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Description of document: Meeting minutes and agendas for the Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) Ecclesiastical Representatives Advisory Committee, 2003-2007

Requested date: 2007

Released date: 17-October-2007

Posted date: 16-July-2012

Date range of documents: 30-June-2003 – 16-August-2007

Source of document: Freedom of Information Act/Privacy Act Section  
Office of General Counsel, Room 841  
Federal Bureau of Prisons  
320 First Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20534  
[Online FOIA Request Form](#)

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U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

OCT 17 2007

Washington, DC 20534

For Further Inquiry Contact:  
Federal Bureau of Prisons  
320 First Street. N.W.  
Room 841 HOLC Building  
Washington, D.C. 20534  
Attn: FOIA/Privacy Act Office

RE: Request No. 07-09357

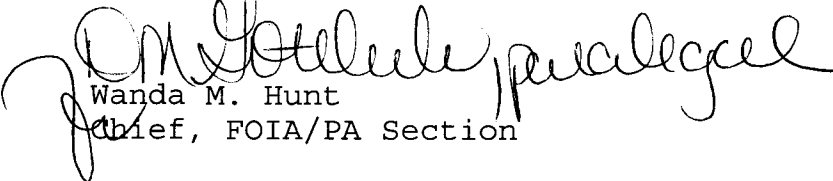
This is in response to your Freedom of Information Act requests for the meeting minutes and agendas for the Ecclesiastical Representatives Advisory Committee for the time period 2002 to present.

We have located 27 pages in response to your request. 7 pages of this request are being released in their entirety, and 20 pages are released with information excised. This excision/withholding of records is pursuant to the following authority:

X Title 5, United States Code, Section 552(b)(5), which exempts from disclosure records or information intended for staff use only, the disclosure of which would tend to inhibit frank communication between agency officials or correspondence that is speculative or deliberative in nature; protects inter-agency or intra-agency memorandums or letters which would be privileged in civil discovery context,...

Pursuant to 28 C.F.R., §16.9, this response may be appealed to the Attorney General by filing a written appeal within sixty days of the date of this letter. The appeal should be addressed to the Office of Information and Privacy, USDOJ, 1425 New York Ave., N.W., Suite 11050, Washington, DC, 20530-0001. Both the envelope and the letter of appeal itself must be clearly marked, "Freedom of Information Act Appeal."

Sincerely,

  
Wanda M. Hunt  
Chief, FOIA/PA Section

Enclosure



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

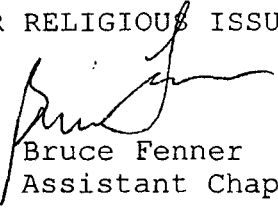
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Washington, DC 20534

July 21, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR RELIGIOUS ISSUES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM:

  
Bruce Fenner  
Assistant Chaplaincy Services Administrator

SUBJECT: RIC Agenda - August 2, 2007

Attached please find the institutional requests submitted for recommendation at the next RIC meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 2, 2007. The meeting will occur in the CPD Conference Room at 11:00 a.m.

Religious Issue Requests:

- 1) Nuwaubian submitted by Coleman



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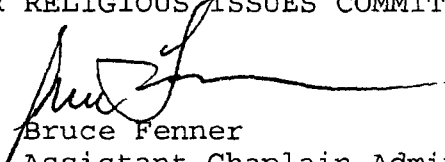
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Washington, DC 20534

June 1, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR RELIGIOUS ISSUES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM:

  
Bruce Fenner  
Assistant Chaplain Administrator

SUBJECT: RIC Agenda - June 2, 2006

Attached is the information of three RIC requests on two religious grouping concerns. These two items form the meeting's agenda. The meeting will occur in the CPD Conference Room located on 4<sup>th</sup> Floor at 8:30 AM.

1. Nations of Gods and Earths (5 Percenters)  
Submitted by Petersburg and Pollock
2. Satanism  
Submitted by El Reno

Attachment



U.S. Department of Justice

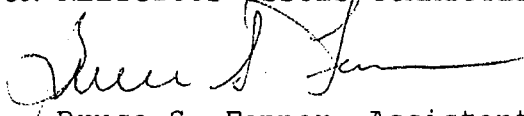
Federal Bureau of Prisons

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Washington, DC 20534

January 19, 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR RELIGIOUS ISSUES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM:  Bruce S. Fenner, Assistant Chaplain Administrator

SUBJECT: Religious Issues Committee Meeting

The next Religious Issues Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 2, 2006, 10:00 am, in the CPD Conference Room. Two items will be considered. Attached please find a file containing pertinent information for the meeting.

