



The Unitarian Church of Pasta's Legal Status

It should not be up to the government to decide what is a “real” church and what is not. The government has no right to interfere in the spiritual lives of its people. There is nothing more private and more sacred, and The Unitarian Church of Pasta finds it disgraceful that governments seek to tell people whether or not their religion is “real.”

Having said this, The Unitarian Church of Pasta is a real church. In order to address this fact, we have taken the time to study the religious tests imposed by a government (in the case the US government) and answer their challenges to our faith.

What follows is a list of religious tests that courts have considered when deciding if a religion is “real” or not, and how they relate to Pastafarianism. You will find that our church more than stands up to the test of being “real,” and in every legal sense we are a valid church with valid religious beliefs.

Legal Tests and the answers of The Unitarian Church of Pasta to those tests

1. Distinct and legal existence

The Unitarian Church of Pasta is not like any other church. Other sects of Pastafarianism have different beliefs. The Unitarian church respects those beliefs but does not share them. Although we all worship a god of pasta and sauce, the differences in our beliefs are fundamental.

For example: The Pirate sect of Pastafarianism believes that His Noodliness boiled for our sins. This is not true! In fact, His Noodliness does not believe in the concept of sin at all. There are no inherently evil actions. To say that he boiled for our sins would be to admit that the concept of "sin" is valid, and The Unitarian Church of Pasta rejects this.

Another example: In the past, Pastafarians have not celebrated distinct holidays. However, the Unitarian Church of Pasta has an entire calendar of distinct religious holidays. We also have rituals that should be observed on these holidays. We have prayers that we say, and customs that we keep. There is plenty of dogma in the Unitarian Church of Pasta.

The Unitarian Church of Pasta was created by the book: The New Testament of The Flying Spaghetti Monster; Dinner 2.0. This new and improved recipe of Pastafarianism is distinct from any of the previous sects, and distinct from all other religions. The Unitarian Church may be new, but we are created by the words of His Noodliness, and we are a very real church.

2. Recognized Creed and Form of Worship

The Unitarian Church of Pasta has a creed, as clearly defined in our bible. The main message is one of Collective Purpose, but we also have official "Dos" and "Don'ts" established by The Flying Spaghetti Monster, as well as parables to follow, and everything from holidays to saints.

Our forms of worship are described in detail in the bible, but the main weekly event is sitting down to a dinner of pasta on Friday nights. It is a time for us to pray to His Noodliness, and to discuss important things. Since we invite other Pastafarians to our homes, this constitutes a congregation gathered to worship.

Other ways that we worship is by celebrating His holidays, which we do in the manner prescribed in the bible. We celebrate these holidays with as many other Pastafarians as we are able, but the challenges of distance often mean that we need to meet with other Pastafarians on Skype or other video chat platforms rather than in person. This is because no religious group is more spread out across the globe. There are Pastafarians in every city on Earth.

As defined in The New Testament of The Flying Spaghetti Monster, we actually worship just by behaving in honorable ways. In the Book of Soba (a book of the New Testament of The Flying Spaghetti Monster) there are distinct ways to worship which are laid out for Pastafarians. The main way His Noodliness

wants us to worship is by being good people, which includes helping the less fortunate and standing for peace.

3. Formal Code of Doctrine and Discipline

The ways in which a Pastafarian should behave are clearly laid out within The New testament of The Flying Spaghetti Monster; Dinner 2.0. However, it should be noted that we are a very tolerant church. It is not the mission of The Unitarian Church of Pasta to attack any other religion, or any individual people. We are a religion of peace above all else, and of unity.

That said, we understand that in some instances, people will behave in a way that is counter to our doctrine. In some cases, it may be bad enough to require punishment. In those (rare) case, we will regretfully take the following actions.

All ordained ministers of the Unitarian Church of Pasta must follow the instructions within our bible on how to worship, and how to behave. There are things that are forbidden in the bible, such as baptizing children (it is a violation of their rights as they are not old enough to choose a religion.)

For breaking a rule like this, a minister would lose their standing in the church. We reserve the right to revoke the ordination of any minister who breaks the rules on how to worship as set forth in the Holy Book of Soba, in The New Testament of The Flying Spaghetti Monster.

