Founding Mothers Movement

Governance Structure for Women's Congress

I INTRODUCTION

What follows is a proposed governance structure based on **Sociocracy** and **Feminine Circle** principles. It is our earnest desire to design the FMM architecture using left-brain logic and right-brain intuition. Our sacred goal is to model **Partnerism** – a balanced, holistic approach to mission success!

II CORE VALUES

1. **Unity in Diversity:** Women will function as peers in deciding how to accomplish the FMM mission. Moreover, expertise will be honored, enthusiasm will be treasured, and heroinism glorified.
2. **Co-Creation:** This architecture will ensure every woman has an opportunity to add her genius to the Women's Congress. When our voice is heard, we become more engaged and take initiative. The resulting sisterhood should feel vibrant, productive, perceptive, and compassionate.
3. **Effectiveness:** Matriocracy has been designed for ACTION, as we must move quickly yet wisely. We will continuously monitor our governance system, to ensure it aids in achieving FMM goals. Additionally, Second Tier values have been embedded to constrain Green meme indecisiveness.
4. **Trust and Accountability:** Matriocracy is intended to foster openness and shared responsibility. The architecture should produce exceptionally coherent, resilient, and dynamic teams. The structure also highlights accountability and supports further development of younger female leaders.
5. **Transparency:** Access will be shared to all FMM documents and records relating to governance and decision making. For now, we will store our documents on Dropbox – for ourselves and posterity. We are poised to make *her*story, ladies.

III GOVERNANCE PRINCIPLES

➢ Consent-Based Model:

- **Decision-Making**: Final decisions are made after resolving positive and paramount **objections**. An objection is **positive** when reasonably explained and presented as a needed improvement. An objection is **paramount** when vitally important (i.e., a point unseen or not considered yet).
- **Objections are NOT a Veto:** A positive or paramount objection should offer a valid reason why a decision might prevent a sister from performing her job or supporting a circle decision.
- **Sound Decisions:** Rather than total agreement or a "perfect" decision, consent seeks a decision that is "sound enough" to move forward, especially when speed is important.
- **Importance of Objections:** Objections are not to be feared because they may provide useful information and feedback. The rationale presented for an objection can improve a proposal so that all members can work toward FMM aims more effectively.

Comparison of Decision-Making Models	
Autocracy	One Man decides
Patriarchy	Powerful Men decide
Hierarchy	Executives and Managers decide
Majority Vote	Slim majority decides
Super Majority Voting	Vast majority decides
Circle Consent	**Consent is granted unless a sound objection is raised**
Linked-Circle Consent	**Consent is final when approved by higher circles**
Consensus with Veto	If everyone agrees except for one person, decision is made
Consensus	If everyone agrees, decision is made

➢ **Circle Structure and Roles:**

- **Structure:** Circles are semi-autonomous and self-organizing groups united by a common aim. Circles make decisions and carry out work within limits set by the next broader circle.
- **Roles:** Using consent protocols, each circle will elect a **Matriarch** (primary facilitator), a **Maven** (secondary facilitator), and a **Scribe** (secretary).
- **Functional Goals:** Using consent, circles elect women for specific functions, tasks, and roles. This process ensures that the person selected is one who the circle considers qualified. It also ensures all circle members understand their responsibilities.

➢ **Linked for Alchemical Results:**

- **Double-Links:** Circles are linked by each circle's Matriarch acting as the **upward link**, and the Maven acting as the **downward link**. In other words, the Matriarch serves as a representative to a circle above, while the Maven is the representative to a circle below.
- **Feedback:** Double-linking ensures information moves in both directions between operational circles. This enables transparent feedback to travel up and down the FMM circles. When needed, cross-linking between Operational circles also will be encouraged and accommodated.

IV ROBERTA'S RULES OF ORDER

➢ **Circle Missions, Domains, and Aims:**

- **Mission Statement:** Voting circles will be comprised of delegates from Women's Groups. We also will need operational circles (e.g.: Tech Circle, Manifesto Circle). Each circle will craft a mission statement on HOW it will contribute to the FMM.
- **Domain:** Each circle will be responsible for making certain decisions on behalf of FMM. Therefore, each circle should define its domain as distinct from other circles. Each circle should generate a **Proposal** to craft the circle's domain (see below on how to craft a Proposal).
- **Aims:** Decision-making will flow amongst the circles, and each should wield decentralized purpose and power. However, unless circle aims are clearly laid out (i.e., proposed campaigns, tactics, logistics), they cannot be communicated and consented to by the other circles.

