

Emerging Sangha Leaders Training:

A residential training for senior practitioners and novice teachers.

March 7th - March 17th, 2024

Hosted by Dharma Rain Zen Center
Portland, Oregon

Emerging Sangha Leadership Training is an interactive residential retreat for developing the many qualities an effective sangha leader needs. Participants will improve their ability to navigate institutional and social challenges in their practice environment and present and demonstrate Dharma more effectively and reliably.

This training is intended for those who are emerging as leaders and teachers in their communities. Both monastic and lay leaders are welcome, although no formal authorization to teach is required. This retreat is appropriate for people who are in discernment about leadership roles; are newly transmitted; or moving toward authorization; have new responsibilities in their communities; and those who may be navigating the complex emotions of a change in rank and role within the sangha.

Teaching formats will include lectures, communal activities, coached practice, guided discussions, skill-based experiential exercises and traditional Zen monastic forms. The retreat will be a collaborative and engaging learning environment that leverages the wisdom and strengths of the group. We will blend significant formal, silent practice with three structured group sessions most days, with some informal opportunities to enjoy camaraderie, Portland, and the surrounding area. The specific capacities and interests of the group will help direct the content of discussions. Morning sessions will tend to be dharmic in content, (eg., presenting dharma talks, forms, inquiry, sanzen/dokusan, ritual, spiritual crisis). Afternoon sessions will tend to draw from interpersonal, administrative, and academic topic areas (eg., ethics in sangha relationships, temple administration, outreach to specific populations, models of transformation, self-care and peer support). It is an intensive, immersive experience. This training is offered every other year. The inclusion of participants from a variety of sects, lineages and states has contributed a productive diversity of experience to the event.

Dharma Rain has 50 years of spiritual and institutional maturation as a sangha, and is led by several monastic and lay teachers. Dharma Rain maintains a full daily schedule and a diverse

array of successful programs, including residential, monastic, seminary and children's programs. Dharma Rain teachers have been involved with SZBA, AZTA, and LZTA activities over the last 25 years.

Objectives for the retreat are that:

- 1) Participants will express a sense of increased confidence in and understanding of their position as a leader in Sangha.
- 2) Participants will learn to reliably assess and intervene in situations involving potential ethical vulnerabilities, boundary transgressions, and interpersonal conflicts in their home Sangha.
- 3) Participants will gain a broader knowledge, skill base, and trusted contacts to draw on in navigating dharmic and ethical challenges.

Standard Daily Schedule:

5:30 - 9:00 Zazen, service, soji, oryoki breakfast (silent)

9:00 -9:30 Flex

9:30-11:30 Session 1

11:30-12:30 Zazen

12:30 -1:15 Lunch (informal)

1:30 - 2:30 Break

2:30 - 4:30 Session 2

4:30 - 5:30 Flex

5:30 - 6:15 Dinner (family-style)

7:00 - 9:ish Session 3

Attendance is limited to 15 participants, with a faculty of three full-time teachers, several full-time support staff, and numerous part-time guest teachers. Participation is open to potential or novice teachers or leaders of any Buddhist tradition, ordained or not, with permission from one's primary teacher. Simple accommodations and vegetarian meals are provided. Registration fee is \$1,100 (early-bird price if registered by Dec 31st 2023, \$1,200 after Dec 31st). Limited scholarships are available. Please contact Kakumyo with further questions

(kakumyo@dharma-rain.org).