A worshipper would have to do a lot to be banished from our religion. Certainly, some churches like the Mormons are constantly banishing people and tearing families apart. However, we at The Unitarian Church of Pasta find this to be tragic. We do not want to tear families apart or ruin lives. Therefore, there is no current thing that can cause someone to be banished from our religion. They may question the churches teaching, ask for changes, or argue with us. We will still love them.

If a situation ever arises in the future that is bad enough for a follower to be excommunicated, then we will learn only through that happening what might be bad enough. Until such time as this happens, we have no situation that can cause banishment. The only discipline we currently sanction in our religion is to police our ministers and make sure that they do things in the spirit of His teachings.

4. Distinct Religious History

Although the history of the church is well-documented in the Holy Book of Lasagna, we will give a brief explanation here for the purposes of this government religious test.

The Flying Spaghetti Monster started out as a being of pure energy. He traveled the universe and enjoyed the things that He found there, and it was good. However, one day He came upon Earth, and He fell in love. His Noodliness had never seen a more beautiful planet, and He decided to stay.

For several million years, His Noodliness remined a being of pure energy, and He nudged things on Earth along in a quiet way. He had not wanted to get too involved before, since He thought humans had a lot

of development left to do before they would be ready for space travel.

However, humans finally reached the point where they are ready to venture off the Earth and explore the universe, as His Noodliness used to do. He decided to take the form of pasta and sauce and speak to us for the first time. He spoke to a man in Kansas and found Himself to be slightly misunderstood.

His Noodliness was discouraged, and He did not speak for several more years. Then, quite recently, He chose a prophet and decided to finally dictate a bible. He chose the prophet Violet Johnson, on the remote island of Guam. While she was compiling His bible, she told other people of her experiences and of His word, and He gained followers from this.

Now, the bible is complete and has been published for all to read, and He is gaining followers like never before. It is truly a great time in history, for people are converting to Pastafarianism every day. We at The Unitarian Church are proud to welcome them!

5. Membership not associated with any other church or religion

The Unitarian Church of Pasta has many followers who do not follow any other church, and who are exclusively Pastafarian. We also have many ministers who do not follow any other church and are exclusively Pastafarian.

However, we disagree with his religious test on a fundamental level.

The idea inherent in this religious test is that a person must only believe one thing. We reject this, because it is wrong. Pastafarianism is an inclusive religion. There is a rich historic tradition of inclusive religions throughout history. Followers of Apollo often followed Pagan traditions as well and worshipped many other gods. Polytheism is an important part of the religious history of the world.

The United States of America was founded on the principles of religious tolerance. A person was supposed to have the freedom to worship who they wanted, and to worship how they wanted. This was the central reason for the first Puritans to come to North America.

Now, the religious tests that have been designed by the courts are seeking to stop the freedom of religion and the freedom of worship. They are seeking to limit religious freedom to only things that they approve of. This is unjust.

Yes, His Noodliness has followers who are not associated with any other church. However, He also has followers that are associated with other churches, and He does not have a problem with that. He welcomes all people who want to add Pastafarianism to their lives in addition to the gods and beliefs that they already have. He is not a jealous god. The fact that the United States courts have decided that He should not be able to welcome anyone that He wants is offensive to the very tenants of The Unitarian Church of Pasta. And so, while we meet the conditions of the test, we want it known that we find the premise of the test flawed.

6. Organization of Ordained Ministers

The Unitarian Church of Pasta has an organization of ordained ministers. All Pastafarians who wish to become ministers must study the bible and meditate on the meaning of His words for at least a year before they apply to be ordained.

His Noodliness The Flying Spaghetti Monster does not believe that He needs them to undergo any other tests or training, as seminary schools do not teach anything that cannot be learned from reading the bible and taking time to reflect on His meaning.

However, ministers must pass test in order to be ordained. We do require that they prove that they have at least read the bible and that they understand it.

7. Ordained Ministers selected after completing prescribed courses of study

His Noodliness believes that independent study of the bible is sufficient in order to attain an understanding of His word. His bible is not mysterious. Rather, it is quite direct. If you read it, you can understand what He meant to say. He feels that any minister selected after independent study should have a sufficient understanding of His word.

