

Statement from Covenant of the Goddess' National Public Information Officers:

The Covenant of the Goddess, is one of the groups blocked in the recent case of internet filtering in a Salem, Missouri library. It is a Wiccan, religious, 501c3 organization recognized as such by the United States government for 36 years. While Wicca has sometimes been called an occult religion, the distinction between the labels "religious" and "occult" is an arbitrary one. One person's religious group is another person's occult group. Using these labels to categorize groups is usually done by those who wish to favor one group while discriminating against the other. In the Salem case, this has been used to favor Abrahamic religions to the detriment of neo-Pagan and indigenous religions. This has no place in a public library in a country that has valued freedom of religion from its very founding.

Much of our current work is focused in Interfaith networking, religious education, military support, veteran's advocacy, community support and charity work much like any other religious organization. Our educational and service activities depend upon the ability of interested parties to research who we are and what we do through such public venues. We laud and highly support and appreciate the ACLU's work in ending what can only be viewed as a violation of free speech, freedom of religion, and freedom of information.