

Mission:

**The Abode's mission is to offer all Sufis and seekers a sanctuary for spiritual exploration and community, in harmony with nature, built upon the teachings and practices of universalist, Inayati Sufism. Thus, the Abode is Spiritual in Nature, Universal in Message, and Elemental in Practice.**

**We practice our commitment to the Abode's mission by living and honoring these words, as expressed below:**

**to offer:** Offering is an invitation to receive; offering is open-handed; offerings are a response to the gifts of the Divine, and of the world.

**all :** This is an affirmation of welcome and invitation that raises us above distinctions and differences that divide us.

**Sufis:** Universalist Sufism is at the heart of who we are and our openness; Sufi teaching and practice remain the cornerstone of our heritage.

**and seekers:** Not all who come to the Abode are Sufis, nor are all religious, but all are looking for something and welcome.

**a sanctuary:** A sanctuary is a holy place, but also indicates a place of retreat and safety for individuals; sanctuary is an echo of the Sufi idea of the Universel, where all are welcome to gather with sacred intention, and of "the Temple of God" seen in the image of every human being; our holy spaces—by tradition and inheritance, at once Natural, Native, Shaker, and Sufi—are also our offering to the world.

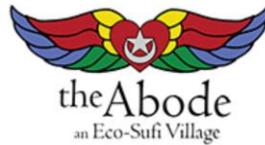
**for spiritual:** All elements of the Abode, all things and all acts here, are intended to be spiritual.

**Exploration:** The Abode offers a sacred place for people to delve into their spiritual lives; it is a learning center to which people come not with answers, but with questions, to explore; spiritual exploration through classes, practices, work, and lived experience, are all valid paths that may be undertaken here.

**and community:** Community is a 'common unity' for which we all strive; we wish to foster a community of diversity, united by spiritual aims and values; and a communal sanctuary for those who long for true connections to others.

**in harmony:** Harmony is sought in "community," as we have just described it, and also "with nature," hoping to match the ebb and flow of the natural world, internally and externally, hearkening to the ideal of "love, harmony, and beauty."

**with nature:** More than its historic buildings, the Abode is the land and the natural environs in and on which it is established; its 350 acres are the quintessence of the Abode, and thus our perspective is that of 'guardians' of the land, not owners; we desire to partner with nature as much as possible.



***built upon:*** Spiritual unfolding is a process of the inner being, but also has an element of doing, of constructing; the Sufi Prayer for the Universel says, “build with your own hands the Universel, our temple for Your divine message of love, harmony, and beauty,” meaning our hands are the divine instruments offered to this task; the hands to accomplish the divine work are ours, and it is our commission, our task to build.

***the teachings:*** Our path is spiritual, and thus, both learning and unlearning are part of the basic curriculum, with offerings of classes, readings, one-on-one instruction and guidance, all based in universalist Sufism; our staff includes a Spiritual Director and/or Teacher-In-Residence to hold the teachings and offer guidance on the spiritual path.

***and practices:*** We are not only concerned with teaching, but also with practice; in this community, we have practices—prayers, meditation, ritual, and acts of spiritual discipline and work—that help our spiritual unfoldment; beyond teachings, there are ways of living here that we share, model, and toward which we aspire.

***of universalist, Inayati Sufism:*** The Abode is open to and honoring of all spiritual paths, because its Sufism is universalist; the Sufi lineage of the Abode is Inayati (with a special relationship to the Inayati Order, consistent with our founding documents), which is to say, based in and directly connected to the universalist Sufi spiritual transmission of Hazrat Inayat Khan. Universalist Sufism does not impose a view, but offers spiritual teachings and practices to awaken and catalyze one’s own spiritual path; thus, there are universalist Sufis who identify in a variety of ways—Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Hindu, etc., and even Sufis who only identify as such, or who do not care for any label at all; the Abode welcomes all, and does not require affiliation.