

# DHARMA COUNCIL MEETING

October 10, 2024

*The Dharma Council provides oversight and stewardship of Dharma presentation and practice at DRZC to support its core mission and values.*

In Attendance: Myo'i, Jiko, Daikō, Christina, Sanin, Ko'in, Gabe

Absent: Jyōshin

Facilitator: Daiko

Location: Uji

Recorder: Gabe

## Agenda

1. Tiny Meditation
2. 60-Second Check-in
3. Approved Minutes from prior meeting
4. Next Meeting Date: November 14, 2024
5. Updates on action Items from previous meeting(s):
  - a. Daiko will coordinate with Tshuho and Daigai re: speaking at the Sangha Forum. (Jiko has already spoken with Tshuho and he is happy to speak) **Daiko communicated with Daigai, and we decided that since Dharma Council 's time is so limited at the Sangha Forum, he agreed to make more frequent announcements during the Sangha Circle about the Sangha Council, and encourage people who are looking for volunteer opportunities or who have questions to talk with him.**
  - b. Daiko will talk with Genko about how many of the smaller print (current) chant books are still uncirculated and maybe sell/distribute the remaining so the new larger print books can be ordered. **Genko reports that we have 98 copies of the 2020 chant book, and 72 of the 2012 chant book. That does not include the books that are in the Zendo now - about 75. We use outdated ones to distribute to the prisons and affiliated groups as needed. Next steps? Evidently there are some edits that need to be made. Action Item: Jiko will talk with the Kanin about whether or not we can go ahead and print a smaller number of books, and follow up on correcting misprints in the universal gateway chapter.**
  - c. Daiko will continue pursuing the topic of how we might have a better process with selecting team leads, how long they should serve, etc. **This is mainly a Sangha council area of operation in coordination with Daigai.**
  - d. For Dharma Cloud Day planning, Daiko will talk to Shin'yu and Sosetsu about who will be the lead DRZC teacher for the planning committee. **Daiko emailed both of them. Shin'yu doesn't think she is the right person- she has only**

been to one Dharma Cloud Day, and doesn't really remember what happened. Sosetsu is going to be one of the organizers for the LZTA conference, which is happening right around that time. Daiko thinks this should go to DRATT to figure out. Ko'in is willing to be the point person for coordinating this event.

- e. Jiko will take lead and discuss with DRATT the process of assigning teachers for the beginners day retreat and leads for Zazenkai so we won't have those assignments slip through the cracks. **Affirmed**
- f. Christina will focus on talking to stakeholders (Dharma Garden Council, Tanto, Abbot, Sacristy Team Lead) to develop plan for the next Wesak ceremony. **The proposal from the Dharma Garden Council is to have the ceremony during Dharma talk time, to make the ceremony shorter with a form change and making the Heart Sutra shorter. Decided: There don't seem to be objections, so we will try it.**
- g. Myo'i will file/archive the recently approved cohort proposal forms and class forms. **Done**
- h. Myo'i will mention the possibility of having a workshop on dharma and money during Sangha Forum and will request input, i.e.level of interest, from Sangha members.
- i. Myo'i will follow through with making sure that the newly starting cohort groups, Zen and the art of Psychotherapy and the Poetry Cohort get "advertised" in the e-bulletin. **Done**
- j. San'in will report on results of processing the evals from the Precept Class Series (and any other evals) for our next meeting. **Evals received were processed - see link above.**

6. Questions/Topics for Today's Meeting:

- a. Adopting Equity Lens for Dharma Council Decisions (Christina)
  - i. *Background:* the Board has adopted the following questions as an equity lens:
    1. Have we heard from everyone we need to hear from? Are we providing / making room for people who don't have a voice?
    2. Who does this impact? How? Is there a disparate impact?
    3. Is this decision consistent with the mission and values of DRZC?
    4. Do we need to communicate this decision with the sangha?
    5. How are we integrating feedback?
    6. Will the Dharma Council also adopt this equity lens into our decision making process?
  - ii. *Decided:* The DC will integrate use of the equity lens and add a prompt in the agenda template.
  - iii. **Action Item(s): Gabe will add links to the equity lens questions into the agenda template.**

- b. Recruiting new members for Dharma Council to start in January 2025.
    - i. *Summary of main discussion points:* A number of suggested candidates were discussed with an eye to keeping a council membership that is balanced/diverse in terms of age, experience, gender, resident vs. non-resident, etc... Candidates must have been at DRZC for 3 years.
    - ii. **Action Item(s): Jiko and Daiko will invite a number of candidates approved by the DC and the abbot to join the Dharma Council.**
  
  - c. Health of the Sangha - any observations? (standing agenda item) **No new observations of note.**
7. Recurring Monitoring Reports and Announcements
- a. Temple Officers: Has not met since our last meeting. Next meeting is 10/22
  - b. Dharma Rain Active Transmitted Teachers: Multiple folks moving towards lay discipleship.
  - c. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: No report.
  - d. Affiliated Groups: No report.
  - e. Other Reports/Announcements: There will be another pilgrimage next summer!
8. Action Item Assignments
- a. **Jiko will talk with the Kanin about whether or not we can go ahead and print a smaller number of books, and follow up on correcting misprints in universal gateway chapter.**
  - b. **Gabe will add links to the equity lens questions into the agenda template.**
  - c. **Jiko and Daiko will invite a number of candidates approved by the DC and the abbot to join the Dharma Council.**