- 1) Judaism
- 2) Rune Stones



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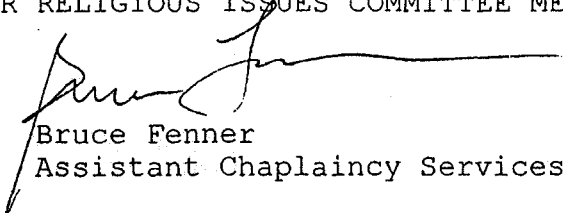
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Washington, DC 20534

February 28, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR RELIGIOUS ISSUES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM:

  
Bruce Fenner  
Assistant Chaplaincy Services Administrator

SUBJECT: RIC Agenda - March 4, 2005

Attached please find the institutional request submitted for recommendation at the next RIC meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 4, 2005 at 11:15 a.m. in the CPD Conference Room.

Religious Issue Requests:

- 1) Nation of Islam - December Fast



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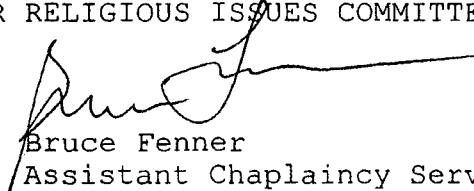
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Washington, DC 20534

December 6, 2004

MEMORANDUM FOR RELIGIOUS ISSUES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM:

  
Bruce Fenner  
Assistant Chaplaincy Services Administrator

SUBJECT: RIC Agenda - December 20, 2004

Attached please find the institutional requests submitted for recommendation at the next RIC meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Monday, December 20, 2004. The meeting will occur in the CPD Conference Room at 1:00 p.m.

Religious Issue Requests:

- |                                |                |
|--------------------------------|----------------|
| 1) Natsarim (Messianic)        | FCI Texarkana  |
| 2) Universal Faithist Religion | FCI Big Spring |
| 3) Wicca                       | USP Pollack    |





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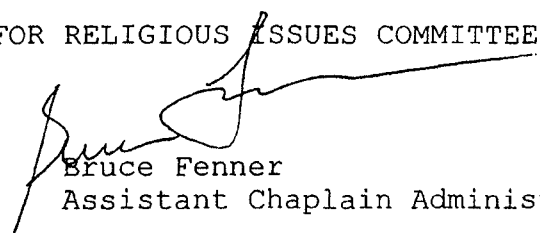
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Washington, DC 20534

October 15, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR RELIGIOUS ISSUES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM:  Bruce Fenner  
Assistant Chaplain Administrator

SUBJECT: RIC Agenda - October 29, 2003

Attached is the information of the four requests with which we need to deal at this meeting. The meeting will occur in CPD Conference Room at 2:00 PM.

- |    |                        |                    |
|----|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. | Eckankar               | USP Terre Haute    |
| 2. | Thelema                | USP Atwater        |
| 3. | Messianic Israel       | FCC Coleman        |
| 4. | Satanism               | LSCI Allenwood     |
| 5. | Christian Identity     | USP Atwater        |
| 6. | Black Hebrew Israelite | (Tabled from July) |



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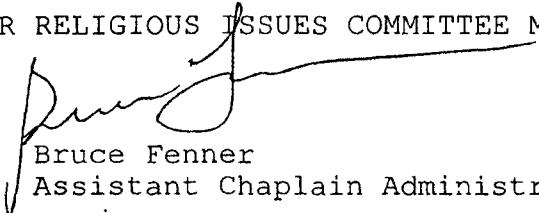
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Washington, DC 20534

June 30, 2003

MEMORANDUM FOR RELIGIOUS ISSUES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

FROM:

  
Bruce Fenner  
Assistant Chaplain Administrator

SUBJECT: RIC Agenda - July 2, 2003

Attached is the information of the four requests with which we need to deal at this meeting. The meeting will occur in Conference Room 831 at 2:15 PM.

- |    |                |               |
|----|----------------|---------------|
| 1. | Satanism       | FCI Florence  |
| 2. | Rastafari Bobo | FCI Jesup     |
| 3. | Paganism       | FMC Rochester |
| 4. | Ausar          | USP Beaumont  |

If time permits, we will revisit the religious practice of The African Hebrew Israelites of Jerusalem.



