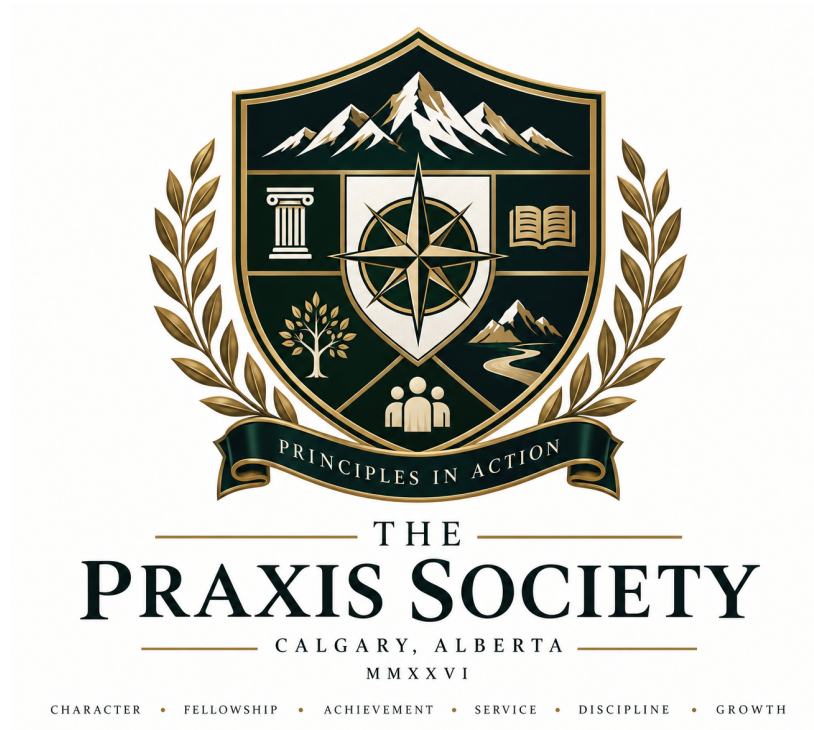




MEMBERSHIP & TRADITIONS CODE

FOUNDER: GAUTHAM MENON | CALGARY, ALBERTA | FOUNDED 2026

Character | Fellowship | Achievement | Service | Discipline | Growth

The standards, candidate path, member expectations, symbols, and traditions that preserve Praxis culture.

Character | Fellowship | Achievement | Service | Discipline | Growth

Founding Draft - September 2026

Founding Record

Founder: Gautham Menon

Place of Founding: Calgary, Alberta, Canada

Year Founded: 2026

Gautham Menon is recorded as the Founder of The Praxis Society. The designation of Founder is a permanent historical designation and is distinct from any elected or appointed office, including the office of President.

As Founder, Gautham Menon established the Society's initial purpose, identity, Six Pillars, commitment to inclusive membership, philosophy of self-command and decorum, anti-addiction principles, service orientation, and founding governance framework.

The Society is intended to endure beyond any individual officeholder. The Founder remains subject to the same standards of character, accountability, lawful conduct, and institutional integrity expected of every member.

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Founder Signature: _____

Date: September 20, 2026

Purpose

This Code defines what membership in The Praxis Society means in practice. It protects the Society from becoming either an exclusive status club or a casual social group with no meaningful expectations.

1. The Membership Standard

Membership is not recognition of status or self-description. It is acceptance of the standard a member agrees to uphold.

Candidates are evaluated as whole people. No candidate is required to possess a particular profession, income, educational credential, religion, political belief, cultural background, or gender identity. The relevant questions are character, consistency, contribution, openness to growth, and commitment.

2. Candidate Qualities

Integrity in ordinary conduct.

Respect for people across different backgrounds and positions.

Reliability and follow-through.

A demonstrated commitment to a meaningful pursuit, craft, responsibility, or direction in life.

Curiosity and willingness to learn.

Ability to receive constructive feedback with maturity and good faith.

Willingness to contribute time and effort.

Interest in service beyond personal advancement.

Discretion with legitimate personal confidences.

A pattern of conduct compatible with the Six Pillars.

3. Path to Membership

Stage I - Introduction

A prospective candidate becomes familiar with the Society through open or invited activities. No promise of membership is made.

Stage II - Participation

The individual attends enough activities for members to observe reliability, interpersonal conduct, curiosity, contribution, and alignment with the Society's culture.

