



Welcome to the Sonoran Desert Center for Spiritual Living, where we are joined in a sacred circle, rooted in unconditional love.

Connection,



Joy,



Peace, and



Prosperity flow through us with ease and grace.

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## **Name, Website address, Address**

Sonoran Desert Center for Spiritual Living

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Amado, AZ 85622

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Mailing Address: P.O. 1598

Green Valley, AZ 85614

(520) 625-6100

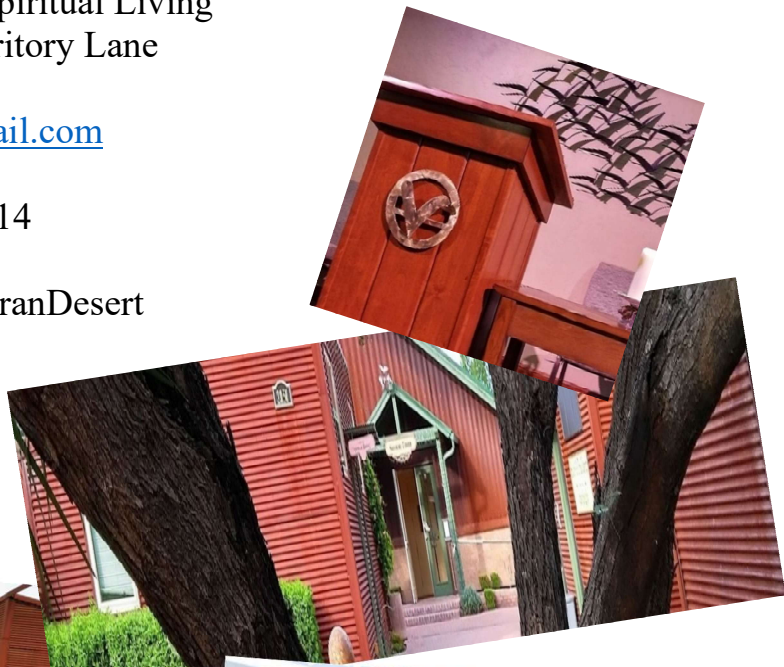
Facebook: CSLSonoranDesert

YouTube: Sonoran Desert

Center for Spiritual

Living – YouTube

Instagram: SonoranCSL



## **Purpose and Goals**

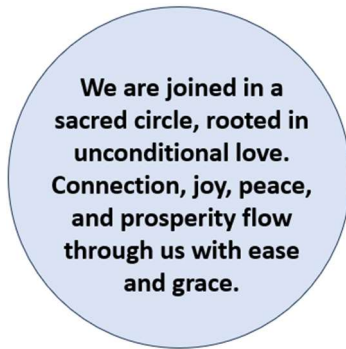
*Spiritual Vision:* Love in action, every day, in every way.

We are a loving group of people who share the feeling that we are spiritual beings having a spiritual experience in a human body. Our teaching respects and welcomes all people from diverse spiritual paths and those seeking a happier way to live. Our Sunday celebration services are filled with thought-provoking messages from Reverend Donna Maurer and our Licensed Spiritual Practitioners, joyful music, and a chance to be with like-minded people.

### *Our Spiritual Intentions*

- To be a joyful Spiritual Community that welcomes all.
- To become clear, open channels for Spirit to heal ourselves and others.
- To love, nurture and support Spiritual Growth in each person.
- To inspire everyone to know and experience their perfection.
- To express the joy of God through music and art.
- To continue to manifest love, joy and financial prosperity in the expression of our intentions.

## *Mission/Vision*



Sonoran Desert Center for Spiritual Living is dedicated to inspiring and empowering individuals to reach their highest spiritual potential through teachings, community, and service based on positive, practical spirituality. Our commitment to generosity is expressed through tithing, which supports the center's programs and outreach. These contributions help sustain the spiritual center, partner with local nonprofits, offer educational programs, and address community needs – transforming individual giving into meaningful collective impact.

