



# Statement of Beliefs



## The Sanctuary

The name of this religious and spiritual community shall be The Illuminating Collective, Inc., hereinafter referred to as “The Sanctuary.”

The Sanctuary is a contemplative spiritual community rooted in a syncretic tradition integrating Christian mysticism, early contemplative Christianity, earth aligned spirituality, and foundational Buddhist wisdom teachings. These streams are woven into a unified path centered on the experiential realization of union with God, whom we also refer to as Source.

We affirm that the human soul is capable of direct mystical union with God or Source. This union is not merely conceptual or doctrinal, but experiential and transformative. Within our tradition, this realization is cultivated through disciplined spiritual practice and may be deepened through sacramental communion undertaken within a structured and ethical religious framework.

While The Sanctuary has a particular commitment to supporting veterans and first responders, participation is open to all adults who seek contemplative spiritual development within our tradition.

# The Threefold Path

The Sanctuary teaches a threefold spiritual path of

Purification

Illumination

Unification

## Purification

Purification is the intentional ordering and cleansing of body, mind, and spirit. Members engage in contemplative and embodied disciplines including meditation, breathwork, prayer, fasting, mindful nutrition, yoga, self-examination, and study of sacred texts.

This stage emphasizes integrity, accountability, and the relinquishment of destructive habits, compulsions, and attitudes that obscure alignment with divine love. Members are encouraged to embody compassion, responsibility, and ethical conduct as natural expressions of spiritual maturity.

Purification prepares the individual to approach deeper spiritual experience with humility and stability.

## Illumination

Illumination is the cultivation of awareness of divine presence within oneself and throughout creation. This phase includes sustained contemplative practice, morning meditation, reflective study, and integration of insight into daily life.

Members are encouraged to practice discernment and non-attachment, recognizing that insights, visions, or altered states are not ends in themselves. Illumination deepens wisdom, clarity, and ethical alignment.

Through illumination, the practitioner learns to carry awareness of divine love into ordinary life.

## Unification

Unification refers to the experiential realization of union with God or Source. In our tradition, ceremonial sacrament may serve as a sacred context in which profound mystical experience occurs.

The goal of unification is the lived embodiment of divine love. As stated in 1 John 4:16, “God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.” Union is understood as a return to this abiding awareness.

Unification is integration expressed through humility, compassion, service, and responsibility in daily life.

## Mystical Experience & Discernment

Within contemplative and sacramental practice, individuals may encounter symbolic, archetypal, psychological, or transpersonal dimensions of consciousness. These experiences may include visionary imagery, perceived encounters, or expanded states of awareness.

In The Sanctuary, such phenomena are approached with discernment and humility. They are understood as meaningful aspects of spiritual development but are not regarded as the ultimate goal. The aim remains transformation of character, reconciliation, integration, and embodied love.

## Commitment to Veterans & First Responders

The Sanctuary is committed to supporting veterans and first responders who carry spiritual injury, guilt, or shame. We affirm that God or Source is not a distant external judge, but a presence discoverable within.

Through disciplined spiritual practice and structured sacramental ceremony, participants may experience reconciliation, restoration of dignity, and renewed alignment with divine love.

## The Sacraments of The Sanctuary

Psilocybin	Associated with introspection, shadow integration, reconciliation with mortality, and courage in confronting unresolved psychological material.
Huachuma	Associated with heart centered awareness, connection to nature, clarity of intention, and alignment with service and reciprocity.
Bufo	Associated with profound nondual awareness and surrender of egoic identity. Approached with preparation and integration due to its intensity.
Iboga	Associated with disciplined introspection, personal accountability, life review, and examination of inherited narratives and patterns.
Ibogaine	Associated with structured introspection and, where appropriate, support in breaking destructive behavioral cycles within a supervised and ethical framework.
Ayahuasca	Associated with emotional processing, relational healing, symbolic insight, and compassion.
MDMA	Associated with heart centered awareness, trauma informed healing, reconciliation, and reduction of fear-based defenses.
Cannabis	Associated with contemplative presence, embodied awareness, nervous system regulation, and integration.
LSD	Associated with expanded perception, philosophical inquiry, pattern recognition, and reflective insight grounded in humility.

All sacramental practice within The Sanctuary is embedded within preparation, screening, supervision, and post ceremonial integration.

# Sacred Rhythms & Ceremonial Environment

The Sanctuary honors the sacred rhythms of creation, including solstices, equinoxes, lunar cycles, and other designated holy days recognized within our tradition. These rhythms serve as symbolic markers of renewal, balance, and transformation within the spiritual life.

Ceremonies are conducted in intentionally prepared and consecrated spaces designed to foster safety, containment, reverence, and contemplative depth. These environments are structured to support focused spiritual practice, participant screening, medical readiness, and responsible supervision.

Our ceremonial spaces are arranged with intention, simplicity, and sacred symbolism. Lighting, sound, seating, and spatial design are carefully considered to cultivate a setting conducive to inward reflection and communal support.

While our gatherings are primarily held within dedicated indoor sanctuaries, we maintain reverence for the natural world as an expression of divine creation. When appropriate and feasible, community practices may include outdoor contemplative gatherings, integration walks, or seasonal observances that honor the cycles of nature.

The purpose of our ceremonial environment is not aesthetic spectacle, but spiritual integrity. Structure, safety, and reverence form the foundation of all gatherings within The Sanctuary.

## Leadership

The Sanctuary was founded by Justin LaPree, who developed this path through personal spiritual experience, contemplative study, and service. He serves as lead minister within the tradition. Additional leaders and ordained facilitators operate in alignment with this doctrine and established ethical standards.

## Ethical Commitments & Safety

The Sanctuary affirms nondiscrimination, informed consent, comprehensive participant screening and preparation, ethical sourcing, diversion prevention, emergency preparedness, trained support personnel, and structured integration.

Participation is open to adults who complete the screening process and who affirm or sincerely explore alignment with this spiritual path.

# Closing Affirmation

The Sanctuary exists to cultivate disciplined spiritual practice, humility, reconciliation, and embodied union with divine love. Through preparation, discernment, sacramental communion, and integration, members seek to mature in compassion, responsibility, and service.

