Practitioner Vision - Survey

1) What does mean for you diversity? What qualities (GOD’s Qualities) are implied? and What does mean for you a body of diverse individuals?

   a) Total inclusion. All of God’s Qualities are ever present. I am One.
   
   b) A body of diverse individual, with different creative ideas to present/demonstrate, but maintaining SMO principals pure.
   
   c) We come from different backgrounds, different faiths, different life experiences, etc--but we are united in our common intention to be healers and bearers of Truth as it is expressed in Religious Science principles.
   
   d) A diverse Practitioner core would include all races, ethnicities, ages, backgrounds, etc. A body of diverse individual includes all of the above. I see the current CLF practitioners as fairly diverse except, perhaps, for age; there are not many young practitioners (we are mostly a middle-aged or older group, mostly Caucasian). Diversity also means life experiences and we definitely have a diverse group there! God qualities for diversity include acceptance, tolerance, love, strength, solidarity (god quality?).
   
   e) Diversity: different qualities emphasized in different ways. God qualities: patience, cooperation, unique gifts, compassion, understanding This means that we listen to each other without judgment, learn from each other and support one another with a loving attitude.
   
   f) God qualities: Tolerance, Compassion and Love. Being open to different ideas...different than how they HAVE been in the past. CHANGE! A BODY of diverse individuals for me means that we each ALLOW each other the space to be ourselves, yet working toward a common goal or wave for change.
   
   g) Diverse, to me means we all have spiritual gifts and express ourselves in our unique way. We all express love, peace & light in our own delightful way.
   
   h) A group of something that is unlike each other. Uniqueness, perfection, special, love. A group of unique individuals, perfect, whole and complete.
   
   i) Unique, individual but not separate. Awareness of individual qualities and the Oneness of all.
   
   j) Diversity means we are all individual expressions of the one, unique gifts, expressing as individuals but all one body, one love.
   
   k) A. It means individual and unique; B. Creative and imaginative C. It means a group of unique and creative of individuals who sometimes image differently.
   
   l) Creativity, originality, change, energy
   
   m) inclusion of different types of people who come together for the higher good of the spiritual support of the church.
   
   n) Celebrating differences. Seeing the differences between people as wonderful opportunities to share and learn and explore different ways of thinking, acting, and being. Qualities: Love, cherishing, gratitude, joy
   
   o) -Unique -Love -I like to think of us as a body of 'inspired' individuals....rather than diverse... as to me diverse seperates rather than joins
   
   p) Quiet /outspoken women/men nationalities
   
   q) That each of us are unique, expressing God as ourselves in the way only we can. We are all magnificent expressions of God's individuality, creativity and love. That we each have the freedom and right to express and be all that we are. The body is not complete without each
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part. Each part serves a beautiful unique function. For example the eye sees, the ear hears; we are like that. One is more intellectual/scientific approaching things from that state of being, another is more heart based, approaching things from that state of being. One is an introvert, another an extrovert. Yet we are all expressing God and there is no one way to do that. God is unlimited, just as we are unlimited, just as we are diverse!

r) A group of people who are different, yet celebrating those differences. Avoiding "group think" and making space for those who have different opinions. Different doesn't mean wrong. God qualities of Love, Self-Expression, Joy, Personal Truth
2) **What does mean for you nurturing? What qualities (GOD qualities) are implied? How do you nurture somebody and yourself? And how are you being nurtured?**

   a) Being present and available (to help spur others’ growth). All of God’s Qualities are ever present. Be open, be willing. You will attract those whom you can help (Vetura Papke). My daily practices nurture me and on occasion treatments from my peers, seminars, chance meetings with others more enlightened than me.

   b) I am supported; encourage to do different things in order to grow in my spiritual journey. In turn, do the same to those I have one on one contact with.

   c) To nurture others is to encourage them to bring forth their gifts, especially the ones they are unsure about. I have felt very nurtured since my first days at CLF. We Practitioners are asked to give a great deal, and it’s not clear to me how we might nurture one another or receive more nurturing from the church. Perhaps at our annual retreat, we could set it as an intention to be nurtured and recharged—and we can decide what that might look like.

