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Hera & Arghuicha
Corona Borealis
Brussels, Belgium

Odinda & Gayomard
De Zilvern Kring
Rotterdam,
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The Sacred Well Congregation of Texas



8 September 1998

Chaplain (Captain) Melvin R. Ferguson, USN
Armed Forces Chaplains Board
Attn: OUSD (P&R) MPP-AFCB

Washington, D.C. 20301-4000

Dear Chaplain Ferguson:

In response to a request for information, we were referred to your office by Chaplain (COL) Hugh Dukes, DA, Office of the Chief of Chaplains. The Sacred Well Congregation is interested in appointment as an Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agent to provide Denominational Service Leaders for military members and their families whose faith and practices are different from the majority of the general population.

The Sacred Well Congregation is a legally constituted Church and non-profit religious organization established by Charter issued by the Secretary of State of the State of Texas on 12 April 1996. (Charter Number: 01397437; Federal EIN: [REDACTED]). We are an independent, non-denominational, non-evangelical Church organized to promote the study and practice of comparative religions, community benevolence, spiritual counseling, and educational programs. While we honor and embrace as Kith all religious orientations, our Clergy and Kindred practice Traditional Craft Wicca (TCW) as an earth-based Mystery Religion.

Though we are chartered by the State of Texas, branches of our family tree extend far and wide. Our members reside throughout the United States, Belgium, the Netherlands, Germany, and Okinawa. We are formally affiliated with the v.z.w. Greencraft in Belgium and the Netherlands. We work in harmony and purpose with a number of like-minded individuals all across Europe and the United States to promote tolerance, understanding, and love for all Paths Sacred. We are, in concept and in fact, a Church without Walls.

As a retired military officer, and a practitioner of Wicca for my last ten years of active duty, I am well aware of the problems military members face when they are of a minority religious practice. Given the cultural and religious diversity of our military population, Chaplains cannot be expected to be able to conduct religious services for all faiths, denominations or sects. But the military chaplain has always been there for all service members, regardless of particular faith and practice. I am very grateful for the support that I and others have received from Army Chaplains. Nevertheless, it can be very difficult for members on active duty, often in remote or isolated areas and away from their own groups, to meet their own religious needs. And there are growing numbers of these folks within our military services. One of the primary reasons that the Sacred Well Congregation was organized as a Church was to help meet this need. Currently we provide Denominational Sponsorship through the Garrison Chaplain's Office for the Fort Hood Open Circle at Fort Hood, Texas. We are also considering requests from groups in Germany, Alaska, Okinawa and several installations in the United States.

There appears to be an increasing need for a Church to provide the infrastructure and support for groups of Wiccans who want to be able to practice their faith while on active duty. There are a few organizations who have the capability of providing this support, but, quite frankly, they often shun members of the military. Somehow they seem to believe that military service is incompatible with the principles of pagan religions. The Military Pagan Network, of which we are a member and fully support, provides information and points of contact, but cannot provide Denominational Sponsorship due to the nature of their organization. The Sacred Well Congregation, as a Church, can fill this need, and would be honored to have the opportunity to do so.

I am enclosing for your consideration a list of Congregational Officers, and a copy of our Tenets and Declaration of Intent and Practice. Copies of our Charter, Constitution, By-Laws, Ordination Procedures and other legal documents are available upon request. Please advise us of the procedures necessary to be appointed as an Ecclesiastical Endorsing Agent.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David L. Oringderff, Ph.D.

Executive Director

telephone: [REDACTED]

e-mail: [REDACTED]