➢ **Circle Nominations:** Nominations may be made by anyone, and feel free to nominate yourself. After discussion, the facilitator may suggest the person for whom best arguments were made. Members may object, at which point there should be further discussion. For a role many might fill, discussion may continue. The process is shorter when fewer people are qualified for the task.

➢ **Generating Proposals:**

- **Present Issue:** The circle Matriarch will present the issue or question.
- **Clarification Round:** In this first round, identify the dimensions of the topic to be addressed. Allow anyone who has questions an opportunity to seek clarity on the issue.
- **Discussion Round:** Discuss all aspects of the issue until they are laid bare. The goal is to explore all possible strategies that may lead to success (talking stick is NOT required).
- **Decision Framing Round:** Once co-creativity slows or ceases, the Matriarch will reframe the issue and offer a proposed decision.
- **Reaction Round:** Allow circle members to opine on the proposal and suggest or request changes. The Scribe should take notes to record the proposal and any amendments. If more discussion is needed, take the time to fully vet the proposed decision.
- **Consent Round:** When discussion has slowed, the Matriarch will offer a final framing of the decision to be made. Is it "sound enough" or do any "positive or paramount objections" exist? If an objection is raised, engage in another reaction round. If need be, modify the proposal.
- **Resolution Round:** The Matriarch will ask a final time if anyone objects to the proposed decision. If no objection exists, the circle Scribe will record the final decision. CELEBRATE!

➢ **Strategies to Resolve Objections:**

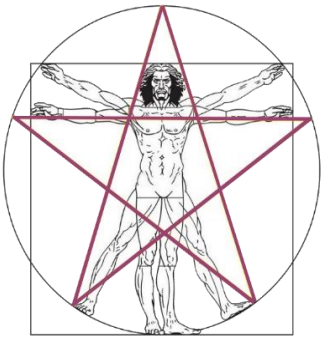
- **Amendments:** Again, objections are not to be feared or frowned upon, though they should be made in good faith and be "positive or paramount." Based on the objection, the Matriarch can reframe and amend the proposal.
- **Resolution Round Tips:** The Matriarch may ask the objecting circle member, "How would you resolve this?" She may also engage the wisdom of the group to find a resolution.
- **Time Out:** A subgroup of 2 to 5 women – including the sister who made the objection – may temporarily work outside the circle to resolve the issue.
- **Creativity Round:** Allowing fresh perspectives may elicit a resolution.
- **Super-Majority Voting:** When all else fails and the objection seems intractable, the circle may use super-majority voting to reach a final decision.
- **Circle Check & Reporting System:** Remember, each circle's decision goes to its linked circles for additional consent. This check and reporting system is the Founding Mothers equivalent to the Founding Fathers "separation of powers." So please, trust the wisdom of the system!

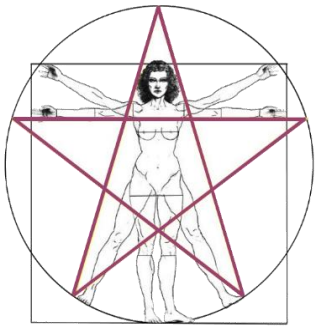
V FEMININE PRINCIPLES * ARCHTYPES * WHEEL OF CO-CREATION

We assaert that interconnection, interdependence, and intuition are core values shared by all women. We also posit that metaphysics and mysticism need be part of the FMM analysis in order to reveal the alchemical properties and fractal relationships needed to make the FMM go VIRAL around the world. Therefore, we've embedded these traits into the FMM architecture. We are WOMEN, hear us ROAR!

➢ **Sacred Geometry:** Numbers 5 and 11 guide the Peace Pentagon. We believe these numbers should guide FMM as well.