## **Specific Qualifications We Desire**

- Education & Ordination
  - Ministerial training and licensed by Centers for Spiritual Living (ordained preferred)
- Experience
  - 3+ years of experience as a spiritual leader
  - Demonstrated ability to deliver inspiring, spiritually grounded Sunday messages
  - Experience facilitating classes, workshops, and small groups
- Leadership & Skills
  - Collaborative leadership style and strong communication skills
  - Pastoral care abilities and community presence
  - Comfortable teaching Science of Mind classes and supporting spiritual development
  - Committed to diversity, inclusion, and conscious leadership

## Center Statistics

Founded: Early 2002

Licensed Practitioners: 4 Local  
1 International

Board of Trustee members: 7

Members: 52

Average In-Person Sunday Attendance (Jan-July 2025): 60

Membership average age: 55+

Paid staff: 1 minister  
1 office manager/bookkeeper  
1 music director  
1 sound technician  
2 managers, *Ooh La La Designer Consignor*

Outside services - 1 cleaning service (office/chapel)  
1 landscape service

## Ministries

*Ooh La La Designer Consignor:* This volunteer-based, non-profit retail arm of SDCSL is open Tuesday through Saturday and the third Sunday of each month after Celebration Services. Located next to the center, the boutique offers gently used designer clothing and accessories, serving fashion-forward shoppers from Tucson and beyond, with a focus on community and contribution.



*Music:* The music program is guided by a director with the support of musicians and singers from the community who perform as needed.

*Children/teen church:* Because of our surrounding community of 55+, we do not hold a children's church; although, a child or teen will occasionally attend Celebration Services with grandparents/parents.

*Sacred Circle:* Two sessions per month, guided by a licensed practitioner, meets on Tuesdays.

*Online:* SDCSL extends our reach beyond the physical sanctuary and into the homes and hearts of a wider community. We are proud of our following on social media; i.e., Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube. Sunday Celebration services are uploaded to YouTube every week.

*Compassionate Heart:* The Compassionate Heart Ministry at Sonoran Desert Center is a volunteer outreach that delivers nourishing meals and support to those facing illness, loss, or challenges – ensuring no one walks alone.

*Conversations with an End-of-Life Doula:* Held the fourth Wednesday monthly, Conversations with an End-of-Life Doula offers gentle, supportive dialogue around death and conscious transitions, creating a sacred space for peace, clarity, and spiritual presence.

*Men's Breakfast:* The Men's Breakfast is a welcoming monthly gathering where men share a meal, meaningful conversation, and spiritual reflection to deepen connection and support personal growth.

*Women's Group:* The Women's Group is a nurturing space where women come together for heartfelt conversation, spiritual exploration, and mutual support, fostering deep connection and empowerment.

*Additional ministries:* SDCSL offers periodic SoulCollage® workshops, a creative card-making process for exploring inner wisdom, plus spirit-guided workshops and healing circles that inspire growth and deepen personal understanding. We also are the home to an Enneagram group and a Drumming Circle.

#### *Ongoing Monthly Classes & Groups*

- Spiritual Circle – 2 sessions per month
  - End-of-Life Doula Group – 1 session per month
  - Writer's Group – 2 sessions per month
  - Men's Group – 1 session per month
  - Women's Group – 1 session per month
  - Practitioner Classes – 3 held throughout the year
- Total Gatherings in 2024: Approximately 99 sessions

#### *Community Giving & Tithing*

- 10% of Sunday donations tithed to others:
  - \$10,437 (Apr 2024–Mar 2025)
- "Angel Tree" holiday giving:
  - \$1,450 donated to support local families in need (December 2024)

## **Facilities**

Sonoran Desert Center for Spiritual Living sits on a campus that includes three buildings: 1) the sanctuary; 2) SDCSL offices; and 3) the suites, which includes the Salon at the Ranch, Ooh La La Designer Consignor boutique, and a meditation room. Built in 2009 with first services held in the new sanctuary (complete with serving kitchen) in May 2010, the campus is currently valued around \$700,000, with a remaining mortgage of approximately \$72,000 (down from the original \$300,000), and monthly payments of just over \$1,000 per month.

