

OVERVIEW OF MANY HANDS AND EYES CIRCLE

Our work began even before the Circle was formed, with the Sangha Council on April 27th, and the Not-Knowing, Bearing Witness by speaking and listening from the heart of those present.

The Circle formed and met for the first time shortly thereafter. The members are Roshi, Luminous Heart, Senshin, Sensei Daishin, Getsuren, Dharma-Lotus, Gojitsu, Reigen, Faith Mind, Heart Mirror and Jifu.

We recognized that we are a community based on Dharma principles, including accountability and responsibility, and creating a container by the practices of clarity, transparency, communication and evolution of right action. We embarked on a process of surfacing issues and concerns, acknowledging that there was no immediate solution or decision.

Our process began by going back to a study of the Center's mission, core values and core practices, and from this developed a set of Guiding Questions for the Circle, as finalized by Roshi.

Among the matters we have discussed over time:

The relationship of Jimyo to the Center. That is pending, and the subject of Roshi's protocol to be further considered. Roshi has maintained weekly contact with him, as he was living with Betsy and being guided in practical matters (budgeting, meal planning and the like). He is now living independently.

The re-evaluation, structuring and evolution of the Angulimala Prison Project. This was considered in separate meetings of the project volunteers, and Faith Mind served as liaison between the project and the Circle.

Roshi had private meetings with those Sangha survivors of sexual abuse and violence who wished it, and those meetings and participants were not disclosed to the Circle and remain confidential.

The Circle developed a statement to be presented to current and recently-released prisoners, participants in the APP or self-identified, who enquire regarding the Center and availability of services from and access to the Center.

Coordination with TC.

Exploring what transition services and life skills training are available to ex-prisoners. Recognizing that this is not our mandate and is not within the Center's capability.

Exploring what other dharma centers with prison outreach programs are doing.

Exploring what outreach and support is needed within the Sangha for survivors and perpetrators.

Exploring what education with the Sangha is necessary and appropriate regarding sexual abuse and violence.