation with you about how our Society works, its vision, Bylaws, your interests, and to answer your questions. To complete this step you'll need to obtain the Sponsors' signatures on the Affirmation Form and submit it to the Administrator. Also, please be sure that you have resigned from any other church in which you have been a member.

Step Four: Sign the Membership Register Book

As soon as you submit the signed, completed Affirmation Form, you are a member! The Mentoring team will contact you to arrange a date for you to sign the membership register. We'll joyously announce to our members and friends that you will be signing the Register. We'll also give you some further information on our team guidelines and annual budget.

Step Five: Meeting with Membership Mentor

Your two Sponsors and the Mentoring Team will remain to help you and answer your questions as you become more involved in our activities. There are many unique aspects to how we operate as a group and to help you become fully engaged in all our activities we have specific members that serve as mentors to help you. Feel free to call them with any questions at any step in the process.

We will also have occasional Mentoring Meetings for you and other new members to discuss how you can become fully engaged in our church, and express your own particular interests in expressing church.

If at any time you have questions about this process, or if you'd like to understand any particular aspect of our Society, please feel free to contact us who are serving as membership mentors. We would be delighted to help you!