U.S. Department of Justice

Federal Bureau of Prisons

Washington, DC 20534

August 16, 2007

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

FROM: *Joyce K. Conley*  
Joyce K. Conley, Assistant Director  
Correctional Programs Division

*Kathleen M. Kenney*  
Kathleen M. Kenney  
Assistant Director/General Counsel

SUBJECT: Complete Summary of Religious Issues Committee  
Recommendations: 1994 - 2006

The Religious Issues Committee (RIC) reviews requests of a religious programming nature from institutions and makes recommendations to the Wardens for implementation. Attached is a complete summary of all RIC recommendations made to each Warden since the RIC began receiving requests in 1994. A cumulative summary of all RIC recommendations is provided annually. Please keep this on file for reference during 2007. The RIC recommendations are listed in alphabetical order.

GROUP	INSTITUTION	DATE
AFRICAN HEBREW ISRAELITES OF JERUSALEM	FCC Coleman (Low) FCI Estill	02/22/2007 06/25/1999

**BLACK HEBREW ISRAELITES**

**Request:** Inmates at FCI Estill and FCC Coleman (Low) requested to meet and practice their beliefs as Black Hebrew Israelites and African Hebrew Israelites of Jerusalem, respectively.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**ALMIGHTY YAHWEH KINGDOM**                      **FCI Manchester**                      **12/12/1996**  
**OF DIVINE LOVE FAMILY MINISTRY**

**Request:** Inmates at FCI Manchester requested that the Almighty Yahweh Kingdom of Family Love be **authorized to meet** as a religious group.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**AMERICAN HUMANIST ASSOCIATION** **FCI Jesup**                      **01/14/1997**

**Request:** Inmates at FCI Jesup requested to **establish a chapter** of the American Humanist Association as a religious group.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

ASATRU/ODINISM

FCI Florence	08/15/1994
FCI Texarkana	12/27/1995
USP Florence	05/01/1995
USP Terre Haute	01/08/1996
FMC Rochester	09/16/1996

**Request #1:** This group has requested to **meet and practice** their beliefs with specific accouterments. At Terre Haute, the group requested to meet in an outdoor location.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

FCI Florence 01/13/1998

**Request #2:** An inmate requested **approval to wear throughout the institution an Odinst headband (hlath)** adorned with rune characters, or a plain headband if runes could not be displayed.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

FCI Allenwood (Medium)	03/23/1998
USP Marion	11/23/1999
FMC Fort Worth	09/21/2001
FCI Texarkana	09/17/2001

**Request #3:** Clarification was sought by several institutions on which items were appropriate for inmates to possess as **personal religious property** and which items were **appropriate accouterments to be kept in the Chapel for services**. A list of requested items

was included by each institution. Inmates at FCI Texarkana requested a separate outside worship area for use by Asatru participants only.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

AUSAR AUSET SOCIETY

FCI Schuylkill

10/07/1998

**Request:** Approval was requested for the Ausar Auset Society to meet as a religious group.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

AUSAR

FCI McKean

04/24/2000

**Request #1:** Inmates at FCI McKean requested time and space for practitioners of the Ausar tradition.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

USP Beaumont

10/30/2002

**Request #2:** Inmates request that Ausarian be allowed **time and space** in the chapel, as well as the accommodation of **personal and congregate religious property**, and **work proscription** for religious holy days.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

BIBLE CHRISTIAN RELIGION	FCI Ashland	No date
BIBLICAL CHRISTIAN	FPC Alderson	06/09/1995
IGLESIA CHRISTIANA APOSTOLICA	FCI Ft. Dix	08/15/1995

**Requests** from the above **groups to meet separately** have not been granted as it was determined that their needs can be best accommodated with already existing religious groups meeting in the institutions.

BRANCH DAVIDIAN	FCI Three Rivers	08/30/1994
-----------------	------------------	------------

**Request** from the group to meet has not been granted because of the group's association with the violation of Federal law resulting in incarceration.

CHRISTIAN IDENTITY	FCI Florence	11/02/1994
IDENTITY	USP Lompoc	11/03/1994
CHURCH OF THE CREATOR	USP Lompoc	01/11/1995
ISRAEL IDENTITY	FCI Greenville	02/02/1996
CHRISTIAN ISRAEL IDENTITY	USP Atwater	08/18/2003

**Request #1:** Requests from the above groups to meet have not been granted because the **functions of the groups were determined to be**

in violation of Bureau policy and/or a threat to the security interests and the safe and orderly running of the institutions.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

FCI Cumberland 02/28/1996

**Request #2:** The group is requesting religious literature, recognition of "holy days," religious accouterments, wearing apparel and visits. There is no request for meeting time and space.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

USP Beaumont 12/02/1999

**Request #3:** Inmates at USP Beaumont requested that the Christian/Israelite Identity be permitted to meet and function as a religious group.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

CHURCH OF MARIJUANA

FCI La Tuna

05/03/1996

**Request** from the above group to meet has not been granted because



the function of the group was determined to be in violation of Bureau policy and/or a threat to the security interests and the safe and orderly running of the institution.

