

Constitution: DharmaCloud

1. Name

1.1 The name of the association is “DharmaCloud”. It will be referred to in this constitution as “the Group”.

2. General Principles

2.1 The Group has been established to help people understand and practice Buddhist teachings in the Insight Meditation tradition. Insight Meditation is sometimes described as “Vipassana”. In particular, this Group is focussed on the style of practice taught at centres such as: Gaia House in the United Kingdom, the Insight Meditation Society Center in Barre, Massachusetts, USA and the Spirit Rock Meditation Center in California, USA.

2.2 Teachers in this tradition of Buddhism receive no payment or stipend for teaching. They rely on the generosity of students.

3. Objects

The objects of the Group are to:

3.1 provide the opportunity for people to listen to and understand Buddhist, and in particular Insight Meditation teachings and practice;

3.2 provide the opportunity for people to practice Insight Meditation;

3.3 organise and manage residential and non-residential courses or retreats;

3.4 provide a library or resource centre for Buddhist books, magazines and other media;

3.5 support people in their practice of meditation and their understanding of Buddhist teachings;

3.6 invite, on occasion, teachers from other Buddhist traditions to speak at Group events;

3.7 provide information on the activities of other Insight Meditation groups and activities.

4. Membership

4.1 There will be two types of membership: Associate Membership and Full Membership.

4.2. Any person applying for a place on a residential course with DharmaCloud can apply for Associate Membership.

4.3 Applicants for Full Membership are required to have completed three residential Insight Meditation retreats, of which one was organised by DharmaCloud.

4.4. In special cases, the management committee will consider applications for membership from people who have had a long association with the Group but who do not meet the criteria set out in section 4.3.

4.5 Membership will be for a twelve month period. After that period, all people wishing to be members need to re-apply.

4.6 The management committee has the right to approve or disallow a membership application but any person who has been rejected can apply in the following year.

4.7 The management committee may set a fee for the two types of membership or may choose to have no fee for membership.

4.8 The number of members is not limited.

5. Management Committee

5.1 The management committee will consist of between four and six Full Members of the Group and will have a convenor, a secretary, treasurer and from one to three other members.

5.2 At the annual general meeting of the Group, all the management committee will resign, but they will be eligible for nomination for re-election.

5.3 Casual vacancies on the management committee may be filled by the management committee from the membership.

5.4 The functions of the management committee are:

(i) to have general control of the management and administration of the affairs, property and funds of the Group;

(ii) to implement all resolutions passed at a general meeting or an annual general meeting;

(iii) to promote the objectives set out in this constitution.

5.5 The quorum for management committee meetings is to be three.

6. General and Annual General Meetings

6.1 The annual general meeting will be between 1st January and 31st March in each year. All members are to be notified of the date and time at least two weeks in advance.

6.2 At the annual general meeting, reports will be presented on the activities of the Group in the previous year and the accounts for the previous year. After this, the management committee will resign and people for a new management committee will be nominated from the floor.

6.3 The quorum for general and annual general meetings is to be five.

6.4 General meetings can be called by the management committee or by four members of the Group. All members are to be notified of general meetings at least two weeks in advance.

6.5 Voting at general and annual general meetings will be by a show of hands, or in the case of an annual general meeting, by secret ballot if the management committee so chooses, with each member of the Group having a single vote and a simple majority needed for motions to be carried, except when the vote applies to matters in sections 8 or 9 of this constitution.

7. Funds

7.1 The income and assets of the Group will be applied solely to the promotion of the objects.

7.2 No member of the Group is to receive any payment or stipend or any other asset or money from the Group, with the exception of reimbursement for expenses incurred in promoting the objects of the Group.

7.3 No teacher of the Group is to receive any payment or stipend or any other asset or money from the Group, with the exception of reimbursement for expenses.

8. Amendments to the constitution

8.1 This constitution can be changed by a resolution at a general meeting or an annual general meeting on the condition that:

(i) if the proposal is to change sections one, two or three of this constitution, there needs to be a majority of 85%;

(ii) if the proposal is to change sections other than section one, two or three of this constitution, there needs to be a majority of 66%.

8.2 Notice of the meeting and details of the proposed changes to the constitution are to be sent to all members at least two weeks before the date of the meeting.

9. Dissolution

9.1 If the Group:

(i) has less than three members or

(ii) less than 10 members and there is an 85% majority vote to dissolve the Group at a meeting which is called to consider the question and where all members have been notified at least two weeks in advance,

the Group may be dissolved provided that:

(i) none of the assets or funds go to a member or members of the Group and

(ii) the assets and funds of the Group go to another Insight Meditation or Western Buddhist group which has similar or part similar aims and which has a similar clause preventing its funds or assets going to its members.