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New Moon Eclectics Coven Formal Bylaws Document

New Moon Eclectics Coven

Official Bylaws

Ratified by the Priesthood and Inner Circle

I. Purpose, Spirit, and History of the Coven

New Moon Eclectics Coven exists as a spiritual, educational, and initiatory body dedicated to the Mysteries of Witchcraft, lunar devotion, and the Eclectic Craft. These bylaws are guidelines for harmony, safety, integrity, and continuity within the Circle.

These laws:

- Protect the sanctity of ritual space
- Establish clear expectations for leadership and membership
- Preserve the coven's lineage, culture, and identity
- Provide structure for conflict resolution and governance
- Ensure continuity of teaching, initiation, and elevation

These bylaws do not supersede personal sovereignty. Membership is voluntary, and all who join do so freely, by oath and by will.

Amendments require a majority vote of the Inner Circle, including at least one acting Priest or Priestess.

II. Leadership, Authority, and Succession

1. The Priesthood

New Moon Eclectics is led by:

- **High Priestess — Voice of the Goddess**
- **High Priest — Voice of the God**

Leadership is dual, collaborative, and balanced. Both leaders hold equal authority, though each may take point depending on ritual, season, or circumstance.

2. Term of Authority

New Moon Eclectics maintains continuous dual leadership, with seasonal emphasis:

- **Waxing Half (Imbolc → Lammas):** High Priestess primary authority
- **Waning Half (Lammas → Imbolc):** High Priest primary authority

Both leaders remain empowered year-round.

3. Appointment of Successors

If one leader steps down, the remaining Priest/Priestess:

- Selects a qualified successor
- Consults the Inner Circle
- Confirms the appointment by majority vote

A successor, once appointed, holds full rights and responsibilities.

4. Removal of Leadership

If leadership becomes harmful, negligent, or unstable:

- A removal vote may be called
- Requires unanimous Inner Circle vote
- Ritual divestment occurs in full coven

5. Interim Leadership

If a Priest or Priestess must take leave:

- An interim leader may be appointed
- Interim leaders hold full authority

- Permanent confirmation requires majority vote after one hinge (six months)

III. Sabbaticals & Leaves of Absence

Definitions

- **Sabbatical:** Six months or one year-and-a-day
- **Leave of Absence:** More than two Sabbats but less than six months

Rules

- Priesthood may not take leaves shorter than a sabbatical
- Members must announce leave in full coven
- Excessive leaves may trigger a membership review
- Early return from sabbatical requires unanimous consent

Satellite members (those who move away) retain membership but are exempt from attendance requirements.

IV. Hiving, Departures, and Lineage

1. Leaving the Coven

Members who depart in good standing:

- May request letters of lineage
- May be referred to other covens or teachers
- May return by petition and majority vote

2. Hiving

Any Initiate of Third Degree may found a new coven.

Requirements:

- Inform the Priesthood and Inner Circle
- Allow a year-and-a-day separation from the Mother Coven
- Return only by invitation
- Coven property remains with New Moon Eclectics

Dual membership is discouraged.

If a member becomes HP/HPS of another coven, they relinquish membership here.

3. Banishment

Requires unanimous Inner Circle vote.

Grounds include:

- Malice
- Abuse
- Repeated violation of oaths
- Endangerment of coven members
- Breach of confidentiality

V. Membership, Degrees, and Expectations

1. Structure

New Moon Eclectics recognizes:

- Students
- Dedicants
- Neophytes
- Initiates (1st, 2nd, 3rd Degree)
- Inner Circle (Initiates only)
- Outer Circle (Students, Dedicants, Neophytes)
- Associate Members
- Friends of the Grove

2. Admission

To join the Outer Circle:

- Request must be made to Priesthood
- Inner Circle meets privately
- Admission requires unanimous vote by the Priesthood

3. Expectations — Inner Circle

- Attendance required at Sabbats, Esbats, and classes
- Maximum of 3 absences per hinge
- Must vote on coven matters
- Must uphold secrecy, integrity, and ritual discipline

4. Expectations — Outer Circle

- Attendance encouraged
- Must read and acknowledge bylaws
- May voice opinions but do not vote
- Must demonstrate growth, respect, and commitment

5. Associate Members

Former full members who:

- Retain access to appropriate lists
- May attend events when possible
- May advise but do not vote

6. Friends of the Grove

- May attend open events
- May be consulted informally
- Hold no vote or ritual authority

VI. Security, Privacy, and Dispute Resolution

1. Confidentiality

No member shall disclose:

- Names
- Ritual locations
- Coven business
- Member identities
- Internal disputes

Exceptions require Priesthood approval.

2. Mundane Settings

When outsiders are present:

- No reference to coven membership
- No discussion of Craft matters
- Use discretion even with “Craft-friendly” individuals

3. Disputes

Members should resolve issues privately when possible.

If escalation is needed:

- Bring dispute to Priesthood
- Priesthood decision is binding
- Safety overrides rank during ritual
- All disputes handled after ritual unless urgent

VII. Amendments and Record Keeping

- Amendments require majority Inner Circle vote
- At least one Priest/Priestess must be part of the majority
- Original versions are archived for historical continuity
- New bylaws take effect immediately upon ratification

VIII. Oath of Compliance

All members must affirm:

“I have read, understood, and accept the bylaws of New Moon Eclectics Coven.

I enter this Circle freely, and I uphold these laws in perfect love and perfect trust.”