

The Spectrum of Faiths



Acadiana Spiritual Association represents individuals from a wide range of faiths that are non-traditional for this region. These faiths include reconstruction of classical polytheistic religions, neo-pagan paths, new age movements, magical systems, syncretism, eastern philosophies, and indigenous or tribal traditions.

Classical Polytheistic Reconstruction

Kemeticism

Kemeticism is the contemporary revival of Ancient Egyptian religion. While there is a focus on worship of the Egyptian deities, the main focus of Kemeticism is to live your life within ma'at, translated as truth, justice, and honor.

Kabbalah

Kabbalah is an ancient wisdom that reveals how the universe and life work. The word Kabbalah, meaning "to receive," is the study of how to receive fulfillment in our lives. The Zohar is the basis of kabbalah.

Hellenism

The Hellenic religion is a traditional polytheistic religion and way of life, revolving around the Greek Gods, primarily focused on the Twelve Olympians, and embracing ancient Hellenic values and virtues.

Cultus Deorum Romanorum

This tradition is also called "Religio Romana". It is the reconstruction, revival, and practice of the traditional religion of the Romans. It focuses is on the Dii Consentes, the twelve major deities, six gods and six goddesses, in the pantheon of Ancient Rome.

Natib Qadish

Natib Qadish is a modern polytheistic religion that venerates the ancient deities of Canaan and strives to understand the ancient cultural context and religious practices in which these deities were honored.

Ásatrú

Ásatrú is a form of Germanic neo-paganism which developed in the 1970s. It focuses on historical Norse paganism of the Viking Age as described in the Eddas, but also includes "Northern European Heathenry" not limited to a specific historical period.

Neo-Pagan Paths

Wicca

Wicca is a modern pagan, witchcraft religion. It was introduced to the public in 1954 by Gerald Gardner. It draws upon a diverse set of ancient pagan and 20th century hermetic motifs for its theological structure and ritual practice.

Neo-Druidism

Druidry is a form of modern spirituality that generally promotes harmony and worship of nature and respect for all beings. The core principle of Druidry is respect and veneration of nature. Another belief amongst Druids is the veneration of ancestors, particularly those who belonged to prehistoric societies.

Hermeticism

Hermeticism comprises beliefs and practices whose purpose is the influencing of the world by means of contact with the heavenly forces. The Hermetic tradition is based primarily upon writings attributed to Hermes Trismegistus and claims descent from a *prisca theologia*, a doctrine which affirms that a single, true theology exists which is present in all religions and was given by God to man. The Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn greatly influenced Hermeticism today.

Thelema

Thelema is a religion that was developed by the early 20th century British writer and ceremonial magician Aleister Crowley. He believed he was a prophet of the Aeon of Horus, based upon a spiritual experience that he and his wife, Rose Edith, had in Egypt. By his account, a "praeterhuman" being named Aiwass contacted him and dictated a text known as The Book of the Law. The Thelemic pantheon includes a number of deities focusing primarily on a trinity of deities: Nuit, Hadit and Ra-Hoor-Khuit.

New Age Movements

Hare Krishna

Its core beliefs are based on traditional Indian scriptures, such as the the Bhagavad-gītā. Devotees follow a disciplic line of Gaudiya Bhagavata Vaishnavas, worship Krishna as the highest form of God, and believe Radha represents Krishna's divine female counterpart, the original spiritual potency and the embodiment of divine love.

Malachianism

An eclectic spirituality which focuses on worship of the "watchers," as described by Enoch. It includes deification of the ascended masters and veneration of ancestors. The primary focus is ascension.

Magical Systems

Herbalistic Witchcraft

Herbalistic Witchcraft refers to lineages of ritual magic, spellcraft, devotional mysticism, potions, and knowledge of herbal healing.

Enochian

Enochian magic is a system of ceremonial magic based on the evocation and commanding of various spirits. It is based on the 16th-century writings of Dr. John Dee and Edward Kelley, who claimed that their information, including the revealed Enochian language, was delivered to them directly by various angels.

