

SOPHIA GRAIL CIRCLE
FACILITATORS TRAINING
IN CALIFORNIA—USUALLY AROUND THE END OF MAY

The *Sophia Grail Circle* training was led by Karen Rivers and Robert Powell through the year 2016. Since 2017, it is led by Karen Rivers and an ordination council. The goal of the training is to train a group of people to become facilitators of the celebrations of the *Sophia Grail Circle*. Since the introductory gathering in 2006, some people have joined the training who did not attend that initial meeting. With the help of audio recordings they have been able to enter into the training. This experience shows that it is possible for newcomers to enter into the training and take up the work which, of course, is not limited to the yearly gatherings in California, but depends upon home study in between the yearly meetings. This outline is intended as a brief orientation to the SGC training and also to the *Sophia Grail Circle*, which has evolved with respect to the development of Sophianic liturgy since the founding of the Sophia Foundation on New Year's Eve, 1994/1995. At the present point in time there are several *Sophia Grail Circle* celebrations. The following list gives an overview:

- the Sophia celebration
- the meditation on the Seven Seals from the *Book of Revelations*
- the meditation on the Nine Beatitudes from the *Sermon on the Mount*
- the meditation on the Twelve Signs of the Zodiac
- the Peace service
- the Mystical Wedding celebration
- the Foundation Stone meditation given by Rudolf Steiner at Christmas 1923
- the Liturgy to the Earth
- the Ascent through the Planetary Spheres (“Jacob’s Ladder”)
- the Journey of the Soul into Incarnation
- the Liturgy to the Etheric Christ
- the Liturgy to Mary Sophia
- the Rose of the World
- Sophia Revealed
- the Seven Last Words from the Cross in Preparation for the Descent to Shambhala
- the Black Madonna
- the Seven Healing Miracles of Christ from the Gospel of St. John
- the Mass of the Lamb and His Bride

These celebrations are about opening the heart to receive the Holy Grail and are an expression of the deeply liturgical impulse of the *Sophia Grail Circle* at this time of Christ’s Second Coming—in conjunction with the Descent of Divine Sophia from heavenly heights as the cosmic bearer of the Holy Grail. The overall endeavor is the cultivation of a spiritual schooling in the light of Sophia, forming a Sophia community, and finding strength in uniting with the central Grail Mystery that Divine Sophia is bearing down from spiritual heights on her path of approach to the earth as the *Rose of the World*. The whole is dedicated to preparation for Sophia’s coming, working toward the goal of enough people becoming *Sophia Grail Circle* facilitators able to establish centers for Sophia’s activity in the world.

CURRICULUM OF THE SOPHIA GRAIL CIRCLE TRAINING—REQUIREMENTS AND GUIDELINES:
The Sophia Grail Circle Training:

Level 1 prepares individuals to be facilitators of the *Sophia Grail Circle* celebrations and beyond this includes an advanced training (Level 2). It is designed for individuals who feel their life and work is

centered upon a sacred commitment most fully expressed in service to the Divine Love of Christ and the Divine Wisdom of Sophia through the *Sophia Grail Circle*. Length of study, courses taken, and process of graduation is formed on an individualized basis. All students also participate—through their own initiative—in on-going Contemplative/Meditative Study.

The SGC training will especially benefit those who:

- 1) Plan to use their ability to found or guide a Sophia community, become spiritual educators, or teach in spiritual settings. (Level 1 of the SGC training)
- 2) Are seeking to integrate their spiritual skills from the SGC training into a current profession, such as physicians, educators, holistic health practitioners, business and political leaders, and social service providers. (Level 2 of the SGC training)
- 3) Intend to use their training for care work in such fields as hospital and prison chaplaincies, campus ministry, hospice and bereavement centers, AIDS clinics, care for the elderly, and other forms of social ministry. (Level 2 of the SGC training)

The following curriculum for candidates for the Sophia Grail Circle training describes the requirements.

Level I: Basic Requirements for Conducting Sophia Grail Circle Celebrations

- 1- Attunement to the Eternal Spirit of Love, Christ, and the Spirit of Divine Wisdom, Sophia.
- 2- Thorough grounding in the meditative work of Valentin Tomberg's Lord's Prayer course / Our Mother course, available as a course of study from the Sophia Foundation.
- 3- Thorough knowledge of the forms of the Sophia Grail Circle celebrations, and creating sacred space.
- 4- Familiarity with the literature of Rudolf Steiner pertaining to spiritual development, including that offered in the *First Esoteric School*, Valentin Tomberg's *New Testament Studies* (in the book *Christ and Sophia*), his lectures on *Inner Development*, and also his anonymously written *magnum opus Meditations on the Tarot*.
- 5- Experiential work with the study materials offered by the Sophia Foundation on the Seven Apocalyptic Seals, the Divine Feminine, and Challenges of Inner Development.
- 6- Knowledge of the prayer sequence as outlined in the *Prayer Sequence in Sacred Dance* by Lacquanna Paul and Robert Powell, available through the Sophia Foundation.
- 7- Comfort and skill with speaking in public and other aspects of conducting the Sophia Grail Circle celebrations. Being present during the celebrations with awareness of the importance of maintaining a spiritual alignment while facilitating Sophia Grail Circle celebrations.

- 8 - Working knowledge of the history and practices of the Sophia Grail Circle.
- 9 - A heart connection with the content of the Sophia Grail Circle celebrations.
- 10 - Developing the ability to lead or coordinate singing and sacred dance, if included in the celebrations.

How these requirements are met:

- 1 - Candidates are expected to take initiative in directing their home studies to guide them through the requirements. Final approval for celebrants will be determined by the Sophia Grail Circle council, based on the candidate's presentation of readiness.
- 2 - The Sophia Grail Circle training offers help with various aspects of preparation in order to be able to facilitate Sophia Grail Circle celebrations.
- 3 - A list of books and other resources useful to this study is available.

If one completes this first level, one would be authorized as a celebrant to facilitate the Sophia Grail Circle celebrations.

Level II: Requirements can be requested from Karen Rivers

If you wish to serve Christ (Divine Love) and Sophia (Divine Wisdom) through conducting Sophia Grail Circle celebrations, please write a letter to Karen stating your intent and giving a self-evaluation in relation to the basic requirements listed above. Your letter serves as an expression of your intention and commitment to serve Christ and Sophia in the stream of the Sophia Grail Circle. We look forward to hearing from you.

Karen Rivers and the ordination council—in collaboration with Robert Powell.

For further information contact: Karen Rivers: Tel: 919-942-2465 Email: karen@karenrivers.info