

# *Spiritual Humanist Church of South Africa.*

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*\*Spiritual Humanist Church of South Africa – abbreviated for the purpose of this document to SHCSA.*

*\* Vision Planning Team - – abbreviated for the purpose of this document to VPT.*

## Article 1

### *What is the Mission of SHCSA :*

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Spiritual Humanism is natural, not supernatural. By using a method of scientific inquiry we can define the inspirational, singular spark inherent in all living creatures. Recognizing how the power of religious rituals, methods, and communication can impact human behavior, Spiritual Humanism fuses traditional religious behaviors into the foundation of scientific humanist inquiry. The Spiritual Humanist Church encourage discovering the joy and satisfaction of following both traditional religious groups , and keeping an enquiring mind for continual improvement for both the individual and community .

### *Practice:*

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*Spiritual Humanism* does not require its members to perform any particular practices. Each person's spirituality has to be developed individually and everyone is free to draw upon whatever religious tradition and behaviors are most appropriate for their own unique situation and background. With consideration to all living things , the spiritual humanist church do not perform any harmful rituals to both humans and animals the like. Any ritual performed under the Spiritual Humanist Church will be in review before used or considered to be a Spiritual Humanist Church practice.

Through guidance of leaders , both physical and spiritual .The purpose it to improve your ability to reach your own goals, focus your thoughts and efforts, and highlight your personal connection to a higher power and understanding, the universe and the rest of humanity.

Spiritual humanist church considers all religions practised and supports cross cultural, same sex relationships , traditional and modern religious ceremonies incorporating together for the purpose of marriage , birth , death .

Spiritual Humanism actively seeks to achieve incremental, *Continual Improvement* with contributions from the full range of human experience. We also see the need to apply the method of *Continual Improvement* to all areas of human activity and seek to manifest this by helping others improve their condition and mode of living.

### *Characteristics of a SHCSA Leader*

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SHCSA desires leaders who:

- a. support and advocate for the purpose and mission of the SHCSA;
- b. affirm the letter and Spirit of the Basis of SHCA following ;
- c. desire to grow in relationship with SHCSA, Humanity and all living things;
- d. and, as a result of this relationship, seek the fruits of the SHCSA teachings in all aspects of their lives with scientific inquiry we can define the inspirational, singular spark inherent in all living creatures, and love towards all people.

### *Membership*

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#### Section 1. Members

Membership is open to all persons whom follow the ideals of SHCSA. For formal purposes, a “member” of SHCSA is a person registered with SHCSA and has filled in a membership form . SHCSA does not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, national or ethnic origin, age, sexual orientation, disability, or an individual’s previous affiliations in other religious or spiritual groups.

#### Section 2. Advisors

SHCSA may choose to seek advisement from outside organizations. To initiate affiliation with an outside organization, the SHCSA must vote unanimously in favor of affiliation with two-thirds support from current membership. Any affiliation with an outside organization must subsequently be renewed at the beginning of each year by a two thirds approval vote of the VPT and a majority of the current membership.

Advisors are need not be members of SHCSA. Although they may attend meetings and counsel members and/or leaders, they do not have a vote in any SHCSA decisions and cannot, under any circumstances, officially speak for SHCSA or enter into binding agreements on behalf of SHCSA. Advisors’ involvement and interaction with the

membership of SHCSA is subject to supervision and/or termination by the Vision and Planning Team of SHCSA in consultation with the group.

### *Fellowship Life*

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Fellowship structures include:

- a. Weekly discussions, tips and other information for spiritual growth. Sent via email to each member and an open forum when organised for the purpose of further discussions.
- b. Gathering of spiritual retreats organised by the SHCSA for members .
- c. Home visits . Topic specific meetings and personal one on one counselling.
- d. Private meetings organised under the guidance of a SHCSA leader. At a location decided by the SHCSA leader of the purpose of spiritual growth and understanding. Topic specific meetings and personal one on one counselling.

### *Leadership*

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Section 1.- Head leader

SHCSA has been appointed the originator Venerable W.M.T.Vermeulen the leader of the organisation. The purpose of the head leader is to set rules, guides, and inspires the members of SHCSA and to give a grounding of the purpose and mission of SHCSA. The head leader is the representative of SHCSA for the organisation , and will preside over all internal issues of the SHCSA. This leadership is accepted and seen as a position of integrity and honesty and must be adhered to this at all times.

