

LC Meeting Minutes 11/08/15

Present: Chuso, Hoshi, Jun'nyo, Kinko, Shinyu, Zusei, Rinsen, Do'on

Chuso called the meeting to order.

We discussed the 2016 budget including Sesshin. We continue to work to understand what our true operating budget is including the many last-minute in-kind donations that have come in to cover big and small items, from paper towels that appear at the temple, to postage for large mailings. We will include in the annual membership mailing in January an accurate budget that includes all of our expected operating costs. We are currently \$10,800 in deficit this year and are looking for ways to make that clear to the Sangha so we can hopefully close the gap as soon as possible. We talked about how all members will be needed to support all areas of our programs, because even folks who have not yet attended Sesshin benefit from the trainings that happen there as it shows up in weekly services. Leadership Council voted unanimously to fold Sesshin fees into membership collection for 2016, and will continue to work to communicate to the Sangha the importance of supporting the entire program. Jukai and Shoken will still involve an additional participation fee, but otherwise members will not be asked to pay a separate fee for Sesshin. We are excited to continue to move towards sustainability and have come a long way in the last few years, even as we still face a deficit now.

The membership drive in January will ask all members to make their annual agreement to uphold the Sangha Covenant and we will ask them to revisit their pledge amounts based on the 2016 operating budget, which will also be itemized in the mailing. It will also include an annual report/newsletter. Members will be given Temple bumper stickers after the membership drive is complete, and there will be a member book-signing ceremony at that time. LC members will each brainstorm two ideas to recruit more new visitors to the Temple, which we will discuss at our next meeting.

Shinyu is continuing to develop a "Sangha Circles" plan, which will be rolled out for Spring Anko. The idea is for smaller groups in the Sangha to meet geographically or by affinity and after a discussion together engage in a social activity.

The calendar on the Temple web site now includes all of the important dates for 2016, including Jukai, Shoken and all Sesshins. Early signups are encouraged and those who can schedule by the year are able to indicate intention to attend any or all 2016 retreats. Registration for all 2016 retreats is open on Google Drive now.

Jun'nyo and Zusei will develop a flyer for those interested in Jukai.

A guideline is under way for relationships within the Sangha.

Zusei has offered to buy 25 copies of our liturgy book to replace those lost to water damage during Jukai Sesshin while Guardian Council works to create a new version.

The Reverends shared an issue they have been sitting with on which no ideal solution has yet formed. The retreat space at the farm can only serve a maximum of 20 participants at a time. The bathroom and changing facilities are inadequate. It's unclear whether zoning would permit them to expand retreat space at that site. They want to offer Sesshin at their home and not the Temple for reasons that involve both a long history of such a practice in our tradition, as well as being better for the Weik family personally to be at their home throughout so many retreat days during each year. A retreat center replacing the barn may not work with current zoning and neighbor objections, and since we are having so much trouble covering operating expenses, there is doubt that we could raise the kind of funds needed. An expansion could be built on the house for less money, but the previously mentioned challenges still apply. They could potentially move to a large home in the Old West End or Perrysburg, but zoning could again be an obstacle, costs are unknown and having enough space could still be an issue. If they had a better retreat space that was more conveniently located, they could also offer daily sitting in the mornings. Short-term solutions could include insulating the garage-do and creating a separate changing room downstairs somewhere. Conversations on this will continue, but the Reverends wanted to make sure the entire Sangha understands that something will need to happen and that there are two paths under consideration at the moment, and neither is a perfect solution.

Leadership Council meets on the second Sunday of each month. Next meeting: December 13. The focus of the meeting will be marketing and recruitment.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jun'nyo.