   d) Nurturing is actively and intentionally encouraging and supporting others in their self discovery, growth, and manifestation of their goals. And it may sometimes mean calling someone on their “stuff” to (lovingly) bring attention to language or behavior that does not serve them. How do I nurture myself: personal growth classes; honest conversations about my issues; seeking and weighing constructive criticism. Learning new ways of being/doing. It is OK (necessary) to be selfish (selfish = self care, self centered = destructive). How am I being nurtured – As a prac apprentice, my mentor is a great source of nurture (I hope this is true with the rest of my mentors). Even a few minutes of conversation with someone whom I respect and see as further along the path can be enlightening/nurturing. Having someone acknowledge my progress and courage and validating where I am and where I’m going . I would like a forum for honest conversations (we are all so busy when we’re at CLF; I would like another outlet or opportunity to connect on a deeper level with some of the pracs).

   e) Nurturing: support in growth, learning or transition. God qualities: compassion and support. Nurture others by being honest with them and supporting them as they request. Nurture yourself through knowing your limitations, not taking yourself seriously, taking care of your body and your mind through healthy habits and rest. I am being nurtured by doing work that I enjoy, taking frequent breaks, schedule vacations, exercise and eating healthy food.

   f) God Qualities of Nurturing: For me nurturing comes in smaller circles, more quaint environments, one on one. It's challenging for me to be in a larger group and try to nurture, it's just too overwhelming for me. However, it means to me, listening, opening my mind and being compassionate, and holding a space for someone while they figure it out.

   g) Nurturing means listening with an open, loving heart and loving the person right where she or he is right at the moment. Listen from the heart and provide a safe place where a person feels free to express and say what is coming from their heart,

   h) Tat which nourishes the soul. Love, compassion, tender and gentle. One must know their own limitations in order to nurture self and other. Must take good care of self and others. My classes, church, minister, practitioner, support group and sponsor all nurture me. I must be true to myself
i) Love, Acceptance, Supportive Caring Energy. Supporting others in their growth, loving them in their pain, teaching them, showing them how to grow. I am nurtured by many people at CLF and other places.

j) to nurture means to care for with compassion, with love, to feel safe and comforted. To nurture yourself you have to step back and care for yourself as you might someone else.

k) A. To be caring and compassionate B. Love C. By being supportive and understanding. D. I nurture myself, by trying to better understand who and what I am and resting when I need to..

l) compassion, caring, training, teaching

m) Nurturing to nourish, feed and teach. By supporting, listening and loving someone and myself through lives issues

n) Supporting, being available; proactively looking out for the other person and reaching out when appropriate. I nurture myself by giving when I can and asking for nurturing when needed. Qualities: Love, caring, generosity/abundance

o) -It means caring for and about one another For me a profound form of nuturing is acceptance....seeing, honoring and accepting the Divine in everyone.... myself included....with out judgement.

p) love loving and being loved

q) Nurturing for me means: love, support, listening without judgement. Hugs.Understanding, empathy. Asking if someone wants feedback before telling them what is “wrong” (Ugh!!) with them or how they need to change what they are thinking or how they need to grow their consciousness--another (Ugh!!) I nurture another by listening, by showing up in as much love as I can and by asking first if the person would like feedback. Sometimes nurturing another is just holding them and letting them cry until there are no more tears. Just letting them know they are loved, unconditionally. They do not have to do or anything to be loved. I nurture myself by doing things I love to do, by spending time in prayer and meditation, by having a good cry if I need to, by taking some time to recharge, by doing activities not connected with CLF so that I can have balance in my life, by reaching out out to supportive, unconditionally loving friends when I need to, (a few of these are practitioners/ministers not all are at CLF) by being gentle with my self and appreciating that I am having a human experience and that while we are spiritual beings the goal of this experience in my opinion is to experience this human realm with it’s myriad of emotions.

