

## **Membership Policy and Guidelines**

### **The North Carolina Zen Center**

The NC Zen Center strives to create a community of engaged members. The goal is to empower the community to become and remain involved in the guidance and direction of the Center, and to be involved in any and all major decisions made by the Center concerning its structure, development, growth and direction.

Critical to this structure is an engaged membership. To this end the Center has created three types of membership. All membership is open to anyone.

All questions and issues concerning membership status are handled by the Membership Committee. The Membership Committee maintains the various membership lists, and is responsible periodically for verifying the membership status of members. All decisions concerning compliance with various membership requirements or waiver of those requirements rest with the Membership Committee.

For more information concerning membership, please review the Center's bylaws.

### **General Membership**

How does one become a General Member?

One becomes a General Member simply by asking to become one. This can be done in person, by email or letter, or by adding one's name and email address to the list outside the door of the Zendo.

What are the requirements of General Membership?

The only requirement of General Membership is an interest in being one, and an interest in the well-being of the Center and its community. General Members are asked to provide the Center with their name and email address, minimally, and their mailing address optionally.

What are the benefits of General Membership?

General Members will receive emails about the ongoing events at the Center, in addition to invitations to specific events such as retreats or other services and ceremonies, and will receive by email the *Kaihan*, the Center's quarterly newsletter. General Members may also attend yearly General Membership Meetings, in addition to attending the public sessions of meetings of the Board of Directors.

### **Voting Membership**

How does one become a Voting Member?

Voting Membership status must be specifically requested by writing or emailing the Center or the Membership Committee.

#### What are the requirements of Voting Membership?

Voting Membership is reserved for those willing to make a continued, sustained commitment to the Center, as indicated by regular attendance, regular participation in Center events such as retreats, and regular payment of dues of \$25 per month. These requirements may be partially or fully waived by the Membership Committee on petition by the Voting Member.

#### What are the benefits of Voting Membership?

Voting Membership entitles one to all of the same perks as General Membership, but also allows one to attend Voting Membership meetings and to cast votes on any issue which has been submitted to the Voting Membership.

### **Fellowship Membership**

#### What is a Fellowship Member?

Fellowship Members are those who care about the Center enough to support it in substantial ways, but who, for whatever reason, cannot or choose not to regularly participate in the Center's activities.

#### What are the requirements of Fellowship Membership?

One becomes a Fellowship Member by contributing money, goods, or services to the Center amounting to more than \$1000 value in a given calendar year. One remains a Fellowship Member so long as one maintains that level of commitment to the Center. Maintaining a Fellowship Membership for five years, or making a contribution to the Center of \$5000 or more over any period of time, entitles one to Fellowship Membership Emeritus, which is for life, regardless of future contributions to the Center.

#### What are the benefits of Fellowship Membership?

Fellowship Members receive all the same benefits as General Members, but additionally receive a special "Thank you" by having their name included in the Fellowship Members list on the Center's website. Fellowship Members may also serve on the Center's Advisory Committee.

This is an Official Policy Document under Bylaws Art. III, Sec. 2., c.

Approved by the NC Zen Center Board of Directors September 18, 2016