## **Locale**

Sonoran Desert Center for Spiritual Living is situated in close proximity to several communities: Amado, Green Valley, Rio Rico, and Sahuarita.

The region includes several small mountain ranges including the Chiricahua Mountains, Huachuca Mountains, Santa Ritas, the Santa Catalinas, the Rincons, the Piñalenos, and others. As surprising as it might seem, some of these mountains are high enough, cold enough, and wet enough in the wintertime to provide alpine skiing in resorts around the state (i.e., Arizona Snowbowl, Mt. Lemmon Ski Valley, Elk Ridge, and Sunrise Park).

Dining in Green Valley and the surrounding areas offers a flavorful mix of Southwestern, Mexican, Italian, Mediterranean, and classic American cuisine. From wood-fired pizzas to enchiladas, seafood to steaks, and fresh salads to baklava, there's something to satisfy financial craving – all in a relaxed, desert-hugged setting.

Living in and around Green Valley, Arizona offers a compelling blend of affordability, active lifestyle, and scenic desert tranquility – perfect for retirees and those seeking a slower pace without giving up convenience. Green Valley itself is a well-established retirement community known for its age-restricted neighborhoods, low cost of living, and robust network of recreation centers. Residents enjoy golf courses, hiking in nearby Madera Canyon, and easy access to quality healthcare and shopping in Tucson, just 30 minutes north. The climate, with mild winters and low humidity, appeals to those looking to avoid harsh winters or muggy summers.

Adjacent communities like Sahuarita and Rio Rico expand the benefits. Sahuarita, directly north of Green Valley, offers newer housing developments, family-friendly amenities, and a slightly younger demographic – ideal for retirees who still want to be close to grandkids or enjoy mixed-age neighborhoods. South of Green Valley, Rio Rico is more rural and budget-friendly, with sweeping views of rolling hills and the Santa Cruz River. It appeals to nature lovers, birdwatchers, and those seeking space and solitude. Other nearby towns like Tubac – an artsy enclave with galleries and festivals – and Amado – known for its ranching roots – add cultural flavor and weekend charm to life in the area. The region offers the rare combination of peaceful living, community spirit, and outdoor adventure, all without the congestion and expense of a big city.

## **Amado**

Nestled in the Santa Cruz River Valley, the picturesque beauty of Amado is a paradise for birdwatchers, nature-lovers, and city folk alike. The wide range of ecosystems extend from rugged peaks and pine forests of the Santa Rita mountains, named for the patroness of impossible causes, and spring-fed canyons to the Sonoran desert and Santa Cruz River Valley. Elevation: 3,097'

## **Green Valley**

Green Valley, Arizona is a planned retirement community established in 1964, located 20 miles south of Tucson and 40 miles north of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico. Originally developed on former grazing and pecan farming land, the area's human history stretches back 13,000 years, including rich Spanish and Mexican heritage sites like the historic Canoa Ranch.

An unincorporated census-designated place in Pima County, Green Valley's population ranges between 19,000 to 21,000. It spans 26.3 square miles at an elevation of 2,980 feet and includes 59 homeowner associations.

Surrounded by copper mines and nestled near the Santa Rita Mountains, the area is known for outdoor recreation including hiking, cycling, and birding – especially at nearby Madera Canyon and Saguaro National Park East. Green Valley also offers locally owned shops and eateries, and its primary industries are education and healthcare. It remains a popular retirement destination in southern Arizona.



Green Valley, Arizona offers a refreshing escape with its many Green Valley Recreation (GVR) pools – perfect for staying cool under the desert sun or joining a water aerobics class. For golf enthusiasts, the area features several scenic courses surrounded by mountain views, making it a year-round destination for recreation and relaxation.

### **Rio Rico**

Rio Rico is a steadily growing, active, largely Hispanic community with median household earnings of about \$63,700, strong homeownership, and solid educational attainment. Estimated population as of 2023: approximately 22,000.

### **Sahuarita**

Sahuarita is a family-oriented community in Pima County, Arizona. Sahuarita is located south of the Tohono O'odham Nation and abuts the north end of Green Valley, 15 miles south of Tucson. The population of Sahuarita is nearing 36,000. Fifty-two percent of the population in Sahuarita have an associate's degree or higher. 42.2% have a Bachelor's degree or higher.