Ceremonial Magic

Ceremonial magic a broad term used in the context of Hermeticism or Western esotericism to encompass a wide variety of long, elaborate, and complex rituals of magic. It is named as such because the works included are characterized by ceremony and myriad necessary accessories to aid the practitioner. It can be seen as an extension of ritual magic, and in most cases is synonymous with it. Popularized by the Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn, it draws on such schools of philosophical and occult thought as Hermetic Qabalah, Enochian magic, Thelema, and the magic of various grimoires.

Chaos Magic

Chaos magic is a school of the modern magical tradition which emphasizes the pragmatic use of belief systems and the creation of new and unorthodox methods. Chaos magicians believe that belief is a tool; therefore, specific rituals are not necessary. Intent is more important than "doing."

Christian Syncretism

Voodoo

Voodoo describes a set of spiritual folkways which originated from the traditions of the African diaspora and syncretized with the Catholicism and folk Francophone culture of south Louisiana. It emphasizes the use of gris-gris, voodoo queens, Hoodoo occult paraphernalia, and Li Grand Zombi.

Santería

Santería is a religion of African origin influenced by and syncretized with Roman Catholicism. Santaría beliefs in a universal spirit that is all and is the source of all things. It places emphasis on the veneration of the Orishas, African deities syncretized with the Catholic Saints. It is highly ritualistic and includes possessions, known as an Asiento.

Gnosticism

Gnosticism is the belief that the material world was created by the Demiurge should be shunned and the spiritual world should be embraced. Gnostic ideas influenced many ancient religions which teach that gnosis may be reached by practicing philanthropy to the point of personal poverty, sexual abstinence, and diligently searching for wisdom by helping others.

Inclusive Celtic Church

The Inclusive Celtic Church is a small denomination in the Independent Sacramental Movement. As an "inclusive" church, we welcome all people, however they identify, and wherever they are on their spiritual journey, to have a home in our community. We look to the early Celtic Christians and how their teachings and practices still resonate today. We care for, and seek the face of God in, the created world around us. We believe that belonging comes before believing and seek to offer hospitality to all. We believe that all are created in God's image, born with original blessing, rather than original sin.

Eastern Philosophies

Vedism

Vedism is a reform movement of Hinduism which focuses on the teachings of the Vedas, the four most sacred writings of Hinduism, and a return to ancient forms of practice absent from modern Hinduism. Practitioners of Vedism typically are not Indian or part of Indian communities.

Theravada Buddhism

Theravāda is the oldest surviving branch of Buddhism. Adherents believe that insight must come from the aspirant's experience, critical investigation, and reasoning instead of by blind faith. Spiritual power derived from the observance of Buddhist precepts and rituals is employed in attempting to appease local nature spirits. Many restrictions observed by rural Buddhist monks are derived not from the orthodox Vinaya, but from taboos derived from the practice of folk magic. Astrology, numerology, and the creation of talismans and charms also play a prominent role in Theravāda.

Indigenous / Tribal Tradition

North American Traditions

These religions are extremely diverse. Some are unique to an individual Native American tribe, while others are practiced by a wide range of tribes, mostly notably, the pan-Indian Native American Church. Native American religions are very closely connected to the land in which Native Americans dwell and the supernatural. Most address the following areas of supernatural concern: an omnipresent, invisible universal force, pertaining to the "three 'life crises' of birth, puberty, and death", spirits, visions, the medicine people and communal ceremony.

Mexicayotl

Mexicayotl is a movement reviving the indigenous religion, philosophy, and traditions of ancient Mexico amongst the Mexican people. Mexicatoyl revives several categories of gods: the cultural gods, the nature gods, the gods of creation, the gods of pulque and excess, the gods of maize and fertility, the gods of death and the underworld, and the trade gods. Deity impersonation as well as the reenactments of myth are believed to be the actual gods and myth reoccurring in that moment. Those acting as gods are often venerated as the god themselves.