

# DHARMA COUNCIL MEETING

March 10, 2022, 7:00pm

*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, Enji, Sokuchū, Daikō, Christina, Jyōshin, Jiko

Facilitator: Gabe

Location: Zoom

Recorder: Enji

## Minutes

1. Approved Minutes from prior meeting
2. Next Meeting Date: Apr 7, 2022 (1st Thurs instead of 2nd due to Denko).
3. *Topics and Decisions from Today's Meeting:*
  - a. The DC approves moving forward with Kakumyo's proposed October 8/9 event with Byakuren Ragir
    - i. **Action item:** Gabe will communicate DC approval to Kakumyo and appropriate staff.
  - b. The DC agrees to be the primary group accountable for coordinating review of DRZC liturgy and update of language with equity lens.
    - i. *Summary of main discussion points:* Point person can decide how to organize the work. DRATT and Elders Council will likely want to give input.
    - ii. **Action Item:** Sokuchu will be the point person and make a draft plan for the work. Jiko and Jyoshin are happy to be involved.
  - c. Creative Ideas for the spring Sangha Forum (4/10/22)
    - i. *Summary of main discussion points:* It is in person and on zoom. We could start with a light-hearted quiz to focus attention on questions related to the agenda. At the end, attendees can look back at the quiz. In the past, presenters talking at the audience has made it a one way conversation. Sokuchu has more techniques that can be used to encourage participation that can be drawn from in the future. A question to pose at the forum: how to come back together post-Covid?

- ii. **Action item:** *Gabe will check with the other potential presenters and prepare the agenda. Gabe and Sokuchu will then work together on the quiz.*
  
- d. Summer social event planning.
  - i. **Background:** Temple Officers agreed that DRZC would hold 2 social events this summer! Already, there will be camp day and Three Robes Retreat in June. Ideas: Perhaps one big thing in mid to late July. BBQ, games would be nice. Ice cream bar or taco bar? Board is doing a fundraiser in May, and does not want to do an in person fundraiser day. Zonnyo will be back at the end of May and as a resident could be available to help.
  - ii. **Action Item:** Daiko will work on planning a sangha social gathering in July, and coordinate with staff..
  
- e. Discussion on why so few seniors are attending sesshin.
  - i. **Brief context, situation, or issue:** Sesshins are largely attended by newer members and residents, with seniors coming for a few days or part of the day. It may simply reflect that seniors are generally older members who have done sesshins already, and may opt to avoid the physical demands.
  - ii. **Summary of main discussion points:**
    1. Having seniors present to help with ceremonies and witness new preceptees is valuable;
    2. Outdoor meals and lack of comfortable sleeping arrangements may deter participation;
    3. People don't have much space in dorms, nor privacy, and rooms have multiple uses;
    4. It could be helpful to have a good rest area, a place to go if not staying overnight;
    5. There's often no place to sit in the dining room;
    6. Investing in comfortable furniture is of benefit to the *sangha*.
    7. Idea: To get more seniors involved again, seniors could be invited to lead a single topic study series or something simpler, like small hosted potlucks?
  - iii. **Action Item:** Jiko will write up a proposal outlining the need for adequate spaces for rest and study during sesshin, comfortable furniture etc.... and pass it on to the Kanin.

#### 4. Recurring Monitoring Reports and Announcements

- a. Temple Officers: Kakumyo's Zoom proposal from June 2021 was reviewed, and future implementation of some of its elements was discussed.
- b. Dharma Rain Active Transmitted Teachers: No update
- c. Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: DEI training for temple leaders is underway. Two of the three sessions are complete. The Committee is working on its communications planning.
  - i. **Action Item:** Affiliated Groups: DEI will share possible questions with Daiko to learn about affiliated groups' DEI work.

#### 5. Action Item Assignments and Deadlines

- a. Gabe will communicate DC approval of October Byakuren Ragir event with Kakumyo and appropriate staff
- b. Sokuchu will function as point person for reviewing liturgy with equity lens and make a draft plan for the work.
- c. Gabe and Sokuchu will work on Sangha Forum prep (agenda, quiz etc...)
- d. Daiko will work on planning a sangha social gathering in July, and coordinate with staff.
- e. Jiko will write up a proposal outlining the need for adequate spaces for rest and study during sesshin, comfortable furniture etc...., and pass it on to the Kanin.
- f. Sokuchu will share draft for Wednesday Class evaluation form.
- g. Sokuchu will connect with Jiko to share ideas about the role of a point person for the DEI assignments.

#### 6. Check Out