### **Vail**

Vail is a family-oriented, predominantly owner-occupied suburban community with stable growth, high incomes, strong educational attainment, and a low poverty rate. The average commute reflects its commuter-town nature near Tucson. Vail has a 2025 projection population of around 16,508 residents, with a steady growth rate of approximately 2.6% annually.

### **Climate in Southern Arizona**

Green Valley experiences a desert-influenced climate with three distinct seasons. From October through March, winters are generally mild and sunny, with cooler nights. Spring and early summer bring dry heat and clear skies, while the monsoon season, from July through September, introduces bursts of rain and higher humidity. Rainfall is typically scarce outside the monsoon months, and summer temperatures frequently reach into the 90s and beyond. Winter nights can occasionally dip to freezing, though daytime warmth often returns quickly.

## Arts & Entertainment

Tucson and the broader Southern Arizona region offer a vibrant and diverse arts and entertainment scene that blends cultural heritage with contemporary creativity. From the renowned performances at the historic Fox Tucson Theatre and Arizona Theatre Company to the rich offerings at the Tucson Museum of Art and the University of Arizona's Center for Creative Photography – and let's not forget the slapstick and melodramatic performances at Tucson's Gaslight Theater – the area is a hub for visual and performing arts. Annual events like the Tucson Gem & Mineral Show, All Souls Procession, and Tucson Festival of Books draw national attention, while local galleries, mariachi festivals, Native arts markets, and desert-inspired public art celebrate the region's multicultural roots. With a thriving music scene, outdoor film festivals, and artisan markets set against stunning desert landscapes, Tucson and Southern Arizona offer year-round inspiration for artists, entertainers, and audiences alike.

## Sports

Southern Arizona, particularly the Tucson area, boasts a variety of sports. The University of Arizona has prominent football and basketball teams, and Tucson is also home to the Tucson Sugar Skulls (indoor football) and the Tucson Roadrunners (hockey). The region is also known for its golf scene and hosts events like the Cologuard Classic. Kino Sports Complex is a major venue for various sports and events.



### *Professional Sports*

- Arizona Cardinals (NFL): While the Cardinals are based in Phoenix, they are a major Arizona team and fans from Southern Arizona often travel to see them play.
- Phoenix Suns (NBA): Similar to the Cardinals, the Suns are a Phoenix-based team that draws fans from all over the state.
- Arizona Diamondbacks (MLB):
- The Diamondbacks are another Phoenix team that is popular throughout Arizona.
- Tucson Roadrunners (AHL): This is a minor league hockey team affiliated with the Arizona Coyotes (NHL) and plays in Tucson.
- Tucson Sugar Skulls (IFL): An indoor football team that plays at the Tucson Arena.

### *College Sports*

- University of Arizona Wildcats: The Wildcats have a strong presence in college sports, with popular teams in football, basketball, baseball, and softball.
- Arizona Stadium: Home to the University of Arizona football team.
- McKale Memorial Center: Home to the University of Arizona basketball and volleyball teams.
- Hi Corbett Field: Home to the University of Arizona baseball team.
- Rita Hillenbrand Memorial Stadium: Home to the University of Arizona softball team.

- Other Notable Sports:
- Kino Sports Complex: This complex hosts a variety of sports, including baseball, soccer, and other events.
- Arizona Bowl: A college football bowl game played in Tucson.
- Tucson BMX: A popular BMX track in Tucson.
- Arizona Triathlon: The Arizona Triathlon is based in Tucson.
- Racelab: Racelab is a place for racing enthusiasts.

## **Recreation**

Southern Arizona offers a wide range of recreational activities, from exploring the unique desert landscape to enjoying cultural attractions. Visitors can hike and bike through national and state parks, discover caves, experience the vibrant arts and culture scene, or enjoy water activities at lakes and rivers. Golf: Southern Arizona has a thriving golf scene with many courses and tournaments, including the Cologuard Classic, a PGA TOUR Champions event.