Stage III - Sponsorship

An eligible member may sponsor the individual. Sponsorship means the member is willing to explain why the candidate merits consideration and to assist the candidate in understanding the Society's standards and expectations.

Stage IV - Candidacy

The Membership Chair provides the Charter, this Code, expectations, and a defined candidacy period. Candidates should complete meaningful service, attend educational sessions, meet members, and reflect on how they intend to contribute.

Stage V - Evaluation

The candidate receives a fair evaluation based on observed conduct rather than popularity. Concerns should be specific enough to assess and should not rely on discriminatory assumptions or irrelevant status markers.

Stage VI - Admission

A successful candidate is admitted through the voting process established by the Bylaws and participates in a formal induction.

4. What Candidacy Is Not

Candidacy is not a test of obedience. It shall never involve hazing, humiliation, sleep deprivation, threats, forced consumption, physical punishment, degrading tasks, harassment, coercive secrecy, or dangerous conduct.

A meaningful candidate process should derive its rigor from punctuality, preparation, service, reflection, consistency, learning, and contribution.

5. Induction

Induction should be formal, calm, dignified, and meaningful. Its purpose is to mark the transition from candidate to member and to make the member's commitments explicit.

- Presentation of the Society's history and founding purpose.

- Reflection on the Six Pillars.

- Recognition of the candidate's completed service and candidacy.

- Reading or affirmation of the Member's Commitment.

- Formal welcome by existing members.

- Presentation of an approved membership symbol, if adopted.

- Entry of the member into the historical register.

6. Member Expectations

Members are expected to participate consistently rather than perfectly. Life circumstances change, but prolonged disengagement without communication is inconsistent with active membership.

- Attend core meetings and traditions when reasonably able.

- Contribute to service initiatives.

- Support fellow members in good faith.

- Fulfill applicable membership dues or an approved hardship arrangement.

- Protect legitimate confidential information.

- Avoid conduct that exploits the Society for personal sales, status, or influence.

- Participate in accountability and development activities.

- Represent the Society accurately and responsibly.

7. Accountability

Accountability should normally begin privately and proportionately. The purpose is correction, learning, and protection of standards - not humiliation. Serious matters may require formal procedures under the Bylaws.

Accountability shall address conduct while preserving the dignity of the individual.

8. Fellowship

Fellowship is built through repeated acts of reliability. Members should make time for one another beyond formal meetings, share useful knowledge, celebrate milestones, offer practical assistance during hardship, and create room for honest conversation.

The Society should avoid creating an inner social hierarchy in which popularity becomes more important than contribution or character.

9. Service

Each member should contribute meaningfully to Society service. The exact form may vary according to ability, schedule, resources, and life circumstances. Service should prioritize meaningful community benefit over publicity, recognition, or merely symbolic participation.

10. Member Development

The Society should provide opportunities for members to grow in areas such as leadership, communication, financial literacy, practical skills, civic understanding, mentorship, professional development, health and recreation, arts and culture, and intellectual discussion.

Members may periodically establish personal goals and meet in small accountability circles. Such goals remain the member's own; the Society should encourage progress without intruding unnecessarily into private life.

11. Traditions

Founders' Day

An annual observance of the Society's founding in Calgary, its history, and the responsibilities inherited by current members.

Annual Assembly and Dinner

A formal gathering combining institutional business, fellowship, recognition, reflection, and the President's annual address.

Annual Service Initiative

At least one substantial recurring initiative intended to create tangible community benefit.

The President's Address

An annual report on the condition of the Society: membership, finances, service, achievements, challenges, and priorities.

The Historical Register

A permanent record of founding documents, officers, members, major initiatives, awards, significant milestones, and authorized photographs or correspondence.

12. Recognition

Recognition should reinforce the Society's values rather than reward popularity or social standing. Recognition may be established for service, mentorship, achievement, fellowship, stewardship, or exceptional demonstration of the Six Pillars.

13. The Crest

The heraldic crest is the principal visual emblem of The Praxis Society. The mountain form acknowledges the Society's Calgary origin and the idea of purposeful ascent. The compass represents orientation by principle. The column represents discipline and enduring structure. The book represents learning and growth. The tree represents service, rooted character, and development over time. The path through the mountains represents achievement as a continuing journey. The group of people represents fellowship. The surrounding branches represent honour earned through conduct and service.