r) Everyone in is at their own level of spiritual consciousness, and this is always in a constant state of flux. To nurture somebody means to meet them where they are and encourage them to grow by example, and by taking their hand. And to do so in a loving manner without spiritual arrogance.
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3) **Reading the Vision, what does the CLF Practitioner Core need to become in order to support that vision? and what do you need to become in order to support the vision and the Practitioner Core?**

- What the pracs are already doing: show up and Be. Anything that is not based in Love.
- omitted in Love..I need to release Judgment I may be holding.
- I think we could become more cohesive as a group. There are a few close connections among Practitioners, but I’m not so sure that we as a group are as bonded as we might be.
- The Prac Core needs to become cohesive and supportive of each other. There is clearly tension and dissention – the elephant in the room, perhaps. It’s time to unpack the baggage and renew commitments to personal growth as well as to each other. We have to be able to come together as a cohesive unit and support each other. When we disagree, it can be done with respect. We can be individuals while still focusing on a common goal. We need to lead by example. We need to be educated in different philosophies and methods and well versed in SOM teachings. We need to be actively engaged.
- The Practitioner Core needs to understand and accept that we should be living the principles that we vowed when we became Practitioners. And that our duty is to have our ego step aside for us to truly understand the path that we are on. We must be open to self-examination, constantly to see how we are showing up every day. I must release the idea that I am a self-sufficient, know-it-all, bozo!
- As a group, I believe we need to become closer in a loving way. I witnessed at the last Prac Meeting some sort of negativity and intolerance and it was only somewhat addressed when MaryJayne asked us all to let go of the past and start anew. I think that some sort of ceremony might be in order for the releasing of past hurts, bitterness, anger, hurt, sadness....whatever happened in the past should be mended or we will never be a cohesive group. The new Pracs coming in are alive and awake and ready to change it up for the better so we should honor them by letting go of our proverbial shit :) I need to release the idea that it CAN'T Happen. I need to release the belief that my opinions do NOT matter.
- I need to release fear that I am free to express how I truly feel. I believe the Prac. Core needs to embrace, first themselves and then the entire group with love, an open heart and compassion in order for everyone to feel that we are loved and in a safe loving place to share from our heart, in our own diverse, unique way.
- Love, support and trust each other. judgment and self criticism.
- Empowered to express the Leader within. They already are, but they need to know it. Any desire to control needs to be released. It is a great bunch of people and group can find their way if they are able to do that and they are encouraged by "leadership" to do that.
- Each individual has to feel safe and supported. I have to release my small self, my arguments, my judgments. the core needs to be united in love.
- More patient, caring and understanding of one another and recognizing and honor each other uniqueness. Judgment and any negative critiquing.
- This should be answered in the visioning...
- I don't think we need to become anything other then who we are to the support the vision. Releasing judgment and practicing acceptance is something that we all can learn to do more of.
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n) More conscious of each other, actively reaching out. Actively looking for the good in each other and expressing it. Actively and lovingly holding each other accountable in our word. We also need to have more fun together. I need to do all of these things personally as well as reaching out much more.

o) -Grounded in unconditional love and acceptance - unattached to outcomes and flexible

p) alive, alert, aware, willing to speak up fear and doubt

q) Supportive of each other's gifts and talents, recognizing that each one is unique. Calling forth those talents and magnificence from each rather than trying to get us to all be the same. Release of fear from speaking up in meetings for fear of repercussions. Making it a safe place for all to share whatever the person is feeling. Not judging when someone shares that it is good or bad. Becoming more supportive of each other and gratitude for each other. Release of ego and judgement. I need to become less attached.

r) LOVE, LOVE, LOVE!! Oh, did I mention, Love?! We're supposed to be united in Love, let's start from that heart space. Ask what would Love do in that and every situation.
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4) Regarding the vision, what does CLF Practitioner Core need to release? and what do you need to release in order to support the vision and the Practitioner Core?

a) I will not speak for the Corps. It begins with me. That I don't have enough time (to fully participate in whatever may manifest).

b) same as #3

c) We (and I) need to release any ego needs to appear more perfect than we feel. We must release any fear of being judged, as well as any sense of inferiority or inadequacy, and accept ourselves where we are on our spiritual paths.