- **Five Elements:** Earth, Air, Fire, Water, Spirit.
- **Pentacle:** Five is symbolized by the pentacle and pentagram. Every eight years, the orbit of Venus makes a pentacle in the sky, known as the "Violet of Venus."
- **Golden Ratio:** The pentacle contains the Golden Ratio, used by Leonardo Da Vinci to draw the Vitruvian Man's divine proportions.
- **Fifth Paradigm:** The Fifth Paradigm (a/k/a Fifth World) was prophesied by the Hopi. Madame Blavatsky called this nascent era the Fifth Root Race, and Walter Russell called it Fifth Age of Man.
- **Aquarian Age:** The new paradigm also is associated Aquarius, the 11th sign of the Zodiac. During the Piscean Age, 12 was the sacred number in the Judeo-Christian Bible (12 tribes of Israel; 12 apostles). The number 13 was considered rebellious because it was related to the female lunar calendar. Later, 13 became a symbol for the birth of the United States (13 original colonies).
- **Master Number:** Eleven is the first master twin number and a bridge between the spiritual and physical realms. It symbolizes Partnerism and the harmonization of Yin-Yang duality (1+1=2).

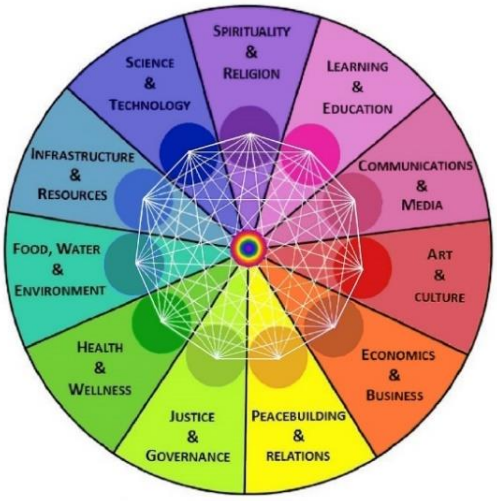




➢ **Archetypes & Animal Totems:** We wish to ascribe archetypes to the central Peace Room circle and identify women who embody these archetypes. We find great strength in Indigenous wisdom and our connection to Gaia. Mother Earth is a sentient being. Her animal, plant, and mineral life have been despoiled and desecrated under the reign of Patriarchy and ideology of Dominionism. We therefore wish to incorporate animal totems in this central circle – except for ONE role. Because Justice & Governance needs to fractal throughout the Matriocracy model, we think the woman who represents Justice & Governance should be symbolized by **Lady Liberty**.

➢ **Wheel of Co-Creation:** We believe the iconic wheel made famous by futurist and dear friend Barbara Marx Hubbard also should be incorporated into the Women's Congress architecture. The original wheel contained twelve sectors, with Justice and Governance separated.

- **Matriocracy Wheel:** Our proposed wheel has 11 sectors (we merged Justice & Governance).
- **Justice & Governance:** Is the sector at the heart and soul of FMM. We seek gender equity for ALL our sisters. Legislation – a global ERA – is needed to change the laws of nearly every nation on Earth. In addition, the International Court of Justice will need mandatory jurisdiction to resolve nation-state conflict in order to prevent war.
- **Peacebuilding & Relations:** Is the other sector at the core of FMM. This is the sector of the dreaded Military Industrial Complex, which we seek to transition into an international peacekeeping force.



VI ARCHITECTURAL ELEMENTS

➢ **Peace Room Circle:** The Peace Room (as sophisticated as a War Room) is the central circle of the Women's Congress, and its members will facilitate the monthly congressional sessions. The chart below lists eleven roles, totems, and archetypes that mirror the Wheel of Co-Creation. Peace Room members must possess strategic vision, academic or activist insight, and kick-ass skills. Members will be selected by Congress and make a **two-year commitment** to the Founding Mothers Movement. NOTE: Internal processes of the Peace Room will be deliberated and agreed upon by its members. In addition, the full domain and authority of the Peace Room has yet to be determined.

