

DHARMA COUNCIL MEETING

August 16, 2022

The purpose of the Dharma Council is to assist and advise the Abbot and Godo in determining matters of liturgy and teaching. The Dharma Council provides oversight and stewardship of Dharma presentation and practice at DRZC to support its core mission and values.

In Attendance: Gabe, Kengan, Sokuchū, Daikō, Jiko

Absent: Jyoshin, Enji, Christina

Location: Uji

Recorder: Gabe

Agenda

1. Tiny Meditation
2. 60-Second Check-in
3. Approved Minutes from prior meeting
4. Next Meeting Date: TBD - depending on need and member availability
5. Updates on action Items from previous meeting(s)
6. Topics for Today's Meeting:
 - a. Dharma Council New Shape
 - i. Reviewed Jiko's revised draft new mandate which incorporates suggestions from council members.
 - ii. Summary of main discussion points:
 1. Dharma Council candidates should have a mature practice with at least 2 years at DRZC.
 2. Unresolved conflicts among DC members, and/or misbehavior by DC members can be addressed by the Godo, the Abbot, the member's teacher, and/or the Ethics Council.
 3. The description of Dharma Council process (consensus decision-making, veto power of Godo and Abbot, resolution of disagreements etc...) found in the current mandate will be included in the new version.
 4. Specific areas of oversight for DC members will not be defined in the mandate in order to preserve flexibility.
 - iii. **Action Items:** Jiko will complete a revised draft of the mandate and distribute for DC review/approval. Goal is to submit to the board by early September.

- b. Dharma Council Comings, Goings, and Roles
 - i. Kengan, Gabe, Daiko, and Christina plan to continue on the council. Gabe will be stepping down as assistant Godo/council facilitator and Kengan will be taking on that role. Going forward, specific areas of oversight for new and continuing DC members can be determined/reviewed each year.
 - ii. **Action Item:** DC members will review the proposed DC positions/areas of oversight to determine how many new members it makes sense to recruit.

 - c. Evaluating proposed new Dharma programming
 - i. The DC previously endorsed a [List of questions to consider](#) when evaluating proposed new programming.
 - ii. Summary of main discussion points:
 - 1. Proposal:
 - a. Add a link to the questions on relevant agenda items for easy access.
 - b. The re-formed DC will have a point person for requests for new dharma programs
 - c. Applicants could be given an idea of what we need to make the decision - a summary of what topics and questions we need to consider - and/or be given an application form (dust off the old one?)
 - d. It could be helpful to clarify and communicate the ideal pathway for proposals to take within the organization.
 - iii. Decided: Once identified, the DC's point person for proposed new dharma programming can work on refining and coordinating this proposed process.

 - d. Corbett Sitting Group request
 - i. See 8/6/22 email from Daiko regarding DRZC potentially giving extra zendo "furnishings" to the Corbett Zendo.
 - ii. Decided: This is primarily a Kanin operational question vs. a DC decision. In the future, the affiliated group liaison will forward clearly operational requests directly to the Kanin and then report to the DC about it.
7. Recurring Monitoring Reports and Announcements
- a. Temple Officers:
 - i. Discussed zendo acoustics, will schedule consultation w/ acoustics engineer. In the meantime, more communication about availability of

hearing assist headsets, use of microphones for announcements, and continue to provide information in multiple ways

- ii. Discussed DC Mandate; Hope to have next level of detail on property update (houseless village) ready for fall sangha forum; DEI organizational reflection for leadership scheduled.
 - b. Dharma Rain Active Transmitted Teachers: No update
 - c. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: The DEI committee made an effective hand-off to the Board and Dharma Council for next steps following the DEI training for leaders. Upcoming: a summer Wednesday evening discussion and in the Fall (not Oct 22) a forum on DEI matters (coordinated to be held after the August 25 organization reflection on DEI for leadership in August). We have added optional pronouns on registration forms and received a request to (re-)establish an LGBTQ affinity group.
 - d. Affiliated Groups: no report
 - e. Other Reports/Announcements:
 - i. The DC is in support of Elizabeth Luthy and Zonnyo's proposed Engaged Buddhism Zoom discussion group.
 - ii. Report from Kengan on DC action for ethics booklet revision: Next follow up w/ ethics council will occur after start of fall term, after their new member training.
8. New Action Item Assignments and Deadlines
- a. Jiko will complete a revised draft of the mandate and distribute for DC review/approval. Goal is to submit to the board by early September.
 - b. DC members will review the proposed DC positions/areas of oversight to determine how many new members it makes sense to recruit.