## **Outdoor Activities**

### *Walking, Hiking, and Biking*

- Saguaro National Park, Catalina State Park, and Sabino Canyon offer numerous trails for all skill levels.
- Desert Meadows, a project of Green Valley Gardeners, which provides walking trails that features plant identification stations
- Madera Canyon is a lovely location for a picnic, especially when escaping the summer heat of Phoenix or Tucson. Renowned for its diverse hiking trails, the canyon is also a top destination for bird-watching enthusiasts.



### *Water Activities*

- Patagonia Lake State Park and Rose Canyon Lake provide opportunities for swimming, boating, and fishing.

### *Caves and Caverns*

- Kartchner Caverns State Park and Colossal Cave Mountain Park offer guided tours of stunning cave systems.

### *Scenic Drives*

- Take a drive through the Tucson Mountain District of Saguaro National Park and Gates Pass or explore the Santa Catalina Mountains.
- Relax on the Sabino Canyon Crawler, an electric, open-air shuttle that offers a quiet, narrated tour through Tucson's scenic Sabino Canyon, immersing visitors in its natural and cultural beauty

### *Cultural and Historical Attractions*

- Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum: Explore the natural history and wildlife of the Sonoran Desert.
- Old Tucson: Step back in time at this historic movie set and entertainment complex.
- Titan Missile Museum: Discover the history of the Cold War at this preserved missile silo.
- Biosphere 2, located near Tucson in Oracle, Arizona, is a large sealed glass facility housing diverse ecosystems used for groundbreaking environmental research. Visitors can explore the biomes through a self-guided audio tour that highlights its innovative design and historic scientific missions.
- Tombstone: Explore the historic town of Tombstone, known for its Wild West history and attractions like the O.K. Corral and Bird Cage Theatre.
- Tubac Presidio State Historic Park: Learn about the history of the Spanish Presidio and the town of Tubac.

### *Zoos and Gardens*

- Visit the Reid Park Zoo or the Tucson Botanical Gardens.

### *Museums*

- Explore the Pima Air & Space Museum
- Mini Time Machine Museum of Miniatures
- Titan Missile Museum



Tumacácori National Historical Park

### *Astronomy*

- Visit the Mt. Lemmon SkyCenter Observatory or the Flandrau Science Center & Planetarium.
- Kitt Peak National Observatory, located near Tucson, is a world-class astronomical research facility offering visitors guided tours and stunning views of the night sky from one of the largest arrays of telescopes in the world.

### *Wine Tasting*

- Explore the Sonoita wine region, known for its vineyards and wineries according to Visit Arizona

### *Geography*

Green Valley is located in southern Arizona, approximately 20 miles south of Tucson along Interstate 19, nestled in the Santa Cruz River Valley. It sits at an elevation of around 2,900 feet, providing slightly cooler temperatures than nearby lowland areas. The region is bordered by the Santa Rita Mountains to the east – home to Madera Canyon, a renowned birding and hiking destination – and desert landscapes to the west. Its semi-arid climate features mild winters and hot summers, making it a popular retirement and snowbird destination.

## **Historical Significance**

Green Valley's development began in the 1960s as a master-planned retirement community, though the area has a much older cultural footprint. It lies within the ancestral lands of the Tohono O'odham Nation and was once part of Spanish and Mexican land grants. In the

19th century, the surrounding region became significant for ranching, mining, and later agriculture, including pecan orchards that still operate today. Nearby attractions such as the historic Titan Missile Museum and the Tumacácori National Historical Park offer insights into the area's Cold War and Spanish colonial heritage, respectively. Today, Green Valley is known for its active adult communities, arts and cultural programs, and proximity to natural and historical landmarks.