d) The Prac core needs to release the past. Release judgment. Allow people to grow, change, and improve. Stop taking it personally. That different is wrong – there is no wrong, only different! Get over it already. What do I need to release? Thoughts that there is not enough time, that this is a major commitment (which I sometimes see as a burden?), that I'm new and don't know enough yet. In addition to release, I would love this question to be asked: WHAT DO YOU NEED TO ACCEPT IN ORDER TO SUPPORT THE VISION AND THE PRAC CORE? I need to accept that I am becoming a practitioner at exactly the right time; that I have enough to contribute, than I am teaching as well as learning, that I am comfortable stepping into my own power and watching it grow and expand (and it's a good thing). I accept that this truly is my path and it serves me as well as others in ways I cannot begin to imagine!

e) In my opinion, the Practitioner Core needs to release any attachment to ego and embrace the idea that we are here for one thing: service! I'm not sure what I need to release in this regard.

f) The Core needs to release the past. It's a new day, a new world, a new CLF. You're IN or you're way OUT....welcome the change that is happening and allow for GREATNESS! It's what we teach! I need to release my old belief that we are a "small and quaint" community. We're NOT....we are growing every single day and the Pracs are the backbone of it. As we expand our consciousness and beliefs about our CLF community, I believe it will grow even more!

g) I feel the Prac. Core need to release fear and just open up and come from the heart with Love, because Love is the way!

h) Fear and distrust. fear

i) We all need to release the desire to control, judge, criticize each other. We have to let of some of our stuff so that we can work together in harmony and not need to be better or lesser than others in the group.

j) the past, have to let go of conditions, develop a higher abundance consciousness

k) The need to be diverse and individualized. To recognize our Oneness.

l) see above

m) see #3 judgment and replace it with acceptance

n) Old rules that guide expectations of others, or ourselves, of how things are supposed to be; attachment to the "dogma" of "appropriate and acceptable" behavior, rules, order, etc.

o) -attachment to individual ideas/expectations -a desire to contribute

p) fear and doubt,,the same

q) Judgement of others, comparison, EXPECTATIONS that others will behave a certain way. This is probably true for me also.
CLF as a church needs to release the NEED to grow, to release this concept of the corporate church, and focus on a more heart-centered loving approach. Who cares about how big the congregation is? Who wants to be just another spiritual spoke in the wheel? Bigger is not always better. I think the practitioner core needs to release the concept that they’re not already good enough. I think most of us come from a loving space already, but there is this "heaviness" of pressure to be and do more that is almost suffocating. Let the love shine through naturally, don't try and squeeze it out of us like toothpaste out of a tube. Let's all uplevel ... to what?? Someplace nobody wants to go? Gee, perhaps I need to replace this underlying sense of bitterness and negativity. Wish I could. Just haven't been feeling the Love lately, I guess.
5) Regarding the vision, what qualities does CLF Practitioner Core need to embody? and what qualities do you need to embody in order to support the vision and the Practitioner Core?

a) By answering this question, it would imply that I think "they" should all more fully express some God quality(s) that is currently lacking. I can only speak for myself. I simply need to be Love.

b) Be more visible as Practitioners.

c) We need to model commitment to our own continued spiritual growth. We are in the business of helping others grow, but we must avoid the pitfall of thinking that our own growth is complete now that we are Practitioners. There is no substitute for a regular spiritual practice of some kind, whether it's a walk in nature, meditation/prayer, reading spiritual books--something to keep the process going.

d) Qualities of the prac core: acceptance, understanding, motivation to continue to grow personally and as a group. We need short and long-term goals to strive for. We need to have fun! Change is good. Different does not mean critical (critique is not critical). Growth may feel painful, so calm, knowing (loving) support while in the throws of change/growth. Accept others where they are. What qualities I need: patience, acceptance, grace, impersonal-ness and love (how to balance the two).

e) Simply the quality of selfless service.

