

TGC: Torah Gated Community (ver 2)

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Introduction

I, John Marsing, Beit Din of Living Messiah Ministries (LMM) was given the task of putting down on paper what a Torah Gated Community would look like for the benefit of LMM and their members. This document is my attempt at completing this task. This is a topic I’m passionate about and I’ve talked a lot about this over the years and even written about it specifically.^A For the task that I have been given and with new ideas that I have acquired, I have come to understand that an update of this document seemed appropriate.

I don’t want this document to get bogged down too much on terminology and rules of our TGC, I would rather the body of the document be about scenarios so that in the future we can reference specific scenarios and ask “what if” type questions.

Although these ideas are mine and will be useful as a starting document, it will surely evolve with the direction of the Living Messiah leadership on how to best proceed with the creation of a TGC.

Torah Gated Community defined.

“A physical place where Torah observant people can come together and live based on their strongly held religious beliefs and convictions with an emphasis on self reliance and self governance.”^B

^A See Torah-Gated-Community.pdf article #375.

^B <https://livingmessiah.com/BiblicalPermaculture>

Motivation for a TGC:

As much as we in the Hebrew Roots movement are trying to do that which is righteous, the reality is there is a lot of room for improvement. Fully taking on the destiny of Ephraim Redeemed is the motivation and to seek to live a more abundant and blessed life.

Target Audience:

Just like it's imperative to know who the target audience is of Yeshuah's salvation, it's important to know who the target audience is for this document. First and foremost it's for the Leadership of LMM as they are the ones to draft and finalize it. Other's would include *like minded investors*, people of faith who don't see things how we at LMM see them. Another group could be people that are greatly concerned about the degradation of the world that we live in (e.g. practitioners of permaculture).

Things to Keep in Mind

As we have attempted in the past to wrap our heads around how to accomplish this task, I thought it would be useful to jot down some points to keep in mind.

1. **Don't let Perfect be the Enemy of Good:** It took America along time to forget how to be sovereign so as we try to not only get back to that place but, even do better than our fore fathers; therefore we need to recognize that it's going to take time be "perfect", even multiple generations.
2. **Don't let hypothetical's cripple the work that needs to get done.** It's good to have scenarios to give LMM leadership an idea that they can walk through in their mind and thereby "wrap their collective hands around" about what's trying to be accomplished. For scenarios that do come about that the elders have not figure out yet, we can with the help of YHVH, deal with those situations when they arrive. Some of the best problems to solve are the ones that solve themselves. Sometimes a measure of time is all that the problem needed to get fixed.
3. **Use Sukkot as our model.** Think about how we would handle problems at Sukkot.
4. **Legal assumptions.** Do not assume that the default definitions for things described in this article are what the public is used to and assume they know the meaning. Further it's in error to assume the full knowledge of legal terms and concepts without regard to context and a recognition that there's a distinction between public and private / religious. I will try to point this these things out, but it might be useful to have "Marsings-Rules-and-Key-Definitions", article #[500](#) available as reference document. ToDo: Review that document in light of this document

Investment Scenarios

Note: you need to view these scenarios over time i.e. some scenarios are dependent on other ones. The rules that LMM applied to their TGC will probably be adjusted as the process matures.

1. LMM finds an initial piece of property to invest in

Strategy: Rather than spending all of LMM's capital on acquiring a piece of property, one strategy is to partner with like minded people that if pooled together would allow for a sizable property. The title to the property will be held in a privately created trust (let's call it LMM Farm#1) with the LMM Elder's being the Trustees. Like minded private investors will transfer their money amount into the trust. In exchange these investors will be given a certificates apportioned to the amount of the investment (Trust Certificate Units TCU's).

