

1. Membership: All members described herein have equal status within the institute except that a) associate members are not eligible to receive therapy referrals from the institute; b) the president and vice-president may only be held by full members or fellows; c) annual dues may be different for each category; d) full members and fellows are expected to make their affiliation with the institute as such known in all their professional activities.

2. Associates and Full Members: The institute is a teaching/learning community in which all of its members have mutual roles in promoting, developing, creating, and understanding Gestalt therapy. Within this membership, we recognize specific categories of membership so as to differentiate our individual developing capacities within our community.

a. An associate member is any person who joins the organization by paying its annual dues and staying current in all such dues payments.

b. A full member is an associate member who meets the following qualifications, based upon the criteria set forth in the Compendium, as determined by consensus at a business meeting and as further set forth below:

1. A person known to the fellows, full members, or associate members of the institute and who is also personally sponsored by a fellow or full member [who has] with direct knowledge of this person's;

2. A person who has shown commitment to and involvement with the NYIGT community in such a way as to have contributed to the on-going culture, values, process, and substance of the NYIGT's teaching/learning community. This can be reflected in committee participation, training, workshops, community development, and so long as it is exclusively a NYIGT undertaking

3. A person deemed to be thoroughly trained as a Gestalt therapist, with demonstrated competence in theory and practice;

4. A person who has given at least one presentation at a New York City monthly meeting of the NYIGT.

5. A person to whom others would and could send referrals with the confidence that the therapist could responsibly (a) treat that referral or (b) refer that person to someone else if he or she felt that he or she were not the best therapist for this referral;

6. A person who has had enough personal therapy to be “significantly contactful” with him or her self and others;

7. A person who has paid dues and is not in arrears;

8. A person who is not otherwise in conflict with the ethics of the institute;

9. A person who has asked no fewer than 3 full members or fellows of the institute including at least one current officer, to be his or her consultants in this process. These consultants shall be responsible for discussing this process with the person and assuring that this process is consistent with the values of the institute as a teaching/learning community. These consultants shall encourage this person to seek as wide a discussion of this matter as possible with members of the institute.

c. A person who wishes to become a full member shall initiate this request no later than 6 months prior to the business meeting in which this topic shall be considered by informing the president and secretary that he or she so wishes and is choosing or has chosen said consultants. The institute shall announce this in the next monthly minutes mailed or emailed to the membership. A person who initiates the process described herein may suspend the process without prejudice to resuming it at any other time.

d. Every member of the institute is encouraged to join this process by helping the candidate for full membership in whatever way deemed necessary and appropriate so as to assure that this process furthers the teaching/learning values of the institute.

e. The person wishing to become full member shall attend the final meeting that will make a decision, by consensus, on his or her request.

f. Nothing in this by-law shall be construed to be in conflict with any state law governing the credentialing of mental health professionals.

(Amended by consensus 1/14)

### 3. Fellow

A fellow is a distinguished member who, by being senior, skilled, published, and demonstrably expert, is a repository of the institute's traditions, history, and values. A fellow is: a person who has been actively involved in pursuing our values as a teaching/learning community with an inclusive process of fluid hierarchies of knowledge, experience, and innovation; a person who is conveying his or her expertise in gestalt therapy to others.

The word "hierarchy" is to be understood as a notion reflecting the developing culture and norms of the group as reflected in the Compendium.

A full member wishing to become a fellow shall express such wish no later than 1 year prior to the first business meeting in which such wish shall be considered. A person will become fellow after a consensus of 2 regular business meetings that he or she meets these requirements. (Amended by consensus )