Tribal and other cultures have shaped southern Arizona, and there are plenty of opportunities to explore how the 48th state helped to shape the West! From the ancient Hohokam canals to the missions built by Spanish settlers, the region reflects a blend of Indigenous, Mexican, and pioneer influences. Visitors can walk through history at places like Tumacácori National Historical Park, tour preserved mining towns such as Bisbee and Tombstone, or experience the rich traditions of the Tohono O'odham Nation. Whether exploring adobe architecture, attending regional festivals, or hiking through sacred landscapes, Southern Arizona offers a deeply textured story of resilience, convergence, and cultural continuity – perhaps nowhere more strikingly than at Mission San Xavier del Bac, about 17 miles north of Green Valley in the San Xavier District of the Tohono O'odham Nation, founded in 1692 by the Italian Jesuit Eusebio Francisco Kino.



Mission San Xavier del Bac

## **Tucson**

Just a short drive – about 30 minutes – north of Green Valley lies Tucson, the cultural and economic heart of Southern Arizona. Nestled in the Sonoran Desert and surrounded by mountain ranges, Tucson blends rich history with modern vibrancy.

As one of the oldest continuously inhabited areas in North America, Tucson's story stretches from Indigenous roots and Spanish missions to its role in the Old West and its thriving present-day identity.

### *Tucson Geography*

Tucson is situated in the eastern portion of Pima County, Arizona in one of the lushest valleys found in the Sonoran Desert. Surrounded by five unique mountain ranges, opportunities for outdoor exploration are endless. A quick drive along the Catalina Highway-Sky Island National Scenic Byway can take you from the lower elevations of the valley floor to the summit of Mt. Lemmon at 9,157 feet. In roughly an hour this scenic drive traverses seven of the world's nine life zones – the span of ecosystems you'd see driving from Mexico to Canada.

The city is bordered on all sides by protected natural areas: Coronado National Forest, Catalina State Park, Ironwood Forest National Monument, and Saguaro National Parks East and West (the best places to see the giant saguaro cactus native only to Southern Arizona and Native Mexico).

Because of the variety of terrain and proximity to protected areas and parks Tucson is widely considered one of the world's best destinations for activities such as hiking, cycling, rock climbing, horseback riding, and just about anything else you would want to do outdoors.

### *Tucson in the 1800s*

All of Arizona south of the Gila River became part of the U.S. through the Gadsden Purchase on June 8, 1854. During the Old West era (1860–1880), Tucson saw frequent clashes among ranchers, settlers, miners, and Apache Indians. Incorporated in 1877, Tucson became Arizona’s oldest city. The arrival of the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1880 deepened its multicultural roots, blending the traditions of Tohono O’odham, Mexicans, and early settlers.



Old Tucson

### *Tucson Today*

Tucson grew from the rugged spirit and cultural crossroads of the Old West, a legacy that still shapes its vibrant identity today. Welcoming nearly 7 million visitors annually, the city is known for its scenic hiking, rich traditions, thriving arts scene, world-class golf, and acclaimed dining. In 2015, UNESCO designated Tucson as the first Creative City of Gastronomy in the United States, celebrating an unparalleled agricultural tradition, a rich tapestry of cultures, and some of the most inspiring food experiences available anywhere. El Tour de Tucson is a major annual cycling event in Tucson, Arizona, held on the Saturday before Thanksgiving since 1983. One of the largest rides in the United States, it features multiple routes—including a 102-mile century ride—and draws thousands of cyclists from around the world. More than a race, it’s a community celebration and a fundraiser, benefiting numerous local and national nonprofits. The Tucson Rodeo, or La Fiesta de los Vaqueros, is a 10-day annual event in Tucson, Arizona, celebrating western heritage and cowboy culture. Held each February, it features professional rodeo competitions, a parade, a junior rodeo, and other festivities.

Home to over one million residents, Tucson is Arizona’s second-largest city, encompassing nearby communities like Marana, Vail, Sahuarita, Catalina, South Tucson, Green Valley, and the scenic, upscale town of Oro Valley, located just to the north at the base of the Santa Catalina Mountains. Mount Lemmon is the highest peak in the Santa Catalina Mountains, rising to an elevation of around 9,159 feet and forming a dramatic “sky island” where lush conifer forests emerge from the surrounding Sonoran Desert landscape. The University of Arizona, founded in 1885, anchors the city with a global campus of over 50,000. Tucson also hosts major events like the Gem & Mineral Show, All Souls Procession, and Festival of Books – making it not just a top destination, but a dynamic place to live, work, and explore.

