

PREVENTING AND ADDRESSING SEXUAL MISCONDUCT IN ZEN COMMUNITIES

THREE CLASS SERIES ONLINE WITH A ZEN BUDDHIST TEACHER AND AN ATTORNEY

Fridays May 13, May 20, May 27 (12 noon to 2:00 pm PDT) on the Zoom platform



U.S. Buddhist communities have been the subject of many claims of alleged sexual misconduct, often by a revered teacher. Yet Buddhist clergy and community leaders, unlike their Christian counterparts, receive no training in preventative action nor in their legal and community responsibilities in addressing sexual misconduct allegations.

THIS CLASS IS OFFERED BY DONATION.

Shogaku Zen Institute (SZI) has licensed Faith Trust Institute materials and has received a grant to offer this 2-hour course for three required dates with psychologist and Zen teacher Grace Schireson and attorney Carol Merchasin to address specific situations in our communities, equipping them to proactively address questions such as:

- 1) What are clergy responsibilities specific to Buddhist communities? What is misconduct within a Buddhist community? How can a clergyperson or community leader prepare for, address, and prevent boundary violations?
- 2) What should you do if a complainant comes forward in a Buddhist community? How should you hear such a complaint? What are your legal and ethical responsibilities? What should you do in response?
- 3) What are the elements of an adequate “independent investigation?” When is it necessary to seek outside consultation?

This program has been designed for practice leaders and priests/ clergy and members of the Board of Directors in Zen Buddhist communities. There will be three sessions; each two hours in length. The format will be interactive, allowing time for questions, and using a variety of hypothetical scenarios to make the necessary teaching points on identifying misconduct, addressing complaints and the consequences of failing to take correct action.

Post Series Resources: All participants completing this series will receive a certificate of completion. While prevention is the best solution, SZI is working to develop a cadre of lawyers/investigators who are willing to do low cost/pro bono work with spiritual communities in our program.

CONTACT SZI REGISTRAR TO ENROLL: registrar@shogakuzen.org