f) Qualities: We need to do our own work. We need to LOVE ourselves and each other to be a "BODY". We are all exceptional Beings of Love and Light but it sure doesn't feel that way in the Prac Meetings with everyone sort of bitching and moaning. There has to be a better way that we can serve each other and the community at large. I personally need to embody Patience, Love, Compassion and an Openness for my fellow Practitioners.

g) Release judgment and fear, trust-myself Core needs to embody compassion, open heartedness.

h) Love, courage, faith, compassion, celebrate our diversity. Self love and faith.


j) a higher vision, more and deeper spiritual practices as a group and individually. Need to support the senior minister as she does not feel the support of the group and that is very sad.

k) Oneness. To support it in every way possible.

l) No Response

m) see #’s 3 and 4

n) Flexibility, playfulness...most importantly, a strong inner sense of why we are practitioners.

From this, remembering that everything we do should be guided by that knowing. And, doing all we do from a place of doing it because it is the "God-guided" thing to do...not to get approval or recognition from anyone else, or to compare to how others do their service.

o) Trust and compassion

p) love and sharing

q) Pure unfiltered LOVE. That is all there is!!!!

r) I need to embrace Love, Expansion, Openness, Uniqueness, and Unity. Think the vision statement is very very good. Really well done. We just need to focus on being united in Love. When we truly truly love I feel that we expand spiritually. How can we not?
6) **Finally, what else the CLF Practitioners Vision brings to your mind and spirit?**

a) I am in awe of these powerful beings of Love and Light. I am honored to be a part of this group.

b) Not wait 1 year to get together as practitioners for self empowering meditations/prayer groups.

c) We have a wonderful opportunity to take a quantum leap as a Practitioner Core. I hope this survey will be the beginning of an ongoing process of self-evaluation, and we should take a closer look at what it means to each of us to be Practitioners. I think it’s worth spending time at a few meetings to explore our purpose. The enemy of our growth is our complacency. Let’s own up to the work we each need to do, and support each other in our process.

d) The vision is truly inspired and inspiring! It brings to my mind pride that this is true for me (pride in a good way). It brings to mind power AND grace and unity and support. I see all of us in a circle holding hands as a symbol of our unity – and we are a ‘ragtag’ bunch filled with joy and laughter and at all times know fully and wholly that we support one another no matter what is said or done (if there is strife, it is clearly a misunderstanding on someone’s part that can be quickly quashed when it is brought to light, cleared up, and put to rest). I see us as the foundation for CLF’s growth. I see as a dynamic group as members come and go, yet the feeling of unity is STRONG and present at all times.

e) If we truly embrace the vision, everything else will be easy.

f) I think we need to some how UNITE even more so that we ATTRACT more people who want to be Practitioners. My vision is that people see us on Sundays and at other times and their thought is, "Wow, what a group that is. I want to be a part of that!!"

g) Just love and accept everyone and their opinion and enfold each and everyone, including our self in love.

h) How is it we become mutually supported inclusive of all of us

i) I think all need to see and accept the group and let it go to do grow and morph and change as it needs to. The need to control the group needs to be released by all. The pracs need to know they are empowered to be the very best that they can and the critics need to let them do that. There are people with a desire to control the group and that is a problem. As long as there is control, the group cannot grow and develop as it needs to. It is a living thing and it needs to grow up and it can only do that by being empowered to do that and not controlled. All should feel like they are part of the group with equal value and one vote and they still function as part of the Whole of CLF. I also think the Senior Minister and Education Minister should be shown Respect as well as showing Respect for each other.

j) Wonderful new opportunities for spiritual growth, as a group and individually.

k) The opportunity to walk our talk.

l) strength, enlightenment, caring (nurturing)

m) No Response

n) I wasn't part of the original visioning so I don't understand how "diversity" became part of the vision and don't fully understand its context. I guess I see diversity as a given but not necessarily something we have to pursue.

o) We are a body of compassionate, caring individuals actively advancing the expansion of consciousness in our world.... thru our work and personal expression

p) being open tho the needs of others and willing to share
q) I love it!

