Spiritual Journey Fellowship, LLC 135 St. Paul St. Bellefonte, PA 16823 814-380-7584

Date:

To whom this may concern,

I am the minister of the Spiritual Journey Fellowship. I am requesting a religious exemption for to not wear a sensory deprivation mask on the scriptural basis that God created the body and immune system to naturally fight disease and infection. It says in 1Corinthians 3:16; "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?" We believe at this Fellowship that the body is the temple of God; therefore, it is imperative that its physical integrity be protected from anything unnatural to God's created design of how the body's immune system functions to deal with COVID and all organisms. Wearing a mask outside of the medical field is unnatural and impedes the natural function of the immune system.

The 2002 and 2008 Amnesty International NIH publication, deemed putting masks on Gitmo prisoners as sensory deprivation and bordering on torture that causes PTSD. (see:https://www.ncbi.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1122119/). This Fellowship has a strong Spiritual belief that this statement holds true today. We believe mask wearing is de-humanizing, deprives the senses, and is socially isolating. It is Spiritually demoralizing to impede facial expression of emotion and clear communication. This Fellowship views wearing a sensory deprivation mask to be detrimental to the emotional and psychological wellbeing and physical health of the wearer by impeding oxygen levels to the brain leading to impaired function and decreased neurological ability. Furthermore, this Fellowship views any isolation and segregation tactics as also being emotionally and psychologically detrimental.

The Spiritual Journey Fellowship objects to the requirement of wearing masks as a form of promoting the idea that the mask can prevent or treat a disease, which is an illegal deceptive practice. It is unlawful and morally reprehensible to advertise that a product or service can prevent disease unless you possess competent and reliable scientific evidence. Mask packaging do not claim to keep out viruses. A virus is 100x smaller than a bacteria (Discover magazine July/august 2019). Virus' go right through mask material leaving bacteria to be trapped in the mask material and remain concentrated in the respiratory system compromising the health of dental, mouth, and respiratory tissues. The Spiritual Journey Fellowship objects to wearing a mask because of the de-humanizing and sensory deprivation effects and the potential hazards to emotional, psychological wellbeing and physical health.

Thank you for granting a religious exemption from wearing a mask and being socially isolated and segregated.

Sincerely,