

On Pagan Solidarity

Full Comment

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Pagan solidarity supports a multiplicity of institutions. If solidarity means "unity or agreement in feeling or action" as a community we have broad areas of mutual concern civil rights, freedom of (or from) religion and freedom of speech.

Strong institutions that serve our community include, Covenant of the Goddess, Circle Sanctuary, Cherry Hill and many more. Many Pagans fear a single "institution" developing, yet there is little evidence of any such thing manifesting.

A wide diversity of Pagan institutions are necessary as the glue that will bind us in our common effort to defend the rights of all belief systems. To allow the deeply ingrained distrust of 'organized religion' to derail our ability to work together would be disastrous. There is no reason to expect that Pagan institutions will mirror the monotheistic 'power over' traditions of other religious institutions. Pagans, in fact, have a long tradition of avoiding such situations via the engagement of the consensus process and other strategies.

Our institutions are us, we can manifest them as our community wishes. Letting the fears of our past experiences entangle us in endless discussion about their value will distract the community from our common concerns.