### **Salary Range**

- Base salary range for our new full-time senior minister is offered at \$40,000 – \$50,000 (commensurate with experience, education, and responsibilities).
- Workshop Presentation Fees
  - 70 percent of total tuition generated by each class taught by the minister

#### *Responsibilities*

- Delivering weekly Sunday Celebration Services
- Leading Science of Mind classes and workshops throughout the year
- Providing spiritual counseling and pastoral support
- Collaborating with leadership to guide vision and operations

- Representing the center within the wider community and Centers for Spiritual Living network

Reasonable and approved travel expenses will be reimbursed with receipts.

## **Reason for Pulpit Vacancy**

Reverend Donna Maurer has been with SDCSL for 12 years. She is revered throughout Green Valley and Amado as a spiritual leader, community leader and visionary since her arrival in 2006. In May of this year she announced her retirement as of November 2025.

## **Application**

Please submit the following materials:

1. Cover Letter – Share your philosophy of ministry and interest in serving our community
2. Résumé – Include education, licensing, and relevant experience
3. Link to a web-based video – At least one recent Sunday talk or class
4. List of References – With contact information

Send all materials to: Rev. Nan Bankston, [nbankston@csf.org](mailto:nbankston@csf.org)

Applications will be accepted through December 15, 2025

Final candidates will be invited to Green Valley, Arizona, for an in-person interview and meet-and-greet weekend. As part of their visit, candidates will be asked to:

- Deliver the Sunday Celebration Services message (\$250)
- Facilitate a workshop for the congregation (\$250)

Applicants should be licensed, active, and in good standing with Centers for Spiritual Living. We look forward to welcoming inspired and heart-centered candidates into our spiritual community.

## **Travel Expenses Offered**

Reasonable and agreed-upon travel expenses will be reimbursed with receipts.

## **Why SDCSL?**

“From the first day I attended Sonoran Desert Center for Spiritual Living, I felt I was among friends and family. I was home.”

That feeling is at the heart of who we are. Whether someone walks through our doors for the first time or the hundredth, we strive to create a space where all are welcomed, seen, and

celebrated. Ours is a community built not on sameness, but on shared intention – an intention to grow, to heal, and to live from love.

We come from many paths, but we gather around a common truth: that Spirit is everywhere, and each of us is a unique expression of It. At SDCSL, our teachings blend timeless spiritual principles with real-world wisdom. Sunday messages inspire us, music uplifts us, and weekly practices help us carry peace and clarity into every corner of our lives.

The SDCSL is guided by a deeply committed and mindful Board of Trustees—seven individuals who lead with heart, integrity, and vision. As a consensus board, decisions are made collaboratively, honoring the collective wisdom of the minister, president, vice-president, treasurer, secretary, and two dedicated members at large. Together, they ensure that both the spiritual and operational health of the center remain aligned with its mission. Their service is marked by transparency, respect, and a shared commitment to thoughtful stewardship and community care.

Here, we don't just listen – we engage. We support each other through challenges, celebrate each other's wins, and walk together in a community that honors authenticity, curiosity, and compassion.

We're more than a spiritual center – we're a spiritual family. And there's always room at the table.

## “The Little Engine That Could”

In early 2002, in the quiet desert town of Amado, Arizona, a small group of spiritual seekers came together with a big dream. They didn’t have a building, a budget, or a blueprint – just a shared belief in potential, community, and something greater than themselves. Some might’ve looked at their size and said, “They can’t do that; they’re not big enough.” But like the little engine in the beloved children’s tale, they kept going, *“We think we can.”*

By mid-summer 2003, the group had moved onto Amado Ranch and held Sunday services in rented offices. In 2009, the rented space was purchased and the small group of spiritual believers began negotiations with the ranch owner for a new space they could call home.

What began as gatherings in borrowed spaces with visiting speakers slowly transformed into something more permanent. The group that became known as the Sonoran Desert Center for Spiritual Living started laying the tracks toward something bold: their very own sanctuary in the desert. It was no small climb. Raising the funds, securing the land, and building a space would be a heavy haul for any community – let alone one this small.

