# Application for Licensure from MPCA

Legal name:

Address:

Telephone number(s):

E-mail address:

Pagan name and title, if applicable:

I am applying for (check one):

\_\_ Provisional Licensure

\_\_ Full Licensure

Here are the core requirements needed in order to license you as Pagan clergy, grouped into categories. We understand that every Pagan tradition and individual will approach them in a different way, and each individual will have areas of specialization. Please share with us what you have done or are doing to meet these requirements in your own manner.

If you have a question about a particular item, please contact our Licensure/Ordination Coordinator, Nikki Shields, at licensure@mainepaganclergy.org or 207-939-7326.

After receiving your application, if we have questions or wish to request additional information, we will contact you for more details.

# Section 1: Your Background

# Personal Beliefs and Practices

***Please answer all of these:*** Tell us about yourself. Why do you see yourself as Pagan clergy? What path has brought you here? Why are you interested in becoming licensed? How do you practice your Pagan spirituality? ***How do you specifically define Paganism?***

This should include a statement about your personal beliefs, and may also include: the story of your calling as Pagan clergy; a description of your tradition and practices; etc.

# Ethics

A strong set of ethics is crucial when serving as clergy. What are your personal ethics? How have they developed and changed over time? Do you charge for your services? If so, how do you decide what to charge?

This should include a statement about your personal ethics, and may also include: the story of how you developed your personal ethics; how they fit into the tradition you follow; etc.

# Education

Whether formally or informally, we learn from a wide variety of experiences. What have you learned that has helped you become Pagan clergy? How do you continue your studies? Do you teach and/or train others? If so, please discuss. What additional skills would you like to learn in order to be more effective as Pagan clergy?

This could include: your own past and continuing education, both formal and informal; development of your leadership skills; teaching services you provide; educational materials you have developed and shared; etc.

## Section 2: Your Service to the Community

Please describe how you fulfill your role as Pagan clergy. How do you serve the community? What groups, individuals, and/or communities do you interact with as part of your practice?

Below, grouped into three categories, is a list of services that might be offered by Pagan clergy. Please indicate which ones you currently provide, which ones you would be willing to provide, and which ones you’d like to learn more about. Include a brief description of the specific work you do. This will help us to get an idea of how you serve, provide information to the Pagan community, and choose topics for educational workshops and seminars the MPCA will offer to you and other Pagan clergy.

# Leading Rites/Facilitating Sacred Connections

Leading rites varies widely depending on your Pagan tradition and personal practices. How do you facilitate sacred connections for yourself and others?

* leading or co-leading a circle, coven, grove, or other group
* planning and leading rituals, services, or other ceremonies
* officiating at handfastings and weddings
* officiating at funerals and memorials
* officiating at baby blessings and namings
* officiating at other rites of passage (please describe)
* facilitating transitions
* creating relationships with the land and the Divine
* other (please describe)

# Providing Pastoral Care

Part of the role of Pagan clergy is offering care – to other people, yourself, animals, plants, and/or the land. How do you care for your communities? What types of care do you provide?

* conflict resolution and mediation
* offering emotional or other support during challenging times
* hospital visits to Pagan community members
* prison visits to Pagan community members
* correspondence with Pagans in prison
* hospice visits to Pagan community members
* offering support for Pagan active and/or veteran military service members
* offering healing for individuals
* offering healing for the Earth
* advocating for those in need
* other (please describe)

# Community Outreach and Interfaith Work

As clergy in the Pagan community, we reach out not only to our own group members and fellow Pagans, but also to the wider community. What volunteer work do you participate in? How are you communicating with those of other faiths? What causes are you passionate about?

* holding open public rituals or other ceremonies
* teaching about Paganism
* writing about Paganism
* sharing other forms of creative expression related to Pagan topics
* volunteering as a Pagan in the wider community
* living your life as an example to others
* being known in the community as Pagan clergy
* building bridges between faiths
* doing political, environmental, or social activist work
* other (please describe)

**Ethics: Please be sure you sign and submit the MPCA Ethics statement**