The crest should be used consistently and respectfully on formal documents, approved apparel, member materials, ceremonial objects, and official communications. It should not be altered casually, used to imply endorsement without authorization, or used in a manner inconsistent with the dignity or reputation of the Society.

14. Motto

The motto of The Praxis Society is "Principles in Action." It is the plain-language expression of the name Praxis and reminds members that values become meaningful only when translated into conduct.

15. Colours

The founding visual palette is deep navy, forest green, muted gold, warm cream, and neutral grey. Formal specifications may later be adopted for print and digital consistency.

16. Symbols and Member Items

The Society may authorize an official seal, lapel pin, membership card, formal stationery, ceremonial book, apparel, or other member items. Possession of a Society symbol or item does not establish membership or confer governance authority.

17. Confidentiality

Members should protect personal information shared in legitimate confidence. Confidentiality does not extend to concealing abuse, threats, illegal activity, financial misconduct, harassment, hazing, or other serious wrongdoing.

18. Conduct at Events

Members and guests shall be treated with dignity. Society events shall be safe, lawful, inclusive, and consistent with the Charter, Bylaws, and this Code. No person may be pressured to consume alcohol, cannabis, or another intoxicating substance as a condition of participation, candidacy, fellowship, or induction. Society events involving minors shall be substance-free.

19. Leaving the Society

A member may resign. Voluntary resignation shall be distinguished from suspension, expulsion, or other disciplinary removal. Former members must not represent themselves as current members or use Society authority after membership ends.

20. The Member's Commitment

- I will seek achievement without sacrificing character.
- I will support fellow members without blindly defending wrongdoing.
- I will accept accountability before demanding it from others.
- I will serve without requiring recognition.
- I will respect people whose backgrounds and beliefs differ from mine.
- I will continue to learn, improve, and contribute.
- I will remember that membership represents responsibility rather than status.
- I will put principles into action.

21. Cultural Test

Before creating a new tradition, requirement, award, or membership practice, leaders should ask: Does this express one of the Six Pillars? Does it strengthen genuine fellowship? Could the Society explain and defend the practice publicly? Is it safe and dignified? Would it still make sense fifty years from now? If not, it should not become part of Praxis culture.

Temperance, Self-Command and Freedom from Addiction

Praxis holds that personal freedom is strengthened by self-command. Members of legal age may participate in lawful social settings, but they are expected to know their limits and maintain judgment, dignity, safety, reliability, and respect regardless of what is available around them.

Alcohol

Lawful alcohol consumption is permitted. Abstinence is equally respected. No Society activity, induction, celebration, or tradition may pressure anyone to drink. A member who chooses to drink remains responsible for their conduct.

Cannabis

Lawful cannabis use is not prohibited when used in moderation and when it does not materially interfere with responsibilities, judgment, safety, reliability, conduct, or commitments. Members must follow applicable law and venue rules. Any Society function may be designated substance-free.

Hard Drugs and Illegal Substances

Possession, distribution, promotion, or use of illegal hard drugs at Society activities constitutes serious misconduct. Legitimate medication used lawfully and appropriately is outside this prohibition.

Addiction and Fellowship

Praxis shall neither romanticize addiction nor shame a person for acknowledging a problem. Members should encourage responsible help, recovery, accountability, and healthier behaviour. Supporting a member does not require enabling conduct that harms the member, other people, or the Society.

Decorum

The practical standard is self-command. Members should be capable of entering an environment where alcohol or other lawful substances are present without feeling compelled to participate and without allowing participation to compromise their behaviour.

The standard is not merely whether something is permitted. The standard is whether a member remains in command of themselves.

Annual Membership Dues

Annual membership dues are initially set at \$50 CAD and may be adjusted in accordance with the Bylaws. Dues support the Society and may fund the official Praxis pin, approved merchandise, membership materials, administration, events, and service initiatives.

Payment does not buy membership. Admission must be earned through the Society's standards and process. Financial hardship may be addressed through confidential arrangements approved under the Bylaws.

The Praxis Pin

A member in good standing may receive or wear an official Praxis pin bearing the approved crest or insignia. The pin is a symbol of membership and of the commitments voluntarily accepted by its wearer; it is not merely promotional merchandise.

I am a member of The Praxis Society. I have accepted its standard. My conduct should justify the symbol I wear.