

Ritual Guidelines

(Some General Information to Assist Ritual Leaders)

★ Both members and friends of Turning Circle may volunteer to lead a ritual.

★ There is a document called “ritual supplies” in the Turning Circle yahoo group files section that lists the supplies kept in the plastic tubs at OBIC. Also, do not hesitate to send email to the Turning Circle yahoo group if you are looking for something specific; other people are willing to share and may have what you need.

★ Do not hesitate to email our Liturgist or any of the TC officers if you need help designing a ritual or would like feedback.

General email: tcofficers@yahoo.com

Officers:

Coordinators:

Alex/Phoenix – alex@alembic.crystal.com

Mav – mav.vaughan@gmail.com

Coordinator/Webmaster:

Chris/Indigo – indigo@turningcircle.org

Scribe/Purse Warden:

Patti/Selene – elwynsattic@gmail.com

★ Write-ups of previous Turning Circle rituals can be found in the “files” section of the TC yahoo group in the “our rituals” folder. Examples of rituals can also be found under the “resources” tab on the TC website (www.turningcircle.org). These are a great source for ideas and things to do, and they may also be reused.

★ About one week before the gathering, write a short description of the ritual (1 or 2 paragraphs) including any special notes/instructions (for example, if you want people to bring or wear something special) and send it to the Turning Circle yahoo group email (TurningCircle@yahoo.com). ONE MONTH before your event, please send a short synopsis (one or two sentences) to tcofficers@yahoo.com for posting on Witchvox.

★ As part of the pre-ritual briefing, it might be helpful for ritual leaders to introduce themselves and say a couple of sentences about their spiritual viewpoint and personal spiritual journey.

★ *Pre-setup time for rituals:* 7:15 pm.

★ *Ritual gathering time/setup:* 7:30 pm.

★ *Stones or Candles of Joy & Concern* (pre-ritual, leader’s choice): 7:45 pm. Generally allow 10-15 minutes for Candles of Joy & Concern, with the main ritual immediately following. *Rituals should begin by 8:00 pm and conclude by 9:00 pm.*

★ *Potluck feast/cleanup:* 9:00-10:00 pm.

★ *Please stay aware of the time during your ritual.* If your ritual seems like it may go longer than the allotted time, please be proactive about shortening it. If the ritual goes on too long, one of the coordinators may ask you to end it.

★ As ritual is a service in sacred space, taking of photos is not permitted during ritual. It might also be helpful to remind people to turn off or silence cell phones and other electronic devices during ritual (and remind them afterward that they may be turned back on). At his or her discretion, the leader may briefly relight altar candles and allow photos when the ritual is concluded. Encourage people to ask questions following rather than during ritual.

★ After the ritual, if desired, share your ritual in the “our rituals” folder in the “files” section of the TC yahoo group for people to refer to. Or, email it to any of the officers for posting.

★ TC can reimburse a few dollars for ritual supplies. For special holidays, we will reimburse up to \$30, but ask us first, and please supply receipts..

★ *No candles on the floor at any time*—they drip wax onto OBIC’s carpet. However, an appropriate non-wax substitute may be used, such as battery-operated tea lights in a votive holder.

★ *Please do not burn sage or heavy floral-scented incense or candles during ritual*—some of our members and friends are highly allergic.