

The Sower

Bulletin & Voice of

THE FIRST SPIRITUAL TEMPLE

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Statement From Rev. Simeon

Trustee, First Spiritual Temple Trust

On June 29, 2022, Trustee James Amburn relocated to Chichester, New York. People may be wondering how he will continue to serve the Church, both in his capacity as a Trustee of the First Spiritual Temple Trust and as a member of the Church Board.

While in New York, Trustee Amburn will be building spiritual relationships which will assist in the expansion of the mission and ministry of the First Spiritual Temple, as laid out by our founder and benefactor, Marcellus Seth Ayer. Marcellus Ayer was considered a true visionary in his day and, I believe, he would be considered as such, even today.

The Church which Marcellus Ayer founded and which the Board of Directors serves must reflect his imaginative and expansive understanding and perspective on what it is to be an Interfaith Spiritualist Church Community. I see **any** opportunity to evolve as a positive and strengthening force in our mission and ministry.

Trustee Amburn, even though residing in New York, will continue to stand firmly upon his commitment to the furtherance of Marcellus Ayer's dream. Mr. Ayer's Trustees are committed and commissioned, first and foremost, to his vision; hopefully, but not necessarily, under the auspices of the Church society which he founded.

Trustee Amburn will do whatever he can to establish and nurture contacts with people and similarly-minded organizations with which our Church can interact. He will first connect with

the **Zen Mountain Monastery**, located in Mt. Tremper, New York. Marcellus Ayer was, for lack of a better way of expressing it, very Eastern and Zen minded. He wanted his Church to be a haven for the weary traveler and a place where people could connect with their innermost selves through many sacred experiences; in particular, worship, prayer, silence, and meditation.

Trustee Amburn's plan is to become part of the Zen Mountain Monastery, study and meditate within its community and, if it be God's will and his Soul's destiny, to become a Zen Mountain monk. This, of course, will be a long and exhaustive process, as it should be for anyone wishing to devote his or her time and energy in service to God and Spirit.

Trustee Amburn and I will continue working together and with the Board of Directors for the benefit of the Trust and the Church society. He will be participating in all scheduled Board meetings via the ZOOM platform. He may be physically distant from us, but he will remain as connected – perhaps, even more so – with the true Spirit of Marcellus Ayer's vision and the guiding Principles of the First Spiritual Temple. In many ways, he will be an outreach ambassador for the Church and, if things go as planned, may be instrumental in helping the Trustees establish a New York branch of the First Spiritual Temple; something the Trustees have been contemplating for quite some time.

We are living in troubling times and the work of the First Spiritual Temple is greatly needed. The Soul of Humanity is crying out for guidance and a spiritual foundation upon which it can stand and find succor and hope for the future.

Marcellus Ayer defined Spiritualism thusly:

“The Soul’s recognition of its immortality, and the progressive development of its Divine attributes and potentials.”

I could not state it any better than these few words. I have been a Trustee of Marcellus Ayer’s Trust for over 45 years. During that time, I have seen Trustees come and go and I have seen Church Boards of Directors come and go. I have seen the Church and the Trust on the brink of financial ruin, and I have seen both lift themselves up by the bootstraps and move on. Throughout it all, I have seen the Power of God and God’s Holy Spirit continuously guiding, nurturing, and protecting us. I have seen the Hand of Spirit ever-so-gently becoming, as the late Rev. Stephen Fulton’s guide, *Syrsha*, once said, ***“The wind in your sails; not to lead you, but to guide you.”***

Trustee Amburn is about to write a new chapter in his Soul’s journal. But the connections which he made with me and with the late Trustee, Adele Fagon, over 12 years ago remain strong and unbroken. It is my belief that his new physical environment will only enhance his Soul’s call to serve and strengthen his ability to serve God and Spirit through the vehicle of the First Spiritual Temple.

We all wish him Godspeed and offer our heartfelt prayers for his Soul’s “will-to-do-good”. Let us remember that sometimes physical distance strengthens spiritual bonds. Thank you.



This Year’s Summer Break

Much has happened with our Church over the last year:

- We have seen an increase in Sunday attendance.
- Rev. Simeon is taking a less up-front role in the Church.
- We are looking at ways of expanding our ministries; in-house, via Zoom, and within the Cape Cod community.

- Luigina Potash has been awarded the title of Licentiate Minister.
- Trustee James Amburn has relocated to New York.
- The Eight-Step Recovery Program is finally up and running on a regular schedule.
- We are looking at live-streaming Sunday Worship.
- Commencing September and alternating each week, Sunday worship will come in two forms: one, a more traditional service; two, a more contemporary and less formal service.

As our Church commemorates 139 years of continuous service, we have a lot of planning to do. We are in a wonderfully exciting period of transition and expansion. This, of course, requires a tremendous effort on our part to get things in place for the opening of our 140th Season, on September 11, 2022.

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors, it was voted to suspend Sunday worship for the whole month of August instead of the customary final two weeks. This will give everyone time to roll up their sleeves and get everything in place for the new season. Therefore, our final service for the 139th Season will be held on July 31, 2022. Services will resume on Sunday, September 11, 2022.

Thank you and have a wonderful summer.

Eight-Step Recovery Meetings Return to Stillness

Every Monday, 6 PM, Eastern Time

Join us in our beautiful Temple, or online via Zoom, as we discover how the teachings of Buddha can help us overcome our addictions and obsessive behaviors.

All are welcome for meditation, discussion, hope, discovery, and movement towards freedom and inner peace.

Contact info: ginanp1122@yahoo.com

The Eight-Step Program will continue throughout the month of August.