



Becoming a Member; *Being a Member*

Membership at ISDDC

We would love to have you join us in our commitment to spiritual exploration. Our symbol, the lotus flower, is sacred in many religions, and we use it to represent the enlightened being who emerges from the chaos and illusion of the world.

By becoming a member, you join those of us who have committed our talents, time and financial support to the value of a spiritual community that encourages discovery of your own path to the Divine.

Beyond that you realize the profound impact such an organization has on the energy of the world, especially from our vantage point in the heart of Washington, D.C.

How Do I Know I Am Ready?

You seek to grow through study, meditation and service;

- You seek to deepen your connection to our spiritual community and its members...and want to participate in its growth; and
- You have a growing sense of ownership and responsibility for the wellbeing and enrichment of our community— financially, spiritually, and physically.

Some Things To Consider:

- *Mystical:* We call ourselves a “mystical” church, which means there are many pathways to the Divine. We support the exchange of insights along the way with respect and love.
- *Church:* The Institute for Spiritual Development is first and foremost a church. There is an organizational structure, which rests with the ministry and the Board of Spiritual Advisors. The Pastor manages the spiritual life of the church, and the Board of Trustees, elected by the membership, is responsible for managing the assets of the church in fulfilling its mission.
- *Metaphysical:* This is the philosophical basis of our church, and it is a branch of philosophy concerned with an exploration of the relationship between the Divine, human existence, and you. We accept one God/Divinity/Spirit. The Universe is an expression of that Divinity. Each individual is responsible for his or her own spiritual pathway, and is solely responsible for how he or she chooses to live Life on that pathway.

How Do I Become a Member?

1. Meet with a Minister and review the principles. Discuss any questions you may have.
2. Fill out your pledge card.
3. Discuss with the Minister which volunteer team you would like to participate in.
Usually we suggest new members start on the ushering or hospitality teams, but there are also tasks in the bookstore, on the building and grounds team, and other areas. We can always use musical and administrative support, as well as assistance at events and classes.

As a Member I...

- Accept support in my spiritual journey and offer my support to others.
- Join a fellowship of people who share similar goals.
- Participate in the spiritual and community life of ISD-DC
- Become an owner in the welfare and development of ISD-DC
- Pledge some amount of my time by volunteering at events and in church services.
- Participate in the pledge program at whatever level feels appropriate.
- Become a part of the decision-making process of the church by my vote, and am eligible to serve as an Officer or Trustee.
- Become eligible to pursue ISD's Ministerial Program.

Renewal and Pledge Year

Memberships are annual. If you join between January and September, you will receive a renewal notice in January. If you join between October and December, your membership will go through the following year.



Declaration of Principles

We believe in Infinite Intelligence.

We believe that Infinite Intelligence expresses itself in all existence and in humanity as a manifestation of Divine Love.

We affirm the unity of all life, everywhere.

We believe in communion with all planes of existence, and that meaningful communication flows from this connection.

We affirm the divine right of each individual to seek the Truth in accordance with their consciousness, and that living in harmony with that Truth defines true spirituality.

We affirm that spiritual unfoldment is progressive and unending, and that the doorway to reformation is never closed against any soul.

We believe that the highest morality is contained in the mandate: “Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.”

We affirm the personal responsibility of the individual, and that we choose our happiness or unhappiness as we apply the Laws of

We affirm that life is eternal, and that the existence and personal identity of the individual continue after the change called death.

We believe the ultimate expression of God in our life is unconditional love of our neighbors and ourselves.

We accept that the living gifts of Prophecy and Healing, reported in all Sacred Scripture, are an affirmation of Divine Spirit working through us.