

MAYBE YOU WANT TO BE A REAL ESSENE NOW

About forty people from the Vero Yahad Facebook Think Tank met together in Vero Beach, Florida for a week in January, 2016. By the end of our time together, we decided to form a what we might call a religious organization for the purpose of spreading the Enochian (Conventional) Essene faith to those whom Elohim is electing. We can hardly call it church or synagogue, though it has features of both. But it has been our intention to take only the best from both – the primitive Essenic beliefs and practices – and form what we can only call at this point a YAHAD. Perhaps you are reading this now because you have an interest in a post-Christian, post-Judaic opportunity to study the sacred texts, be a part of a new an growing religious movement, or getting freed up from an authoritative and oppressive religious environment. You may find what you are looking for in Yahad.

Corporately, we are known as a Yahad, which means 'community' or 'togetherness' or 'in one accord.' Obviously, since we live all over the US, we cannot be in one accord in person but perhaps a few times a year, but in the meantime, we invest time in congregational life via the internet, through live training events and by phone and radio. You will make some wonderful friend while you get an education in many subjects including non-canonical sacred writings, foreign languages, interesting subjects in science and history – and a big dose of comedy. Also, the Yahad has available professional pastors, teachers, medical advisers and many other organizations to which one might be referred. There is also a great opportunity to learn how to be a minister, cutting edge evangelism (not what you are thinking), planting of congregations, personality and gifts assessments, and many other services to you and yours. Finally, we offer seminary grade education, consecration and ordination, and a boost toward fulfilling whatever ministr you are called to. You will receive tremendous support.

The foundation of the Yahad movement is the Great Cosmic Covenant – the Vow between the Creator and the Creation – to restore the earth through the intermediacy of the Son of Man, the Elect of Elohim and the Works of Virtuous men and women. The earth will no longer consume that which it has no right to. Humankind will no longer consume animal life. Malachim will no longer consume human life. The children of Elohim will reveal the elect as they may. They will adhere to the true religion that succors all the needy within purview, keeping themselves unspotted by the world insofar as possible or one is able. We as Essenes will actively pursue these goals as we offer hospitality to our neighbor and revere the creator who formed us to be decent, useful intelligent living beings.

As a worshipping community of the Children of Zadok and in the spirit of Melchizedek, our concern is Word, Sacrament and Order: The word of Elohim as it is given to the prophet, who has gone to the throne room to get it and brought it back down; Sacrament as something sown in three dimensions and reaped in multi-dimensions such as the Todah Rabbah (communion), marriage, foot washing, acts of healing and restoration and tevillah (baptisms); Order and the quality of living in civility and peace, with orderly worship, and worship in our work and play, and obeying what is known as the platinum commandment: to treat others as they would like to be treated.

Furthermore, for the sake of the safety of our own families and the families of our righteous neighbors, we observe the Torah insofar as we can interpret it rightly (which we take great pains to do), which chiefly includes the Ten Commandments, the Levitical food ordinances and the Feasts of Yahweh. Furthermore, we maintain the ancient Essene practices of egalitarianism among the races and sexes; our organization is set up similar to the modern Quality Circles method, which, though modern, appears to be very close to that of the conventional Essenes. One feature of QCs is that the power to make decisions lies with the group rather than certain individuals. The polity is much like the 'round

table' concept. All get the chance to speak on a particular matter and the designated group leader makes the final decision.

We do not hold to the conventional canon of scripture, though we look to the most ancient texts for guidance, theology and practice. As academics, we are scripture analysts, and our common doctrines are but few. Nevertheless, we are advised by texts that are thoroughly Nazorean, Ebionite and Enochian. We find many texts to be sacred books either in part or in the main, but we neither observe the canonical limitations nor give complete credence to any English translation. We go to the source insofar as possible.

Members are chosen after a short screening process. The reason we do this is because our message and polity is diametrically opposite that of other religious institutions and their hierarchies. It consists in an application and a phone call, and based on these a decision is made as to whether the fit is good for both the applicant and the Yahad. The new Essene must be willing to work for the Unseen Reign and also willing to account for him/herself in work and devotional life.

Worship and training opportunities abound, as do tasks and missions. Members will be expected to do Sabbath worship either at a local congregation or via the internet. Online worship consists in a short liturgy, a training or homily and prayer.

There is a very small monthly stake required to be paid to the Yahad. The applicant must be willing to remunerate the home office for primarily bills and materials. There are, at this time, no salaried employees. All local and remote workers are volunteers.

Vero Essene Yahad's statement of faith is contained in the modified Apostles' Creed and the Shema or Deuteronomy 6. There is no canon of Scripture, and many ancient and authentic texts are found useful, as it was with the Essenes and Nazarenes in ancient times. We do not accept any texts or books that are modern AND channeled by the dead, ascended master or any of that. We are not new age Essenes. We are not affiliated with any other religious group, and we do not intend to be. Education in the Way takes some time, but our walk is authentic and sought out through diligent study, prayer and acts of mercy.

Any other questions regarding the Vero Yahad may be directed to the Teacher, Jackson Snyder, via email or phone call: veroyahad@gmail.com 772 480 8737.

Membership requires listening to approximately three hours of recorded material with which you may agree if you want to go on. The second step is a short inventory complete on your phone or computer and finally a short live interview with a real person. If all is good between us, you become an Essene and can kiss the church goodbye.