

Letter to Applicants for the Lay Bodhisattva Precepts Transmission, July 11-17, 2020.
給報名擬於2020年7月11-17日受在家菩薩戒者的一封信

The dates for transmitting the Lay Bodhisattva Precepts, which were scheduled to be transmitted at the City of Ten Thousand Buddhas from July 11-17th, 2020, have been called into question. The reason is because Health Department Officials from Mendocino County, California, who are friends and supporters of our programs, visited us recently. They asked respectfully whether that given the corona virus now called Covid-19, we could put a hold on large public gatherings for the time being. They want to protect us from negative public reactions as much as they want Ukiah-area people to be protected from the pneumonia-causing virus. So we have announced that the upcoming Guan Yin Recitation Session has been cancelled and the Ten Thousand Buddhas Repentance this year will be limited to people already in the United States. Participants from overseas will be requested to cultivate at your local monastery or at home this year.

法總原訂於2020年7月11-17日在萬佛城傳授在家菩薩戒，但是加州曼都仙諾郡衛生部的官員，最近友善地造訪了萬佛城；基於新冠狀病毒疫情的發展，他們建議本會考慮暫停舉辦大型的法會。他們希望保護瑜伽市地區居民，免於感染新型肺炎，同時他們也不希望看到居民們對萬佛城產生負面的看法。因此，萬佛城已經決定取消原訂3月初舉行的觀音菩薩聖誕慶祝法會及觀音七。3月底開始的萬佛懺，也僅限於美國的居民參加，海外的信眾請在當地的分支道場或留在家中修行。

We know that many of you have already made plans to attend the Lay Bodhisattva Precepts transmission and we don't want to cancel it unless we are forced to do so by the conditions of a global pandemic. A proposed compromise suggests that we wait and watch the progress of the illness in China and around the world until mid-March. The organizers had already set March 15th as the day we would send out our confirmation letters for attendees. If it looks like the disease has peaked and will be much less contagious by July, we will go ahead and hold the Precepts transmission as planned. If, three weeks from now, the situation has not changed or if it is worse, we will, with regrets, postpone the transmission until 2021. Someone suggested that this sort of illness may become seasonal, and come back next year, but we will deal with that circumstance if and when it arises.

本會瞭解許多信眾已經計劃好前來萬佛城受在家菩薩戒，本會也不願意輕易改變既定的計劃，除非全球的疫情嚴重到本會不得不如此做。一個中道的作法是，讓我們再觀察全球疫情的發展一段時間。傳戒委員會原訂3月底前發出錄取通知；如果3月15日前，疫情有減緩的趨勢，傳戒將如期舉行；否則，傳戒將不得不延至明年。有專家認為類似的疫情可能會年年發生，如不幸果真如此，本會屆時會再考慮對策。

Meanwhile, watch the news carefully, don't cancel your plane reservations yet, and continue to recite the Great Compassion Mantra for the many people affected by this still incurable virus. We will be back in touch in mid-March with a clearer projection of the situation in July.

在未來的幾週，請大家多留意疫情的發展，目前請暫時不要取消機位，並請多誦持大悲咒，迴向給受疫情影響的人們。3月中本會將會決定傳戒是否於7月如期舉行，屆時會盡快通知大家。簡此

Peace in the Dharma, 順祝 法安

Rev. Heng Sure
Chairperson
DRBA Board of Directors
法總董事會主席 恒實法師 敬上