r) The Divine ideal of beauty, in a very grand sense. We all want to be nurtured in order to be the best we can be. It doesn't stop when we become practitioners. We still need nurturing. But you can force nurturing on others. It needs to come from a place of gentleness and love.
7) Extra Question: What do you think is the role of the practitioner in Today’s world? What a practitioner does? What is your idea of a professional practitioner?

a) Spiritual Guide. Loving Presence.

b) A Practitioner is devoted to our practice..in Love, always looking how best to serve CLF congregants in Prayer. We serve CLF in many layers. How can this be formatted that we are not spread out all over the place.

c) A Practitioner holds the consciousness of God in me, as me, through me. He helps others turn away from their belief in conditions and turn to God as their Source. He teaches Religious Science Principles and practices them in his own life.

d) The role of the practitioner is captured in the title – we practice what we know to be true. We are examples others can learn from. We have a different way of being in this world that is evident, centered, powerful and up leveling. I think practitioners are always on “high watch” for the consciousness of our species. Thank you for asking these questions, it has helped me find my own center in terms of my role as practitioner.

e) Our role is to be conscious of our connection to Spirit and each other, and live life as such. A practitioner should be a role model for all interactions, including with our environment and our co-habitors on this earth. This means being aware of our actions and being responsible for our impact on this earth. In addition, a Professional Practitioner is available to be a Spiritual Coach for those who seek our assistance.

f) To have one foot in the Spiritual realm and one foot on planet earth, gracefully allowing myself and others to KNOW the truth that we are all ONE and there is only ONE. I personally believe that people’s "challenges" come from forgetting that we are connected to a Source that can and does heal everything. In today's world, UNITING people seems to be something people desire. Whether it be through chanting, spiritual growth circles, classes, etc. Maybe as a Group we should consider more activities that UNITE us as a Prac Body.

g) I think a Prac. is there for anyone that needs to embody and know their Truth.

h) The role is to see the spiritual truth of things when others can't. Share, listen and teach. A competent, calm, knowing, healthy, clear, based in love, honesty and compassion.

i) The practitioner is a spiritual leader who can assist other on their path. The practitioner can do this because they are continuously growing through self-examination, honest self-assessment, daily prayer, continuous growth through classes and/ or spiritual support groups. The practitioner is part of the ecclesiastical arm of the church and works in harmony with the senior minister and the boards to nurture and support the congregation in their spiritual growth. I think the pracs need to really look within and see how they want to show up as pracs. This needs to done individually and collectively. We are the leaders, we are the ones who can hold the high watch for the world as the world goes through its transformation and we are the ones who can really do that, but we have to step up and clear away our own blocks or we cannot do that. I think when we are at CLF or dealing with CLF congregants or pracs, we have to be aware of what we teach and practice that. If we cannot practice the teachings with each other, how can we do it any place else. We are the ones who can be Love and be Acceptance. and it takes work to do that.

j) A practitioner is needed in today’s world, they are leaders and teachers in every walk of life
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k) I believe a practitioner who truly walks his/her talk is has a valuable role to play in our society. By giving loving and compassionate support to those who are feeling lost in the stresses of today's world. One who loves his/her fellowman/woman and one who stands and functions from integrity and authenticity.

l) Same as it has been. To pray for others and see them as a spiritual whole being.

m) No Response

n) We grow in our own spiritual lives so we can be models for others....we hold the highwatch and know the truth when an individual or community or world cannot...we are teachers and counselors on living the principles.

o) -to be the agents thru which Spirit works... here on earth

p) she/he sees the Truth in every situation and speaks up when necessary. One who speaks the Truth

q) To be a loving presence, aligning with the deep concept of Oneness, with the Power of the Divine and knowing for others, regardless of any situation or appearance to the contrary, that they are also connected to the Divine and within them have all the answers they need. To assist another (if requested) in peeling away layers of beliefs that keep them locked in FEAR and illuminate for them the way of LOVE, by revealing and supporting them in knowing their magnificence, their greatness, their eternal connection to God. That God resides within them forever and with God they can do all things which strengthen them!

r) Just be the ultimate loving presence to everyone you meet, especially to those in need. Perhaps a "Lovetitioner" would be a better word.