Sectors	Totems	Roles
Sector 1: Learning & Education	**Wolf**	Explains nexus between women & war
Sector 2: Communications & Media	**Whale**	Spreads "New Story" of Metta Unity
Sector 3: Art & Culture	**Elephant**	Supports Unity in Diversity
Sector 4: Economics & Business	**Rhino**	Change agent female empowerment
Sector 5: Peacebulding & Relations	**Bee**	Amplifies interconnectedness
Sector 6: Justice & Governance	**Lady Liberty**	Holds core FMM vision | **Matriarch**
Sector 7: Health & Wellness	**Snake**	Transmutes disease into wellbeing
Sector 8: Food, Water, Environment	**Turtle**	Protects Original Instructions
Sector 9: Infrastructure & Resources	**Buffalo**	Guides application of resources
Sector 10: Science & Technology	**Spider**	Stewards systems design & tech
Sector 11: Spirituality & Religion	**Raven**	Enters the Void for answers | **Maven**

➢ **Operational Circles:** We propose five circles dedicated to critical functions of the Congress:

(i) **Technology Circle:** To monitor and manage the first global movement in human history;
(ii) **Media Circle:** To market the movement, communicate with media, manage social media, and video production, graphics, and FMM artistry;
(iii) **Partner Circle:** To coordinate with our Peace, Spiritual, and Environmental partners;
(iv) **Campaign Circle:** To brainstorm resistance campaigns and advise the Peace Room;
(v) **Manifesto Circle:** A team of lawyers to draft FMM legal documents: **World Peace Plan** and **World Constititon for Women**. They also will monitor progress toward adoption by nations.

➢ **Geographic Circles:** We propose ten circles to map, track, and monitor our planetary campaigns. We have divided the world into ten regions based on geography and population density. In addition to a Matriarch, Maven, and Scribe, these Geographic Circles should be structured as follows:

(i) **National Matriarchs**, with a circle connection to
(ii) **Regional Matrons**, with a circle connection to
(iii) **Local Mothers**, who lead campaigns and are responsible for the training and safety of
(iv) **Frontline Amazons**, who bravely execute the campaigns.

#	Symbol	Location
1	NA	North America
2	EU	Europe
3	ME	Middle East
4	RU	Russia, Kazakhstan
5	CH	China, Mongolia, Korea, Japan

#	Symbol	Location
6	AS	Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia
7	IN	India, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh
8	AU	Australia, New Zealand, Arctic, Antarctica
9	AF	Africa
10	SA	South America

