



The Buddhist Temple of Chicago

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Dear members,

I write this letter to highlight the issue of ministerial succession that is upon us and how vital it is to have broad Sangha involvement in this effort.

Upon assuming the Resident Minister position Rev. Patti pledged to serve 10 years. Understandably she has been encouraging the board to initiate earnest ministerial succession preparations. It is time to devote our resources -- both organizational focus and the time and effort of our members -- to affirmatively come up with a plan of action.

Ministerial succession is a difficult challenge for Sanghas throughout the US for a multitude of reasons. The pool of candidates is limited and the unique circumstances and history of BTC as an administratively independent temple with a distinct teaching lineage make the search process especially difficult.

The tasks involved with ministerial succession require Sangha-wide input coordinated by judicious longtime stakeholders with actual past experience in the process. How we characterize the minister position and the type of candidate we seek will influence almost all of our current and future operations -- our budget, religious and social programs, capital planning etc. A successful search will require consideration of BTC's mission and goals, minister qualifications in light of this mission, development of search strategies, budget analysis and determination of competitive salary and benefits.

Notices and solicitations are forthcoming - watch for them.

In gassho,

Bill Bohlman
President