Example Scenario: Some farmer in the out skirts of Phoenix metro has a 160 acre piece of property (¼ section of land) that had had a typical center pivot irrigation on it but is now abandoned. Let's assume it abandoned because that farming technique isn't working any more. LMM Inc.^C comes along and makes a proposal to invest in the property because we think we can make that property productive by leveraging Biblical Permaculture Principles.^D

Because the property is useless to the farmer and hopefully this person is sympathetic to what we're trying to accomplish, he may give us very favorable terms. Let's say the deal is a lease with the option to buy over a period of time (e.g. 5 years). Over that time LMM Farms is obligated to meet some benchmarks and if they don't then the land is given back to the farmer thereby ensuring him to give us a very low initial payment, while encouraging LMM to get serious about this process.

Evaluation: If things start to go well and the consensus amongst LMM Elders that this was a wise and productive investment LMM Farms can start investing some infrastructure.

Continuing with the scenario. So we get to the end of the lease and the LMM Elders decides to exercise the right to buy the property and make it a TGC. How would this happen? Don't know? Maybe we pay him off with TCU's

^C LMM Inc. is the legal entity that holds property for LMM. The goal is to create a Torah Gated Community (let's call it LMM Farms TGC just to give it a name), but at this point in the timeline the formation of the LMM Farms TGC doesn't exist (at least not at any significant level). A TGC needs a physical place and if it works out that this LMM Farm#1 is the place then "meat can be put on the bone", see the next scenario for details.

^D See references at https://livingmessiah.com/BiblicalPermaculture_pdf.

2. LMM starts a TGC and Creating God's Economy^E

Before spending time worrying about the minutia of how the TGC will operate, you have to get past the first scenario. If we can't find a reasonable property or if we just realize we can't stand being in a rural area trying to be like a community of homesteaders there's no point in working out the governance of a TGC.

One of the other thresholds that would have to be met to get to step 2 is that we are producing something of value. If you can't live off the land in question without, to a large degree, being dependent on what the city life has to offer, then it's success is questionable.

Having said that though I will try my best to think up some possible scenarios.

Scenario 2 Description:

Things are going well on the LMM Farm, a high level "main frame" permaculture design has been sought out by competent designers. Swells have been put in place to capture run off from nearby arroyo's, natural trees and plants mixed in with commercially viable plants are strategically planted. Water is being slowed down, spread out and soaked into the top soil exactly where the plants need them. We are on our way to regenerate the desert land to being a thriving food forest as we have nitrogen fixing plants and mulch from the native plants to help support the money crops.

If the hypothetical land once had a Center Pivot maybe there is access to ground water that can be used initially to get the whole system starting. Maybe there's access to nearby carbon that can be brought into to allow the top soil to be much cooler and conducive to the microbes that are the life of the top soil.

Future Headline:

A large scale demonstration farm that is "Greening the Desert" by implementing "Biblical Permaculture" can be located on the outskirts of metro Phoenix AZ. Come and visit and be amazed!

Looking ahead

The point I'm making in describing the scenario above is so that we can be forward thinking and be the makers of our own destiny by allowing the opportunities to come to fruition. It takes wisdom and discernment to leverage these things and faith that they will become available. By putting in the work we can see even more growth and more blessings. We will be creating memories that future generations will hopefully and prayerfully want to honor, respect and want to emulate.

Further Investing and Enterprise Stacking^F

If you have plants that are flourishing, permaculture practices suggest strongly that you need to graze them with ruminant type animals. So how do we do this? Do we find someone who has a flock of sheep that could be placed on the land temporarily. How would we pay for this or can they be one of our like minded investors? In a similar manner, maybe we can drum up business by

^E See "**Economy of God**, ^{G3622} *oikonomia*, ^{G3623} *oikonomos*, dispensation, steward", article #[153](#).

^F This term comes from a talk by Joel Salatin who describes how you can stack profit centers on top of the land. You don't necessarily have to spread out to expand your farm, you can expand up.

having someone creating an enterprise of following the sheep (or whatever) with chickens in a symbiotic way, thereby raising and selling pastured raised eggs and chickens.

Another enterprise could be to create and sell high quality fungal dominant compost. The bottom line is to do what makes sense in a timely matter and take the steps to make LMM Farms more and more vibrant and overcoming why the land failed in the first place.

