

**Independent Spiritualist Association of the United States of America**  
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**March 6, 2019**

Greetings Members and Friends,

I want to keep everyone updated on the business that Cathy, Rev. Phillip - his committee, Thomas - Education committee and I have been working on over the fall and winter months. We are in great shape. We **ARE** a 501c3.

In September, I brought to your attention our tenure for the ISA was going to be expiring in our Articles of Incorporation. It was designed for 99 years. We are going through the process of applying for a “Perpetual” with the state of Michigan. This is how it is successfully done to make a change.

This issue is treated just as any bylaw change. In June you will be voting on this change. Like any other bylaw change we will get your notification out to you 90 days prior. Once we have secured our perpetual it will mean to us that we will be permanent and never have to apply again. This is good news for all of us.

Our organization is an **“Ecclesiastical Corporation – Church”** Incorporated in the state of Michigan. What that means is Amanda Flower registered the Independent Spiritualist Association of the United States of America with the state of Michigan. Under the guide lines of Michigan in 1924. We became a recognized Ecclesiastical Corporation - Church. Our articles provide our contract with the State of Michigan. We are Non-for-Profit.

What we file to the State of Michigan for our **“PERPETUAL.”** is... Article **“third”** in our Articles and Constitution. It now reads: “The time for which said church shall be created shall be **ninety-nine years.**” To change that, we must apply and be approved for the change to read **“PERPETUAL”** rather than 99 years. We are completing the necessary steps and hope to have this submitted shortly after our convention.

We are a 501c3 with the IRS Federal Government. Our determination was made January 29<sup>th</sup>, 1959, and we have a copy of that original letter of determination. This continues to grant us the privileges of all 501c3 rights under the Ecclesiastical Corporation – Church. I requested and received a verification letter of our determination from the IRS. It will go in our files and Rev. Thomas will store it in our cloud data files for permanent keeping.

**Because we are a “CHURCH”, this ruling applies to us from the IRS:**  
**“Churches are exempt for income tax by federal law and do not file Tax returns.”**

Rev. Phillip and his committee are going over the ISA Constitution and Bylaws. The process is tedious and time consuming. Little by little, he will be bringing ideas to you, as the members for consideration or change. One of his jobs is to ensure we are following the rules set before us. These are the guidelines to which we need to adhere. They are designed for everyone. If we are not following them, we will need to get on track with our

directives. Bylaws should be timeless and designed to need minimal change throughout an organization's history. Rev. Phillip and his committee's goals are to incorporate bylaws that can withstand the change of time.

Because our lifestyles change, we all understand what worked through the 1900's may not apply in our today's world. Therefore, we do need to constantly keep our Policies and Procedures up to date with the changing times that are prevailing. They should be conventional and current with reverence to our core standards.

Transparency and an open-door policy are of foremost importance for this administration. Please, always feel free to call any board member for any reason. Rev. Phillip will also answer your questions about any bylaws ideas or concerns you may have. The same with the Policies and Procedures.

**One of the things we need to remember always is our Purpose of the ISA** – “In 1924 Amanda Flower felt the need of an organization that would promote Spiritualism and let churches group together for protection and strength; yet still give the individual churches the freedom to worship in their way. With this thought in mind, she became the founder of the “Independent Spiritualist Association of the United States of America. It still maintains the purpose for which it was founded...

**“Togetherness with Independence”**

**March quarterly in Grand Rapids at the  
Spiritualist Church of Truth.  
127 Meerse SE, Grand Rapids, Michigan 49057  
616-951-3267**

Rev. Thomas has some new educational plans. There will be a few mini workshops throughout our weekend giving you an expanded weekend experience.

Rev. Phillip will have all the ideas that his committee has worked on over the winter and ready to present to you. Rev. Phillip and his committee's work is vital to keeping our organization within guidelines and regulations that are applicable for us to continue serving in such a way we are inclusive to all who have a desire to learn and share.

Once again, many blessings and looking forward to seeing each of you at our March Quarterly on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> and Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup>.

May the Angels continue to Bless You and Keep you,

*Rev. Mahala D. Bacon, President*

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