

# DHARMA COUNCIL MEETING

September 22, 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, Enji, Sokuchū, Christina, Jiko

Absent: Daikō, Kengan, Jyōshin

Facilitator: Gabe

Location: Uji

Recorder: Enji

## Agenda

1. Tiny Meditation
2. 60-Second Check-in
3. Approved Minutes from prior meeting
4. Next Meeting Date: October 13, 2022
5. Updates on action Items from previous meeting(s):
  - 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. **Completed and approved by Board.**
  - b. DC members will review the proposed DC positions/areas of oversight to determine how many new members to recruit (see agenda topic C below)
6. Topics/Questions for Today's Meeting:
  - a. Is the Dharma Council in support of DRZC being a project partner with the "Everybody Reads" program next year?
    - i. Background: The Everybody Reads (Mult Co Library) book for next year is A Tale for the Time Being, and Dharma Rain has the opportunity to be a project partner and host a handful of events. Probably one talk/activity on Zen, Uji and it's relation to environment; One talk/discussion on grief and loss; One discussion group on the book, possibly with several members facilitating. One "how to have difficult conversations with your teen" workshop. Details are nonexistent at this point.
    - ii. Decided: We're happy for DRZC to participate. Jiko has been asked to do a talk. **Action Item:** Gabe will communicate the DC's approval of participation in the "Everybody Reads" program to Kakumyo.
  - b. What would we like to communicate at the Sangha Forum on 10/16/22?

- i. Background: We will likely have 5 minutes or so to present. Some potential topics discussed during our last meeting: explaining what we make decisions about and how to connect with us; explaining mandate revisions and changes in council membership; letting folks know that we are looking for new members.
  - ii. Decided: We will mainly want to emphasize that DC membership has new criteria, newer folks are eligible, and we are looking for new members. We can give highlights on mandate changes, and have a handout of the new mandate available.
  
- c. Council size and member roles: What council positions/areas of oversight interest current members? How many new members should we recruit?
  - i. Background: An assignment from last meeting was to review the proposed DC positions to help determine how many new members it makes sense to recruit. Continuing members include Jiko (not an official member, as Godo is in an oversight position when Asst. Godo is leading the council), Kengan, Gabe, Daiko, Christina, and Jyoshin.
  - ii. Summary of main discussion points: Sokuchu created a DC composition chart to help guide recruitment and fulfill the new mandate's ideal of a council that is representative of the sangha as a whole (newer members and seniors, residents and non-residents etc...). We have 3 slots to fill. If we want to maximize a diverse mix of sangha members, we will likely try to fill all 3. It is a valuable experience for people at certain stages in training to participate on councils. This can also inform recruitment.

## 7. Recurring Monitoring Reports and Announcements

- a. Temple Officers:
  - New temple officer position - Zonnyo Riger, Shika. In charge of hospitality, communications
  - Discussion exploring possible actions integrating new members (encourage sanzen, practice positions, work practice events; reminders of existing paths; bring back Sunday lunches, etc.). To be continued.
- b. Dharma Rain Active Transmitted Teachers:
  - Discussion about remaining welcoming to entire sangha across the spectrum of opinions & reactions to DEI
- c. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: wrapping up A2W, working on re-writing the registration forms with an equity lens and adding consistency. Soon will consider a request for an LGBTQ affinity group and forward to the Dharma Council.
- d. Affiliated Groups: Daiko sent an inquiry email to the affiliated groups regarding their DEI efforts, strategies, and challenges. So far, there have been no responses. The Corbett sitting group, now known as Flowing Field, is up and

running. Daiko emailed Sosetsu to ask if he was ready to list Flowing Field on the DRZC website as an Affiliated Group. No response as of yet.

8. Action Item Assignments and Deadlines

- a. Future discussion topic: explore changing of language we use - how it should occur and be communicated - including a general discussion about the significance of traditional language (example replacing “guestmaster” with “greeter” loses much of the broader aspects of that temple role.)
- b. Gabe will communicate the DC’s approval of participation in the “Everybody Reads” program to Kakumyo