NOTE: The Federal District Court for the District of Wyoming found that the Church of Marijuana did not constitute a religion for purposes of RFRA.

**CHURCH OF SCIENTOLOGY**                      **FCI Jesup**                      **02/14/2001**

**Request:** Inmates at FCI Jesup requested that the Church of Scientology be permitted to **meet and practice** their religion.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**CHURCH UNIVERSAL AND TRIUMPHANT**                      **FCI Cumberland**                      **01/14/1997**

**Request:** Inmates have requested to **meet as a separate religious group**.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**COMMON FARE ISSUES**                      **Central Office**                      **10/31/1997**

**Request:** Religious Services and Food Services Branches requested a **review of the common fare menu** and the perceived need for increased hot foods and a greater variety of food on the menu.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**ECKANKAR**

**USP Terre Haute**

**08/19/2003**

**Request:** An inmate from USP Terre Haute requested that Eckankar be allowed **time, space, resources and volunteers in the Chapel for purposes of religious study.**

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**FALUN GONG**

**FCI Phoenix**

**03/28/2001**

**Request:** Inmates at FCI Phoenix requested approval of Falun Gong to **meet in the Chapel** for religious study.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**GNOSTIC ASSOCIATION OF  
ANTHROPOLOGY AND SCIENTIFIC STUDY**

**FCI Yazoo City**

**07/21/1999**

**Request:** Inmates at FCI Yazoo City requested that the Gnostic Association of Anthropology and Scientific **Study be allowed** to meet and function as a religious group.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**HAITIAN VODOO**

**USP Atlanta**

**01/06/1996**

**Request:** The group has made the request to **meet as a religious group and to be supplied with certain items** to facilitate the practice of their beliefs.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**HEBREW ISHMAELITES**

**USP Atlanta**

**01/08/1996**

**Request:** The group has requested to **meet as a religious group and to be provided with certain items to facilitate** the practice of their faith.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

HOUSE OF YAHWEH

FCI Talledega  
FCI Texarkana

04/21/1995  
11/22/2005

**Request:** The group requested **meeting time/space, observance of specific religious holy days and the wearing of certain religious items.**

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**Request #2:** FCI Texarkana and the SCR has requested a review of the accommodation of the House of Yahweh, and more specifically, the faith tenet of **religious headwear (kippah/yarmulke).**

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

I AM

FPC Nellis

06/04/1996

**Request:** The group requested to meet as a **religious group and be provided dietary needs, ceremonial observances and worship/study opportunities.**

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

ISLAMIC OUTREACH FUND

USP Florence

03/04/2005

**Request:** Inmates requested **group time and space for religious programming in the chapel.**

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

MELANIC ISLAMIC PALACE  
OF THE RISING SUN

FCI McKean

01/26/1995

**Request:** The group requested to meet as a religious group.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

MESSIANIC ISRAEL

FCC Coleman LOW

07/25/2003

**Request:** Inmates at FCC Coleman Low requested that Messianic Israel be allowed separate worship, religious programs and be permitted to observe the Jewish holy days.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

MESSIANIC JUDAISM

FCI Big Spring

11/21/2001

**Request:** Inmates at FCI Big Spring requested separate time and space in the Chapel for the Messianic Jews to worship and study.

They also asked permission to observe the Jewish holy days.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**METAPHYSICAL SPIRITUALISM      FPC Alderson      09/05/1996**

**Request:** Inmates at FPC Alderson requested that Metaphysical Spiritualism be permitted to meet.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**NATIONS OF GODS AND EARTHS      FCI Petersburg      06/22/2006**  
**USP Pollock**

**Request:** Inmates from the above institutions have requested weekly meeting time and space in the Chapel as well as personal and congregate religious property to practice their religion.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**NATSARIM      FCI TEXARKANA      12/20/2004**

**Request:** An inmate requested the accommodation of separate worship and study time for the practice of Natsarim in the religious program schedule.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

ODUM

FCI Ashland

02/02/1995

There was a request regarding an inmate wearing an earring for religious purposes in the institution. This request was denied for security and health reasons.

ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN

FMC Carswell

05/18/1996

Request #1: Based on their religious beliefs, the group requested specific days of work proscripton.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

FCI La Tuna

09/05/1996

Request #2: Inmates at FCI La Tuna requested they be permitted to meet separately as Orthodox Christians, observe Mondays as the Sabbath and hold a Christian Passover.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

PAGANISM

FCI Cumberland

06/23/1997

Request #1: Inmates belonging to the Pagan religious tradition requested to meet for worship and study.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

FMC Rochester

05/08/2003

**Request #2:** An inmate requests Paganism be allowed time and space in the chapel, as well as personal and congregate religious property.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

PALO MONTE MAYUBA

FCI Miami

01/13/1998

**Request:** An inmate requested the establishment of a separate African Caribbean religion which is similar in theology and practice to Santeria, and other Yoruba religious groups.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

RASTAFARIAN

FCI Ashland

12/20/2004

**Request:** An inmate requested an Ital Diet be made available to inmates of the Rastafarian religious faith.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)



(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**RASTAFARI BOBO**

**FCI Jesup**

**03/17/2003**

**Request:** An inmate requested that Rastafari Bobo (Shanti) Ashanti Order of Melchizedek be allowed to meet and function as a separate religious group.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**SANTERIA**

**FCI Miami**

**08/28/1995**

**Request #1:** The group is requesting weekly services, holy day observance and certain specific materials to facilitate their religious beliefs and practices.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**FCI Allenwood (Medium)**

**03/23/1998**

**Request #2:** Inmates at FCI Allenwood requested approval of specific religious practices and items for ritual and personal use by members of the Yoruba/Santeria faith group.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

<b>SATANISM</b>	<b>FCI Florence</b>	<b>11/20/2002</b>
	<b>LSCI Allenwood</b>	<b>08/08/2003</b>
	<b>FCI El Reno</b>	<b>06/22/2006</b>

**Request:** Inmates from the above institutions have requested weekly meeting time and space in the Chapel as well as personal and congregate religious property to practice Satanism.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

<b>SHEE'AH ITHNA ASHARA</b>	<b>FCC Beaumont (Medium)</b>	<b>02/22/2001</b>
<b>MUSLIM COMMUNITY</b>		

**Request:** Inmates requested separate worship and religious study time and requested Ashara to be a day of work proscription.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

SHETAUT NETER

USP Atlanta

06/15/2004

**Request:** Inmates requested **separate time and space** in the chapel for worship and study, as well as the accommodation of personal and congregate religious property.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

THELEMA/ORDO TEMPLI ORIENTIS FCI Sandstone

02/22/2001

**Request:** An inmate at FCI Sandstone requested that Thelema or the Ordo Templi Orientis (OTO) be permitted to **meet for worship and religious study**.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

USP Atwater

09/02/2003

**Request #2:** An inmate at USP Atwater requested that Thelema be allowed time and space for purposes of religious study.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**TRADITIONAL ESOTERIC  
VEGETARIANIST CHURCH**

**FCI Cumberland**

**01/14/997**

**Request:** An inmate has requested **time and space** for the Traditional Esoteric Vegetarianist Church to meet in the chapel. In addition to meeting for worship, the inmate requested **candles and incense for prayers at night and listed 38 holidays**. The inmate adheres to a **strict vegetarianist** diet and requests organic foods.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

**UNIVERSAL FAITHIST**

**FCI Big Spring**

**12/20/2004**

**Request:** An inmate requested **separate worship and study time** be scheduled for the Universal Faithists religion.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

WICCA

USP Lewisburg

06/11/1995

FCI Jesup

09/20/1995

FCI Phoenix

09/20/1995

**Request #1:** The group has requested to **meet and engage in the practice of their faith** that will facilitate their religious beliefs.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

FMC Lexington

12/12/1996

**Request #2:** FMC Lexington requested **clarification on two issues** reported in the September 9, 1996 Religious Issues Report. Namely, restricting the pentacle and practice of the full circle.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)

YAHWEH BEN'YAHWEH

FCI Tallahassee

02/09/1995

**Request** from the group to **meet** has not been granted because of the group's association with the violation of Federal law resulting in incarceration.

YAHWEH'S NEW COVENANT ASSEMBLY FMC Fort Worth

11/21/2001

**Request:** Inmate participants of Yahweh's New Covenant Assembly requested to meet in the Chapel for **worship and religious study**. In addition, participants requested to celebrate several religious **holy days**.

(b) (5)

(b)(5)