

Stone Creek Zen Center
P.O. Box 56, Sebastopol, CA 95473
www.stonecreekzencenter.org
stonecreek@sonic.net

Opening for Head Priest

Description of the Position

Stone Creek Zen Center seeks a Soto Zen priest-teacher who is well trained in Dharma and formal practice, with leadership experience and the capacity to grow with and be shaped by the sangha. It is envisioned as a long-term position, for a person with an appreciation of lay practice, an understanding of ethics, boundaries, and power dynamics, and the capacity to collaborate with the abiding teacher, the board of directors, other priests at the center and the sangha. This position requires, on average, about thirty hours a week.

Description of the Center

Stone Creek is a center for practicing the Buddha Way in the Soto Zen tradition, dedicated to our awakening to the impermanent, interdependent nature of our lives for the sake of all beings. The core practice is zazen as *just-sitting (shikantaza)*, being wholeheartedly present here and now. A major focus at Stone Creek is extending this practice throughout daily life, guided by moral inquiry and the bodhisattva precepts. Related activities include the development of sangha as the community of practitioners and engagement in the surrounding community.

Stone Creek provides a regular schedule of zazen and dharma talks, and offers sesshins, religious services and ceremonies, classes, work practice, dokusan, and informal pastoral counseling. Our programs are primarily for lay practitioners, and the center is non-residential. Our vibrant sangha community comes together for the various forms of practice, celebrations, work for the center, and mutual support.

All practices and programs are under the direction of the head priest/s and abiding teacher, who collaborate in leadership. The head priest also works in coordination with Stone Creek's board of directors, which oversees the center's administration, fundraising and development. The Stone Creek sangha is engaged in all aspects of center life, working cooperatively with our teachers, our other priests affiliated with the center, and our board of directors. The fabric of Stone Creek is a continuous weaving and re-weaving of all the voices of our sangha community.

Stone Creek was founded in 1996 by Jisho Warner, who is currently the abiding teacher. Korin Charlie Pokorny and Dojin Sarah Emerson were hired jointly to fill the head priest position in 2014. Korin and Dojin have begun a transition process toward leaving their shared position at Stone Creek and plan to step down when a new head priest is identified and begins to take up the duties of head priest. They will remain connected to the center and help the new head priest assume their duties until June 2022.

Teaching Responsibilities

Hold full oversight of practice and programs with responsibility for the full spectrum of practice activities

Supervise and lead daily zazen, practice days and half-day retreats, and sesshins

Lead rituals and ceremonies

Give dharma talks on a regular basis, and teach dharma in study groups and classes periodically

Track well-being of sangha members and overall sangha health

Offer dokusan and informal pastoral counseling

Administrative Responsibilities

Hold overview of finances, fiscal development, and administration of the center

Work closely with the board of directors

Coordinate volunteers

Be actively involved in fund-raising efforts

Ability to manage the small office and Stone Creek's digital presence is an optional plus

Qualifications

Soto Zen priest who has received dharma transmission or will soon

Central zazen focus *just-sitting (shikantaza)*

Knowledge of Buddhist literature and traditions

Experience with presenting dharma in talks and study groups

Interest in developing Soto Zen as a tradition in America

Interest in working with lay practitioners and sangha-building

Interest and energy for holding a long-term position

Skill in interpersonal dynamics - among sangha and between teacher and student

Membership in the Soto Zen Buddhist Association (unless there are preventing circumstances)

Salary and benefit

Salary is \$28,000- \$35,000, depending on the teacher's experience and administrative skills

4 weeks vacation annually

Contact

Korin Charlie Pokorny by email: stonecreek@sonic.net

May 1, 2021