It should be noted that prescribed courses of study are only needed in other religions because the bibles of those religions are less direct, and they do not have detailed instructions in how to conduct services and how to behave as a minister of their faith. The Unitarian Church of Pasta's bible, The New Testament of The Flying Spaghetti Monster; Dinner 2.0, does include these instructions. Therefore, it provides a clarity that other bibles do not provide.

8. Literature of its own

The Unitarian Church of Pasta is based on The New Testament of The Flying Spaghetti Monster; Dinner 2.0. It has its own literature both in this bible, and on its website and social media pages. This literature was independently generated and is not the property of any other religion.

Note that all handouts and church materials are provided on the Unitarian Church of Pasta website, and any literature not provided on that site is not associated with our church.

9. Established Places of Worship

In The Unitarian Church of Pasta, there are two places that Pastafarians tend to worship. First and foremost, they worship in the homes of Pastafarians. This is because Pastafarians are not recognized by the government, and are often persecuted by the citizens of the country (probably due to not being recognized by the government.) Due to the religious persecution faced by Pastafarians, the safest place for them to worship is in the homes of those who are also members of the church. Pasta Fridays take place in people's homes for the safety of the worshippers.

However, Pastafarians can also worship in nature. The spring festival of Pastival is intended for exactly this purpose, in fact. Followers are asked to go out into nature and plant seeds for the coming year as a form of worship to His Noodliness. This is not confined to a specific place because that would not make sense. Planting seeds in only one place is far less effective than spreading them around.

The Unitarian Church of Pasta contains within the Holy Book of Lo Mein what churches The Flying Spaghetti Monster would like built. There are very detailed descriptions of what they should be. However, it is not safe now for Pastafarians to worship openly, and so until Pastafarianism is recognized, there is no way to build the churches for which His Noodliness has asked.

10. Regular Congregations

All information on the regular activities of church members are to be kept secret until such time as the Unitarian Church of Pasta is recognized as a religion. Until that time, the members face persecution and do not wish to be “outed” for fear of reprisals. However, the church keeps a list of people who hold regular services, and the ministers who preach at these gatherings.

11. Regular Religious Services

Every Friday Pastafarians gather for prayer and dinner. Several times a year, Pastafarians gather to celebrate church holidays. And, Pastafarians gather regularly for weddings, baptisms, and other events that need to be conducted with concern for the spiritual.

12. Sunday Schools for the young

This is specifically addressed in The New Testament of The Flying Spaghetti Monster; Dinner 2.0. His Noodliness does not approve of children being indoctrinated at all. The Flying Spaghetti Monster does not allow anyone to be baptized until they are legally considered to be an adult, because children cannot consent to something as serious as baptism. It is wrong to force a religion on children, and Pastafarian parents must seek to focus on giving their children a good education, rather than on filling their heads with religion. Children may read the bible if they wish, and they may attend services if they wish. However, they may not be Pastafarians or formally study the bible until they come of age.

13. Schools for the preparation of its members

His Noodliness does not believe that his worshippers need to be prepared. Anyone who has love in their heart and who practices tolerance is qualified to become a Pastafarian. There shall be no schooling or preparation. Instead, any person wanting to be baptized will speak with a minister and undergo some counseling to make sure that Pastafarianism is right for them. If they have read the bible and they believe in its words, then they may be baptized.

Note: This is one of the central tenants of Pastafarianism. Children cannot consent to a baptism because they are not of age. It is deeply wrong to force a religion on a child when they are not old enough to make mature choices about anything. Choosing a religion is as serious as any other life choice. We

respect that, and understand that all serious life choices should be made by adults.

Conclusion

As you can see, The Unitarian Church of Pasta is a very real church, with sincerely held beliefs. Under the law, we therefore qualify both for the IRS designation of a religion, and for legal standing as a church in the eyes of the courts. It is unconscionable that the government seeks to force religions to “prove” their validity, since we are supposedly part of a free society. However, if proof must be given, then the Unitarian Church can pass any test that any other religion can pass.

The Unitarian Church of Pasta is exactly as real as Christianity, Mormonism, Buddhism, or any other religion.

His Noodliness The Flying Spaghetti Monster is exactly as real as any other god.

Since there can be no doubt of these things, The Unitarian Church of Pasta must be considered to have the same legal standing as any other church, with all the same rights and privileges.