3. Growth of the TGC and long term goals

For me the shift of governance from the secular world to a religious based world (like a TGC) would be massive. In theory there would be very little left of the size of government in the secular world and correspondingly there would very little left of the public economy.

Membership / Citizenship / Classes of People

Accountability is a key aspect to TGC and you can't do accounting if you don't identify who the people are. For example, you can't enforce the rules of Sukkot if people don't register and identify themselves as willing participants

Classes of People

Citizenry: Just like in the bible, there are **sojourners** who live in the immediate vicinity of the self proclaimed children of Israel. The TGC recognizes that and different people will be dealt with according to their legal status. It's not a violation of the "respector of persons" prohibition, but a recognition that a citizenship is a class of people who are the core of the TGC and by taking on those extra responsibilities have privileges^G that the sojourners do not.^H It's not meant to keep sojourners as sojourners, but they themselves have to decide if they want to step up and be one of the citizenry. "My sheep hear my voice", implies that some are not (currently anyway) hearers of the word and the Good News / Gospel.

A further dividing line could be those who take up permanent residence inside the gates of the TGC and those who do not. Technically an elder of LMM might not actually live on the property but still choose to invest in it in some other way.

Investors: It makes sense to me that there needs to be a classification of investors just like there is for people. You could have like minded people who are viewed in the public as being a good citizen and with strong morals but are not willing (at least not yet) to identify as being a TGC citizen.

Other

- Tithes are not investments

^G I'm constraining this term to be limited to the private / religious jurisdiction.

^H A distinction might be that sojourners pay taxes but the children of Israel pay tithes.

- **Breaking up:**^I There will inevitably be situations where people get involved in the LMM Farm, but want to leave. The rule should be “we want to make it so that if people want to leave LMM Farms for whatever reason, it is easy and amicable to do so, but we also strive to make it even easier to want to stay”.

Basic Definitions^J

Basic understanding of law’s contracts / covenants is core and the weightier things to focus on. It needs to be understood that creating a TGC necessarily means creating a jurisdiction that members

Biblical Individual Retirement Accounts:^K

Biblical Investments / Biblical Banking / Biblical Accounting:

Biblical Permaculture

Biblical Credit Score Algorithm: effected by a member in good standing (tithing) for x number of years.

Unit Trusts: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zS_ClsPYvfi

Trust Certificate Unit:

Sovereignty: A group of people that can self govern. In the American jurisprudence, it can be defended by both the Declaration of Independence^L and the limitations placed on the secular government per the Constitution and it’s Bill of Rights. ToDo: list a test of things that, if you can’t do them, then you are not sovereign. Righteous Sovereignty is, in my mind a redundant statement...i.e. you can’t be sovereign if you’re not righteous (i.e. doing the Torah which defines what righteousness is) and you’re not truly righteous if you’re not sovereign. The American phrase “We the people” are sovereign because we 1 stated this claim, acted on it and with God’s help persevered. “We the people” also created a secular government (limited and decentralized) to handle things “in this world” separate and distinct from the church / ecclesia that was established, from the beginning, to handle things that not of this earthly world but of the heavenly world. Therefore the purpose of creating a TGC is to implement this Righteous Sovereignty.

^I ToDo: expand on this / rearrange it’s placement.

^J Important Note: In my definitions I frequently will use terms that most people would associate in a secular context. Just like how we understand the heavenly things by first understanding the earthly physical things, it must be understood that the heavenly things came first and we experience a copy of those things on earth.

My point is that this terms did not first come from the copy but the original. It’s unfortunate that we think this way, but this is where we’re at and I have to deal with people from that perspective. Therefore a lot of the terms listed have are prefaced with “Biblical” e.g. Biblical Investments or Biblical IRA. The onus should be on the secular world for qualification and the default terms should be from the original (heavenly realm) i.e. it should be Secular Investments or Secular IRA.

^K For background, see Mat-6-1-4-Alms-to-the-Poor-Left-Hand-not-Reonciled-to-the-Right, article #1497

^L See Declaration of Independence 2.0; <https://torahlawform.com/DeclarationOfIndependence>