



The Companions of Casa del Sol – foundational documents

Casa del Sol is a house of spiritual retreat and prayer located at Ghost Ranch, near the village of Abiquiu in the high desert of northern New Mexico. The Companions of Casa del Sol is a diverse group of people from around the world committed to a common vision and covenant of spiritual companionship. Grounded in the life and teachings of Jesus, the community of Companions welcomes as members kindred spirits of all faith traditions and spiritual paths. – based on the CdS Companions brochure

The Vision...

Casa del Sol
is a community of the Living Presence*
seeking the oneness of the human soul
and the healing of creation.

**"Living Presence" is a suggested translation of the Name of God ("YHWH") offered by John Philip Newell and Rabbi Nahum Ward-Lev.*

The Covenant...

As Companions of Casa del Sol we pledge that as we are able we will endeavor:

To pray daily using the prayer of Casa del Sol*
To return to Casa del Sol (and/or Ghost Ranch) annually
To support Casa del Sol financially and with volunteer service**
To carry the vision of Casa del Sol into our homes and communities

**We ask only the use, as appropriate to one's personal prayer disciplines, of the CdS prayer, although other prayer resources are available.*

*** According to the Ghost Ranch administration, "Contributions are for scholarships and for the operations and improvement of the house. Donors can make a restricted contribution if it is compatible with the needs and goals of CdS as determined by Ghost Ranch."*

The Prayer...

Ground of all being,

Mother of life, Father of the universe,
Your name is sacred beyond speaking.
May we know your presence,
may your longings be our longings
in heart and in action.
May there be food for the human family today
and for the whole earth community.
Forgive us the falseness of what we have done
as we forgive those who are untrue to us.

Do not forsake us in our time of conflict
but lead us into new beginnings.
For the light of life, the vitality of life,
and the glory of life are yours
now and for ever. Amen.

-- by J. Philip Newell, Dec. 2006

Blessing of the Companions...

Beginning in 2008, Companions of Casa del Sol gathered at the annual retreat (and on other occasions as appropriate) are welcomed as members with a laying on of hands and the following blessing:

We bless your desire and commitment this day (night).
May you know that you are Beloved.
May you respond to the Living Presence in every human being.
And may you serve the oneness of the Earth with costly love,
This day (night), tomorrow, and in the days to come.
Amen.

Casa del Sol "Blessing of Aaron" ...

Based on the priestly blessing of Numbers 6: 24-16, this blessing was written in 2009 by John Philip Newell, and set to music composed by David Poole, in honor of Jim Baird upon his retirement as Ghost Ranch's Program Director. Jim envisioned and oversaw the renovation of the Casa del Sol facility, the planning for how it would be organized and run, and the establishing of the Companions organization. It will be included in the revised "second edition" of Liturgies from Casa del Sol when that comes to pass.

This day and this night may the God of Life keep you in heart and in mind.
This day and this night may the face of God grace you in sun and in moon.
This day and this night may the eyes of God bless you in friend and in stranger.
This day and this night may the God of love guide you in peace and in promise.

Casa del Sol Shape of the Day and Pattern of Membership...

At the first formal retreat of the Companions of Casa del Sol in 2006 the draft of an informal "rule" for Casa del Sol was presented by John Philip Newell for use in structuring the activities at the house itself, and as a resource for members of the Companions.

1) Prayer & Meditation: At Casa del Sol we pray at the rising of the sun and at its setting. So, as members, wherever we may be, we remember our daily prayer and meditation as a community and join our hearts as one.

(Text: The Casa del Sol Prayer)

2) Dialogue & Creativity: At Casa del Sol our mornings are given to reflecting on wisdom from different traditions and making room for fresh birthing and realizations in our lives. So as members, wherever we may be, we follow the disciplines of listening and dialogue with the community of the earth and open ourselves to new ways of seeing and relating.

(Text: Wisdom of Solomon 6-8 from JPN's Celtic Treasure, page 117)

3) Community & Hospitality: At Casa del Sol we share our midday meal together. So as members, wherever we may be, we are committed to the practice of hospitality and share the gifts of the earth.

(Text: "Those who believed would gather together and share things in common. They would sell their possessions and distribute to any in need. And day by day, as they prayed in the temple, they would break bread together in one another's homes, sharing food and drink with gladness and with generosity." -- Acts 2: 44-46)

4) Soul-Friending & Discernment: At Casa del Sol our afternoon involves a time of solitude and a time of hearing from one another in groups of three or four. What is it that is stirring in our souls? So as members, where we may be, we seek the practice of soul-friending, of looking to the heart of one another and of showing our hearts, as a way of faithfully listening to the life and leadings of the Spirit in our lives and world today.

(Text: Ecclesiasticus 14-15 from JPN's Celtic Treasure, page 131.)

5) Training for Justice & Peace: At Casa del Sol in the early evening we study the beatitudes as a key to following the way of Jesus and we further equip ourselves for the work of peace in the world. So as members, wherever we may be, we daily* reflect on the beatitudes as part of our commitment to Christ and Creation and we seek to be more deeply engaged in the work of justice and peace.

**regularly*

(Text: "The Blessings of Jesus", based on Mt. 5 etc., from JPN's Liturgies from Casa del Sol, page 20.)