But still, they kept going. *“We believe we can.”*

Through vision, belief, tithes, and tenacity, their dream took shape. They raised the walls, opened the doors, and paid off an initial \$60,000 in just three months. A mortgage that once neared \$300,000 has since been reduced to \$72,000, with monthly payments around \$1,000. Today, “the campus” is valued at approximately \$700,000. But it’s more than just land—it’s a vibrant home to the SDCSL, The Salon at the Ranch (offering personalized haircare), and Ooh La La Designer Consignor (a nonprofit boutique). Together, they create a space of spiritual growth, healing, and heartfelt community.

As their foundation grew stronger, so did their generosity. Even while paying off debts, the volunteer-based center gave back – tithing faithfully to support food banks, animal shelters, hospices, and outreach programs. In 2025, and years past, they set a \$100,000 pledge goal and met it with the joyful mantra, “We know we can!” Their month-long pledge campaigns are have anything but ordinary—mixing flair with originality and youthful spirit. Themes like *Wicked Meets Oz* (flying monkeys, ruby slippers, and all), *Broadway Musicals*, and *Forest Grump*, the congregation turns generosity into celebration.

As the little center grew, neighbors took notice. Not because they were loud or flashy, but because they showed up – on time, on purpose, and with open hearts. The Sonoran Desert Center for Spiritual Living now stands as “the little engine who could” and as living proof that with faith, unity, and the courage to climb, even the smallest community can build something enduring.

*We think we can.*

*We believe we can.*

*And we do.*

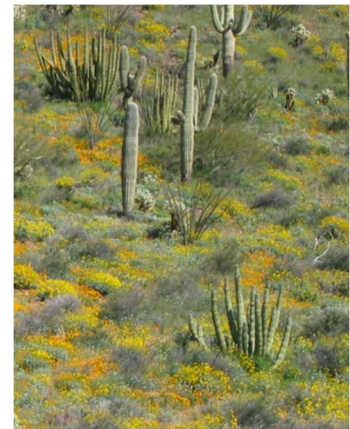
## The Last Word

The Sonoran Desert Center for Spiritual Living is a volunteer-driven spiritual hub that offers a welcoming space for personal growth, exploration, and community connection. Located in the heart of the desert, Sunday celebrations are uplifting with messages that inspire and love that exudes. Classes and programs nurture the mind, body, and spirit. With a focus on practical spirituality, inclusivity, and supportive relationships, the Center serves as a place where individuals can deepen their faith, expand their understanding, and cultivate a more fulfilling life. Here at SDCSL, our new minister will find:

*1. A Welcoming, Engaged Community:* Green Valley is home to a spiritually mature and curious population. Many congregants are retired professionals with life experience, open minds, and a deep hunger for meaningful spiritual exploration. This makes it a uniquely rewarding environment for a minister to teach, lead, and co-create.

*2. A Chance to Make a Real Impact:* In a small to medium-sized congregation, a minister has the opportunity to know the community personally, to build strong relationships, and to shape the culture of the church in a visible and lasting way. Your leadership will be felt and appreciated.

*3. Beautiful Natural Surroundings:* Located in the scenic Sonoran Desert, Green Valley offers stunning views, peaceful surroundings, and a slower pace of life. Often called the "greenest desert," the Sonoran Desert supports rich biodiversity thanks to its rare bi-seasonal rainfall, which nourishes unique plant life like cacti, agave, and desert shrubs. It's an ideal place to live a balanced life, nurture your own spirit, and enjoy year-round outdoor recreation.



*4. An Opportunity for Growth and Creativity:* This community values innovation and authenticity. There's room to try new things – spiritually, organizationally, and in outreach. A new minister will have the support to bring fresh ideas and vision to life.

*5. A Strong Foundation to Build Upon:* The congregation has a rich history of spiritual learning and leadership, with a core group of committed members who provide a steady base from which to grow.

In short, SDCSL and its surrounds offer both the intimacy of deep community and the spaciousness to grow – personally, professionally, and spiritually.

Join us!