

LOUISVILLE ZEN CENTER- MEMBERSHIP POLICY

*Adopted by the Board of Directors on December 29, 2015;
Amended by the Board of Directors on March 1, 2018;
Amended by the Board of Directors on January 19, 2026*

- A. **Definition.** Members of the Center are individuals or other legal entities who (1) have been admitted as members in accordance with the procedures described in this policy, and (2) have not resigned or withdrawn or had their membership privileges suspended or terminated.
- B. **Duties.** The Board of Directors and the Spiritual Director shall determine from time to time the requirements and procedures whereby a person may be admitted as a member of the Center. The Board of Directors shall specify the privileges and obligations of membership as they pertain to financial and other secular matters. The Spiritual Director shall specify the privileges and obligations of membership as they pertain to spiritual matters.
- C. **Admission of Members.** In order to be admitted as a member of the Center, a candidate must:
1. Attend an Introductory Workshop or Introduction to Practice conducted by the Center or by the Rochester Zen Center or one of its affiliates (the Spiritual Director may waive this requirement in appropriate cases);
 2. Submit a completed Membership application form;
 3. Attend a membership interview satisfying the Spiritual Director or the Spiritual Director's designee that the applicant should be admitted to membership in the Center; and
 4. Pay to the Center an initial contribution in an amount prescribed from time to time by the Board of Directors.
- D. **Privileges of Membership.** Members of the Center shall have the following rights and privileges:
1. **Use of Common Facilities.** Subject to rules and regulations adopted from time to time by the Board of Directors, members shall have the right, in common with other members to use the portion of the corporation's facilities designated as common meeting areas;
 2. **Participation in Corporate Activities.** Members may attend and participate in all regular spiritual functions of the Center including formal and informal meditation sessions, instructions, Zen talks/commentaries, study-discussion groups, and ceremonies. Members may attend and participate in all regular secular functions of the Center such as picnics and other social activities. In addition, members are given preference for retreats and receive discounts on materials, workshops, and retreats;
 3. **Voting.** Members shall have the right to vote in the election of directors and upon any other matter before the Center's meetings of members.

E. **Obligations of Membership.** Members of the Center shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

1. **Code of Conduct.** All members and active participants are expected to uphold ethical standards grounded in the 16 Buddhist Precepts in their interactions with fellow Sangha members. Complaints of misconduct shall be addressed respectfully, confidentially, and according to the Ethics policy established by the Board of Directors.
2. **Annual Dues.** The Board of Directors will set the amount of annual dues and notify members accordingly. Dues are payable in advance—monthly, quarterly, or annually—by the 5th of the month, unless alternative arrangements have been approved in writing.

F. **Suspension of Membership.** The Spiritual Director, their designee, or the Board of Directors may suspend a member—fully or partially—if needed to protect people, property, or prevent disruption of Center activities. However, suspension does not affect the member’s right to vote at corporate meetings or, if they are a Director, to serve in that role. Any suspension ends no later than the next Board meeting.

G. **Termination of Membership.** The membership of a member shall terminate upon the occurrence of any of the following events:

1. Upon his or her notice of such termination delivered to the president or secretary of the Center personally or by mail, such membership to terminate upon the date of delivery of the notice or date of deposit in the mail.
2. If a member does not pay dues on time, their membership will end 30 days after they receive notice of non-payment from the secretary or treasurer of the Center. A member may avoid such termination by paying the amount of delinquent dues within a thirty (30) day period following the member’s receipt of the notification of delinquency.
3. After providing the member with reasonable written notice and an opportunity to be heard either orally or in writing, upon a determination by the Board of Directors that the member has engaged in conduct materially and seriously prejudicial to the interests or purposes of the Center. Any person expelled from the Center shall receive a refund of dues already paid for the current dues period.

All rights of a member of the Center shall cease on termination of membership.

H. **Nontransfer of Membership.** Membership in the Center is not transferable or assignable.

I. **Membership List.** The Center shall keep a membership list containing the name and address of each member. Termination of the membership of any member shall be recorded in the list, together with the date of termination of such membership. Such list shall be kept at the corporation’s principal office.

J. **Nonliability of Members.** A member of this corporation is not, as such, personally liable for the debts, liabilities, or obligations of the corporation.