



Heathen Freehold

Freehold Liturgists' Program: An Overview

Introduction

The Heathen Freehold Liturgists' Program is the baseline for voting status in the Ritual and Lore Council. Jarls are required to complete this program as soon as possible after their election.

The skills that are developed in the completion of the Liturgists' Program enable Jarls and other Goðis to effectively perform their duties as Priests of the Freehold, including: writing and leading Heathen Ritual Activities, Pastoral Counselling, Religious Education, and provision of Magical Services to their community.

The Liturgists' Program is divided into Core courses and Elective Courses. There are four Core courses, the completion of which are mandatory for certification:

- ◆ **Freehold Law, Tradition, and Custom**
- ◆ **Liturgy**
- ◆ **Lore**
- ◆ **Pastoral Care**

There are also three elective courses, all students must complete at least one of these electives for certification:

- ◆ **Galdor**
- ◆ **Runeworking**
- ◆ **Seiðr.**

The purpose of this program is to provide knowledgeable and professional clergy for the Heathen Freehold. This program is not necessary to lead Heathen Rites, but it is strongly advised for those who are Jarls of Kindreds. Others who are interested in developing their skills in Priestcraft are welcome to enrol as well.

Mastering a magical skill in a Heathen context is not the purpose of this program, for education in magical arts alone we recommend speaking with the appropriate Guild or a renowned practitioner for instruction.

Priestcraft is the basis of the Ritual and Lore Council, becoming a student of the Council will allow you to develop your skills to serve the community as a Goði or Gyðja.

Upon completion of the courses in this program you will be required to assemble a portfolio that demonstrates your understanding of Freehold Priestcraft. After your portfolio is assessed and found to be satisfactory you will be certified as an Expert Liturgist and allowed to vote on matters presented to the Ritual and Lore Council.

Core Courses

Every Liturgists' Program student must complete these four courses. They may be completed in any order and may be studied simultaneously. It is encouraged to begin with Lore as it is a pre-requisite for the elective courses in magical skills.

Freehold Law, Tradition, and Customs

This course focuses on the laws, traditions, and customs of the Freehold, as well as those Federal and Provincial laws that affect us as a religious body.

On completion of this course the student will be able to identify the organisational structure, history, and unique features of the Freehold and our living customs. This course is assessed with a portfolio.

Liturgy

This course focuses on the skills needed to write and lead Heathen Rites. On completion of this course students will have a solid grasp on liturgical principles for writing effective rites, and the practical skills of leading rites of worship and passage in Freehold context.

This course deals with the theoretical and practical aspects of priestcraft. There is an open book exam on the theoretical aspects of Heathen Liturgy, and two practical examinations of the candidate leading both a seasonal faining and a rite of passage (this may be staged if necessary).

Lore

This course focuses on the Lore of the Freehold, both ancient and modern. This course will take the student through a detailed study of the various sources for our lore, including: the Poetic Edda, the Prose Edda, Beowulf, Kindertales, and various other myths modern and ancient.

At the completion of this course students should be adept at identifying lore and compatible hypotheses. This course is assessed with an open book exam and a 5-page essay.

Pastoral Care

This course focuses on the provision and limitations of Pastoral Counselling.

Unless you are otherwise certified, you should refer any person in need of specialised counselling to an accredited therapist.

Pastoral Counselling can provide the members of the Freehold with advice and guidance that fits within the Heathen worldview, this can range from how to interact with family that does not share our worldview to basic relationship advice, the Priest should be adept at mediating disputes between parties.

This course is assessed with a portfolio.

Electives

Students in the Liturgists' Program need to complete at least one of the following courses to fulfill the program requirements. These courses focus on the esoteric aspects of Heathenry, and all priests should be competent in at least one of these skillsets.

Galdor

This course focuses on the use of Galdor or spoken magic within a Heathen context. Galdor is used to bend the web of Wyrð to the will of the practitioner, either directly or by enhancing Runework or other magical practices. The use of repetition, rhyme, alliteration, and other poetic devices can greatly enhance the power of the Galdor practitioners' spells.

Assessment will be primarily focused on practical demonstration.

Runework

This course focuses on the use of runes. Students will begin by selecting a preferred runic alphabet to use in their practice, typically from: Elder Futhark, Anglo-Saxon Futhorc, or Younger Futhark.

The next step is to gain familiarity with using your chosen set of runes for reading and writing; learning the names, sounds, and meanings of the runes in their chosen set. Next is learning the use of your set for divination in several formats. The final skill the student will learn is the crafting of charms using runes and related symbols.

Assessment will be primarily focused on practical demonstration.

Seiðr

This course focuses on the use of Seiðr for divination and for effecting change in the Web of Wyrð. Seiðr includes a basic understanding of Galdor and Runeworking, but it will not be as in depth as the other courses. Seiðr focuses on the trance work that allows a Seiðmann to fare forth and send their Fetch to find information or effect change. This course will teach the basic skills that allow a practitioner to safely fare forth alone, more study is needed before working a spae rite to bring others with you. Assessment will be primarily focused on practical demonstration.

Applying for Liturgist Certification

Once you have completed the four core courses of the Freehold Liturgists' Program and at least one of the elective courses, you will assemble the portfolio described in this guide to be submitted to the Keeper of the Ritual and Lore Council.

Your portfolio will be assessed by the Voting members of the RLC to determine your suitability as a Liturgist of the Freehold. You will be notified of their determination as soon as possible after it is made.

Assembling your Portfolio

Your portfolio will need to have the following components:

1. A statement of vocation, a letter explaining your call to serve the gods and community as a ritual expert.
2. A description of your personal practice, including any devotional practices you maintain.
3. A description of your personal understanding of ethical conduct.
4. Your liturgy and assessment results from unit 2 of the Freehold Liturgy Course
5. (Seasonal Rites).

An example of the magical skills you learned in your elective course. This should be an original composition if galdr, or an original charm if runeworking. If seidh, you should demonstrate the ability to fare forth and retrieve an answer for one who asks.

6. The results of a Police Information Check with Vulnerable Sector Screening. A letter can be provided upon request and any costs associated with this will be reimbursed. If you take the letter to your local police detachment, they will complete the PIC with VSS and return a form to you.

We require a scan of the results and cover page to ensure that you are able to be safely put into a position of authority within the Freehold.

Certification

Once you are approved by the Ritual and Lore Council you will be certified as a Liturgist of the Freehold and become a Voting Member of the Ritual and Lore Council.

You will be expected to assist in assessments of future students and provide advice and guidance to other Freeholders.