Section 2 . – Sub Leaders- Vision and planning team

- All members wishing to become a sub leader of SHCSA must be a member of the organisation no less than 1 year .
- Attend a 3 month SHCSA leadership course .
- Demonstrate that they understand the mission of SHCSA.
- Any person who meets these requirements is eligible to apply for the Vision and Planning Team (VPT).

### Section 3.

It is the duty of the Vision and Planning Team members to demonstrate support for the Purpose of SHCSA and set the direction of the fellowship in accordance with the Mission of SHCSA. The VPT members of SHCSA are the official “voice” of the fellowship, and only the VPT members can enter into binding agreements with other organisations , following a review of the head leader. At the discretion of the VPT, may create subcommittees responsible for various aspects of fellowship life, including small group discussions, outreach, and spiritual rituals. Additionally, the VPT shall select one of the members of SHCSA to act as the fellowship’s Treasurer. The Treasurer shall work to keep track of all funds used by SHCSA during the year and to establish a budget for the following year. As SHCSA is a non- profit organisation , all voluntary donations will be placed in a Money Market account and used for the purpose of running the organisation and bettering members for their spiritual growth.

### Section 4.

Vision and Planning Team members shall be selected to serve for one year.

The VPT will be selected as follows:

1. All SHCSA members will be encouraged to nominate someone representing their group.
2. The person from each group with the most nominations will be asked to serve on the VPT. If they decline, the person with the next highest number of nominations will be asked, and so on.
3. VPT members should demonstrate support for the Purpose of SHCSA (see Article I).

Once the VPT group leader is voted in, The VPT will then convene to discuss applicants and draft a proposal for the next year’s VPT. The next year’s Vision and Planning Team proposal will be put to a vote. A majority of the current VPT must agree for the proposed team to move forward. Following this initial selection, the newly proposed VPT shall be placed before the SHCSA membership for a ratification vote. A majority of the SHCSA membership must vote to ratify the proposed VPT. If a simple majority is not satisfied, then the initial selection process will be repeated until a majority of the membership ratifies the newly proposed VPT.

## Section 5.

Once the next year's Vision and Planning Team has been selected, the new VPT shall meet and determine whether subcommittees will be required for the following year. If the new VPT decides that subcommittees will be required, then the new VPT, in consultation with the outgoing VPT, SHCSA's affiliate leaders, and SHCSA's membership, shall select subcommittee members. Prospective subcommittee members may be recommended by SHCSA members, by the affiliate leaders, or by the current VPT. While all members of the chapter and the affiliate leaders may provide counsel and advice during the subcommittee selection process, final decisions shall be made by two-thirds agreement of the new VPT. No person may serve as a subcommittee member without receiving the endorsement of at least two-thirds of the new VPT.

Any person who is a member of SHCSA is eligible to apply for positions on the subcommittees.

## Section 6.

If, during the leadership selection process or during a leader's term in office, disputes arise regarding the meaning of SHCSA Purpose of the organization – specifically, disputes regarding the precise meaning of SHCSA purpose and member eligibility for leadership, and leader adherence to desired Characteristics of a Leader (see Leadership , section 1) – then such disputes shall be resolved by at least two-thirds agreement of the Vision and Planning Team. The Vision and Planning Team's decision shall be final.

## Section 7.

In the event that (a) the incoming Vision and Planning Team consists of fewer than four members, or (b) a selected member of the VPT should resign from his or her leadership role, then a new member of the VPT may be selected by the same process outlined in Section 4.

## Section 8.

Leaders (whether Vision and Planning Team members, the Treasurer, or subcommittee members) may be impeached upon at least two-thirds agreement of the VPT. Any member of SHCSA may make a complaint against any member of the SHCSA leadership team. Following the complaint, the Vision and Planning Team shall meet (with affiliate leaders present for advice and counsel) with both the complaining individual and the accused. No leader may be impeached without first receiving a full and fair hearing from the Vision and Planning Team and Leader of the SHCSA. In the event that a complaint is made against a

Vision and Planning Team member, then that Leader may only be impeached by at least two-thirds agreement of the remaining Vision and Planning Team members.

#### Article V: Amendments

The Constitution may only be amended through the agreement of at least two-thirds of the Vision and Planning Team members and half of current membership. Any member of the SHCSA and any affiliate leader may propose constitutional amendments. The amendment in question will be discussed first by the VPT, and if approved, be voted on by fellowship membership for ratification.