

Subject: Board of Trustees/Core Council – A Vision of Minister & Congregants

**A Vision Of Minister And Congregants
by Reverend Margaret Shepherd, MBA**

God constantly calls us to a deeper understanding, experience and expression of Itself. One way that call is served is by participating in a spiritual community. This is my point of view on the role of the spiritual leader of a church community, and the role and rights of its members.

Role of a Minister

- The minister's job is to support your spiritual growth — fulfillment of your life purpose, joy and peace, by supporting your relationship with God.
- The minister's job is to *comfort the afflicted and to afflict the comfortable*. We are trained to have courage to be a spiritual leader even when it means leading people out of their comfort zones and leading ourselves out of our own.
- The minister's job is to help you live your life from higher ground, by helping you anchor all life experiences in deeper spiritual meaning,
- The minister's job is to teach spiritual practices that support finding that meaning, and make spiritual growth self-generating and self-correcting.
- The minister's job is to lead you to greater *service*—we are on this earth to express God's creativity and to serve one another.
- The minister's job is to create high-powered ministry—not just feel good ministry— quantum growth, transformation, self-mastery, and God awareness.
- The minister's job is to listen to God all the time and take the right action, or non-action, as we are led.

- The minister's job is to live his or her own ministry mission. Mine is "to teach, inspire, support, empower and demonstrate spiritual and material fulfillment"

Role of a Congregant

- Be willing to continually grow spiritually, and to accept the consequences, requirements, and occasional discomfort.
- Take full responsibility for your own spiritual growth. It's between you and God. Your minister and your church is one way God supports you.
- Be willing to *be still and know*. Only in stillness can your personal relationship with God develop. Be willing to both *do* and just *be*.
- Be willing to participate fully—give your best to get Life's best.
- Be willing to allow the minister humanity—support your ministers' growth lovingly
- Be willing to *claim your life*—and focus your life on YOU.
- Be willing to practice the Presence—the principles, the law, the Love, all the time.
- Support your minister and your church well, financially and in prayer, so that you can be supported well.

Rights of a Congregant

- To ask for what your growth requires; and to expect increasing joy, growth, fulfillment and peace as you and your minister do your parts.
- To hold your minister accountable for agreed upon results—we are trained to serve and to find ways to support you—if you are doing your part of willingness and we are doing our part of ministering, together we will get results. The specifics of the process are God's job.

- To tithe and give *wherever* your guidance leads you. To attend a church where you *want* to tithe and serve. To leave a church-*guilt free*-where you do not.
- To expect to be spiritually uplifted, inspired, enlightened, educated, supported, challenged by your minister and your church experience.
- To have access to your minister or appropriate, acceptable designates, in times of need, and in times of want.
- To have personal data and pastoral conversations kept in absolute confidence.
- To receive spiritual support in all areas of life.
- To serve in joy as your heart calls you, free of coercion, guilt, or pressure.

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