

These are note-cards for presenters. They are formatted so that they can be cut at 5 1/2" (Using size A Paper) and separated in two. Printing them on cover stock or card stock will make it easy for you to use them while presenting.

Read through the text of the workshop, and use these cards when presenting – this will allow you room to improvise.

You may wish to take the time to write your own creed and use it in place of mine. (Card 15)

Apologetics workshop

Card 1. What is apologetics?

- Defense of a position
- Not necessarily an expression of regret

Card 2. Why is apologetics necessary for pagans?

- As we become more visible, more people will wonder what paganism is
- Majority religions will mount more vigorous attacks and these need to be met.
- Hearing our own faith presented logically helps us understand our own faith better.

Card 3. Who should be an apologist?

- In a sense we all are
- Those in public view should be more skilled at it
- We need to know our limits
- Ask for help before overstepping our capabilities

Card 4. Terms

- Knowledge
- Belief / Faith
- Practice

Card 5. What are people really asking?

- Attacks
- Fears
- Seeking knowledge / interested
- “Why do you believe that?”
- Any more reasons people might ask?

Card 6. Common charges

- Made-up religion
- New religion
- No revealed scriptures
- Too permissive
- Pascal's wager
- Form of Satanism
- Ask for more charges.

Card 7. Made-up religion

- All religions are made-up
- Someone wrote every religious text there is.

Card 8. Modern paganism is too new.

- Gerald Gardner did “invent” Wicca in around the 1950's
- Based on works of the mystery traditions, Crowley, Fortune, et.al.
- But not all Paganism or Witchcraft is based on Gardner's work
- Much modern paganism traces roots into history
- Every religion on Earth was once new
- Antiquity does not prove authenticity.

Card 9. No Revealed Scriptures

- We don't have a revealed scriptures
- We have a number of authors and teachers we consider inspired
- We can't fit God in a book
- Deity speaks to each of us individually and collectively through nature and our interactions.

Card 10. Too permissive

- The Rede
- Who is harmed?
- Think about your actions
- Not that permissive at all.

Card 11. Pascal's wager

- What is Pascal's wager
- How to recognize it
- Are the risks of adopting the Christian faith really that minimal?
- Reincarnation / wasted lifetimes

	If God Exists	If God Does Not Exist
Belief in God	Eternal Bliss	Lose Nothing
No Belief in God	Eternal Misery	Lose Nothing

Card 12. Paganism is a form of Satanism.

- Christian missionaries and the Horned God
- Satanism is a form of Christian belief
- Satan is an explanation for evil in the world.
- Pagans have no need for Satan.

Card 13. Presenting our own position

- After defense, we need to present what it is that we do believe
- To present, we need to be able to define who we are and what we believe.
- What does Pagan or Neo-Pagan mean?
- Paleo- Meso- Neo
- Not New Age though it can creep in.

Card 14. Defining what we believe.

- Paganism is a VERY broad term.
- Definition of Pagan / Heathen.
- What religions might fall under Pagan and Neo-Pagan.
- Need for a personal creed.
- Personal creed may not apply to anyone else except in strict traditions.

Card 15. My creed.

I believe

That in the beginning was the Great Spirit, who dwelt above the abyss.

He found himself lonely and showed forth the aspects of the God and Goddess.

The God and Goddess work together, not as opposites, but as parts of a whole.

The God and Goddess stirred the void and brought to being the universe.

The Stars,

The planets,

The moons,

And all other heavenly things.

The God and the Goddess chose some planets on which to bring forth life. One of these planets is the Earth. The God and the Goddess planted the seeds of life. They blessed the seeds and caused them to grow. They caused creatures to grow male and female and all that lies between. Man and woman are descendents of the Great Spirit, charged with the care of the Earth.

The Great Spirit revealed himself to all peoples on the Earth. Various names reveal the one Great Spirit: Isis, Osiris, Ishtar, Cerridwen, Cernunnos, Lugh, Brigid, El Shaddai, YHWH, Jesus, Buddah, Artemis, Odin, Kali, Castor and Polux, Romulus and Remus and countless others.

To some are given the task of a witch. On them falls the task of propagating the blessings of the Great Spirit. These must dedicate themselves or turn away from the task. Half measures faileth all.

I am a witch, blessed by the Great Spirit, daughter of the Goddess and son of the God.

I grow between the worlds.

I exist between the sexes.

I tarry in spirit between the elements.

The Center is my path.

Card 16. Distil a statement of belief.

- Should be fairly brief, but highlight major points.

Card 17. Sample statement of belief.

I believe that all religions are our own unique definitions of our relationship with deity. My own religious beliefs are based on what I know of my pre-Christian European ancestors. I look to deity with multiple names because in each of these names, some characteristics present themselves. I don't know if there is one God or many, but I do know that I have a variety of relationships with deity, therefore I consider myself a polytheist. I believe that Deity speaks to each of us in her or his own way, individually, and through each other, and I don't believe that any single text can capture all that the Gods have for us to know, therefore I don't believe in any infallible revealed scripture. I worship on a calendar that follows the cycles of the Sun and Moon, and these are metaphors for my own life. I believe that I have been here many times before, and may be many times in the future, and that each of these times is an opportunity for me to learn and grow to some ultimate end. What that end is, I can't yet say.

Card 18. Defending our position.

- Difference between answering a charge and stating our position.
- Reasons people might ask
 - Concern
 - Fear
 - Curiosity
 - To prove to themselves that their position is superior
 - To ridicule
 - An honest curiosity
 - More?

Card 19. Gentleness and Respect

- 1 Peter 3:15
- Gene Robinson's talk

Card 20. Role play.