➢ **Women's Circles:**

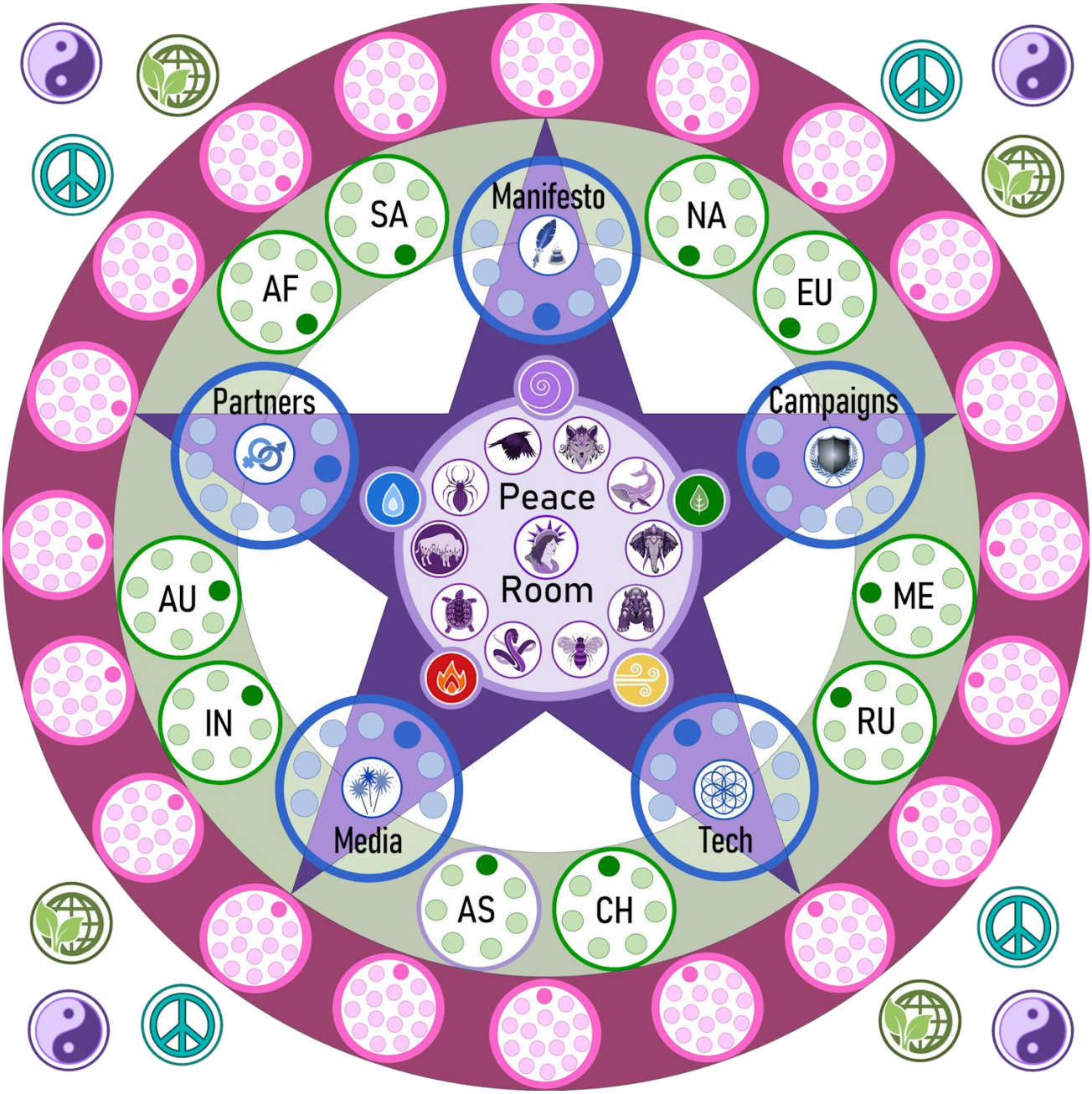
- **Voting Members:** Women's groups with 25 or more members are qualified to participate and send a **Delegate** to the Women's Congress. Delegates form the outer-rim of the Congress and will be assigned to a Women's Circle by the Peace Room. We suggest that each circle contain between 5 and 25 Delegates. For example, if 100 women's groups join the Congress, we might assign 5 Delegates to each circle, resulting in 20 circles (5 sisters x 20 circles = 100 Delegates).
- **Goal for 1st Women's Congress:** Let us aim for 25 women's groups at the inaugural Congress. That would equate to 5 circles (5 sisters x 5 circles = 25 Delegates).
- **Later Congress Sessions:** The outer rim of the Congress will grow as more women's groups join the Founding Mothers Movement. The Peace Room will assess how to scale in the future.
- **Cross-Linked Delegates:** Again, each Women's Circle will select a Matriarch, Maven, and Scribe. The Matriarch will cross-link to either an Operational or Geographic circle. The Maven should cross-link to the Partner Circle and help monitor Peace, Spiritual, or Environmental groups.

➢ **Our Partners:**

The Founding Mothers strategic plan calls for adding Peace, Spiritual, and Environmental groups to the coalition. Technically, those groups are outside the Women's Congress. However, they may appoint a representative to advise the Partner or Geographic Circles and help Congress monitor the movement. It is our desire that the paradigm shift go down in the annals of *her*story as a **Women-Led** movement. Yet, we also wish to join with our like-minded brothers – men who value Partnership and Peace.

VII MATRIOCRACY IN MOTION

The below illustration shows the Women's Congress governance architecture in action. Here, we assume that 1,000 women's groups have joined the global Women's Congress and the Peace Room has elected to scale the structure of the Congress as follows:

- **Number of Women's Groups:** 300
- **Delegates in each Circle:** 15
- **Number of Circles:** 20 (15 sisters x 20 circles = 300 Delegates)
- **Number of Partners:** 12 (4 each: Peace, Spiritual, Environmental groups)

In closing, it is our earnest desire to have thousands of women's groups and partner organizations in the Founding Mothers Movement. Yes, this could get messy, so the Peace Room should be given deference in determining how to scale a global movement of this magnitude. **Remember:** What we are building is unprecedented ... but the world is ready for the MOTHER of all movements!