

May 29, 2014

RE: Dharma Sharing Group: Dharma Teachers

Dear CCC.

This summarizes our recommendations to the Sangha for inclusion in CCC minutes.

At the request of the 2013 Annual Meeting, a Dharma Sharing Group convened twice (February and May 2104) to reflect on the role of a Dharma teacher and student both in Sangha building and furthering our practice as members of Laughing Rivers Sangha.

We bow deeply to Thay as our primary teacher and respect his choices in offering Dharma teacher lamp transmission to friends in the practice. They in turn make sacrifices and do their best to shine a light on us as practitioners to support our transformation, healing and enhanced joy.

In that regard, we are especially grateful for our Brother Chan Huy, who has guided the development of Laughing Rivers Sangha over many years. Chan Huy models joyful practice, offers formal and informal teaching and anchors our retreats.

Some LRS members have joyfully encountered various Dharma teachers at monasteries or out-of town retreats. Others miss this exposure due to budget and logistical obstacles. Therefore, we recommend exposing LRS members to additional Dharma teachers here in Pittsburgh.

The following actions will support this:

- 1. A group of touring monastics from Blue Cliff Monastery has requested a Pittsburgh stop as part of a Mid-West tour. The CCC, on behalf of the Sangha, has invited the group (currently three monks and three nuns) to come here August 29th – September 3rd. This visit offers a great opportunity to expose Sangha members and the wider community to a group of experienced practitioners and Dharma teachers,*
- 2. We will consult with our resident Dharma teacher Tony Silvestre about a) expanding teaching opportunities for Tony in LRS and 2) exposing LRS to other lay Dharma Teachers in 2015, with an emphasis on inviting women Dharma Teachers.*

In the sprit of no separation and with a ☺

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