**About Spiritual Adoption**

**All followers of the Peacemaker can join the Spirit of Truth Native American Church. The Church’s Constitution limits membership to those who have been duly adopted by the President of the**Church. This adoption is an ancient principle **and Ceremony called "Making Relations." The Ceremony involves two parts: 1) at your location in meditation/prayer you feel called by the Spirit to join; and 2) in meditation/prayer the President of the Church performs at his/her location.**  
  
The Church allows individuals to exercise the freedom the Creator has given them to follow the dictates of religion according to how they feel directed by the Spirit. However, the Church does restrict membership to individuals at the age of accountability, that age being eight years old, and to those who feel called by the Creator to become a Healer, which are also called Medicine Men and Medicine Women. To be established as a Healer/Medicine Person, one must place themselves in one or more of the categories below.            
  
1) ***As a Healer of people or animals.***  **These are Medicine Men and Women of the Church whose focus is on relieving the suffering of people or animals.**  
2) ***As a Healer of the family unit.***  **These are Medicine Men and Women of the Church who focus their ceremonial healing on family issues and healing the values of family life.**  
3) ***As a Healer of the community.*  These are Medicine Men and Women of the Church whose focus is more towards building up the Lodges, Districts, Communities, and so forth.**  
 4) ***As a Healer of Society.*  These are Medicine Men and Women of the Church that focus on repairing social systems or situations.**  
5) ***As a Healer of the Planet.*  These are Medicine Men and Women of the Church whose focus is on restoring sustainable care of our Earth Mother and educating others in the responsible use of her resources.**  
  
Membership in the Spirit of Truth Native American Church is permanent, meaning once an individual is a member of the Church Family, they can only be removed by their request or by a serious infraction against the Church's Constitution or Ethical Code of Conduct. This practice of "Making Relations" or "Spiritual Adoption" is an ancient religious practice and should be taken seriously. This is the same principle that that Chief Joseph became Chief of the Nez Perce People, even though by today's accepted or legal standards, he could not be considered Nez Perce. Because of this ancient practice, Chief Joseph's signature was accepted as authoritative by the United States Federal Government in the Nez Perce Treaty.

The Native American Church has been recognized by the High Court as an "other organized group or community" of Indians and therefore all members of the Native American Church are legally defined as "Indians" even though they may not be enrolled members or recognized by any Tribe or Band. Also, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples states in Article 33 section one, "Indigenous peoples have the right to determine their own identity or membership in accordance with their customs and traditions."

There are many benefits, including legal ones, in becoming Spiritually Adopted, and any person of any ethnic background may request adoption if they have sincerity of belief. This adoption is not a “Tribal Adoption” for purposes of Hunting Rights, Government Allotments, Commerce, Taxation, and so forth.  To be a "Member of Good Standing", one must be willing to make the following Declarations of Intention, as Covenant Obligations, which are described in the following:

Declarations:1) ***It is my belief that Natural Healing/Medicine is a part of my established freedom to practice my Religion.***  
2) ***I will follow the practice of "First, Do Good" and I will, to the best of my ability, make this the guiding practice of my Healing Ministry.***  
  
3) ***For my development as a Healing Minister, I will faithfully study traditional healing methods and work to become educated in the various materials suggested by the President of the Spirit of Truth Native American Church.***4) **I will dedicate time, talent, and resources, as the Spirit directs, to developing and forwarding the work of the Church so it may *become fully established in all areas of the world.* (The Church does not have a paid clergy so all donations go to building up the Church and giving greater support to its members.)**5) **As a member of the Church, I promise to follow the Ethical Code and Constitution of the Church**.  
   
Covenant Obligations are the foundation of the Spirit of Truth Native American Church and furthering the Ministry and Healing the World depends upon your faithfulness.  **If you feel that you can be true to the Declarations and can place yourself in at least one category above, then your request for Spiritual Adoption will be approved.**