

From the Desk of Rev. Simeon Stefanidakis

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Dear Members and Friends of the First Spiritual Temple:

I hope this letter finds you all well, with a positive outlook for a blessed New Year. As many of you know, I have been affiliated with the First Spiritual Temple since 1974. I gave my first Sunday sermon/address on June 6, 1976, and I was ordained as a Minister on March 31, 1977. During those many decades, I have travelled extensively throughout Europe and the United Kingdom, lecturing, teaching, giving private sittings with Spirit, and presenting countless public demonstrations of Spirit communication; sometimes before hundreds of people. I have written six books and worked tirelessly in supporting, promulgating, and advancing the various interfaith ministries of the First Spiritual Temple; and, for a brief period of time, I helped a Spiritualist church in Connecticut get back on her feet.

It has been both a blessing and an honor to serve God, Christ, Spirit, and the thousands of people whose lives my ministry has touched in ways that, I pray, have been positive, uplifting, and inspiring.

Like the founder of the First Spiritual Temple, Marcellus Seth Ayer, I have strong feelings concerning Spiritualism; not as a specific religion, but as an interfaith experience and belief system which should find a comforting place within all houses of prayer and worship, as well as spiritually-based societies.

Spiritualism belongs to Humanity, not to Spiritualists.

With all this said and all this time, energy, and experience behind me, it is now time for me to retire. Therefore, I will formally retire as Pastor of the First Spiritual Temple with the Easter morning service on **Sunday, April 5, 2026.**

Does this mean I will cease serving God and Spirit? Absolutely not. There are other areas of ministry, service, and study in which I plan to engage and to which I plan to devote much of my time. But, my tenure as shepherd of the *Good Ship FST* must now come to a close. Of course, I will maintain my FST membership and assist the Board of Directors in whatever way possible. I will also maintain my current email address and conduct classes here and there, along with the weekly meetings of the *Star Temple Development Circle*. Finally, I will always be available for pastoral counseling and private sittings with Spirit. Simply reach out to me.

I want to thank all of you who have stood by me and supported me through some of the best and some of the most challenging times of my life. I shall never forget you or the love which you extended to me.

I wish you all much Love and Light. Namaste.

Rev. Simeon