

**BYLAWS  
OF  
NORTHWEST DISTRICT COUNCIL**

ARTICLE I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Northwest District Council of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Temples (NWDC).

ARTICLE II. PURPOSE

The NWDC is formed under the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) Bylaws to provide liaison between the BCA and Northwest District Temples, to provide liaison among the Northwest District Temples, and to assist and coordinate in the propagation of Jodo Shinshu.

ARTICLE III. HEADQUARTERS

The Seattle Betsuin in Seattle, Washington shall be the titular headquarters of the Northwest District Council.

ARTICLE IV. THE NWDC FUNCTION

The NWDC shall:

- a. Provide liaison between the BCA and the Northwest District Buddhist Temples,
- b. Participate in and direct the National Programs within the District,
- c. Provide liaison among the Northwest District Buddhist Temples,
- d. Sponsor, assist, and coordinate in the propagation of Jodo Shinshu Buddhism in the spirit of the Preamble of the BCA Bylaws,
- e. Have the authority to assess and collect dues from member temples and affiliated organizations,
- f. Be autonomous as is consistent with the Bylaws of the BCA.

ARTICLE V. NWDC MEMBERS

Section 1. The membership of this NWDC shall consist of the following:

- a. Ministers and Supervising Ministers from each member temple. Each minister shall have one vote at District meetings. Supervising Ministers shall have one vote for each member temple that is under their supervision.
- b. Two lay representatives from each member temple. Each lay representative shall have

one vote at District meetings.

- c. Officers of the NWDC. Each Officer shall have one vote at District meetings.
- d. Two (2) NWDC representatives to the BCA National Board. Each representative shall have one vote at District meetings.
- e. One representative from each affiliated organization in the Northwest District. Each organizational representative shall have one vote at District meetings.

#### Section 2. District Council Advisors.

Up to two (2) non-voting advisors for a term of one year may be appointed annually at the Spring meeting by the Council from among the former officers of the Council. The advisors are to be invited to all Council and committee meetings.

### ARTICLE VI. MEMBER TEMPLES AND AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

#### Section 1. MEMBER TEMPLES.

Member temples are temples duly recognized by the BCA in the Northwest District.

#### Section 2. AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS.

- A. Affiliated organizations are organizations with chapters in more than half of the NW District member temples which are recognized by the NWDC as District Affiliated Organizations and have submitted Bylaws.

Association of subgroups/suborganizations of member temples may petition for status as affiliated organization at any annual meeting of the NWDC provided previous notice has been entered in the call for the annual meeting.

- B. Affiliated organizations are:

- 1. Northwest Young Buddhist League
- 2. Northwest Dharma School Teachers' League
- 3. Northwest Buddhist Women's League
- 4. Other associations in the NW District as recognized by the Council.

### ARTICLE VII. BCA NATIONAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVES

- Section 1. The NW District Chairperson and two (2) District Representatives shall represent the NWDC at the BCA National Board. They shall be elected at the Spring meeting or at a special meeting, if necessary.

- Section 2. District Representatives to the BCA National Board shall serve a two (2) year term, with the exception of those who are elected at a special meeting and/or whose term ends at the next election (Spring) meeting.

- Section 3. Alternate NWDC Representatives shall be appointed by the NWDC Chairperson and approved by the President of the BCA.

## ARTICLE VIII. OFFICERS

Section 1. The Officers of the NWDC shall consist of a Chairperson, a Vice-Chairperson, a Secretary, and a Treasurer.

Section 2. The term of Officers shall be for two years or until their successors are elected.

Section 3. The Officers and BCA Board Representatives shall be elected by ballot, from among members of member temples, at the NWDC Spring meeting held in odd numbered years.

Section 4. The elected officers and BCA National Board Representatives shall be installed at the next Annual Northwest Buddhist Convention following their election to office; or if no next Annual Northwest Buddhist Convention is to be held, then the elected officers and BCA Board representatives shall take office on the next February 1 following their election to office.

## ARTICLE IX. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

### Section 1. CHAIRPERSON.

- a. Shall preside at all meetings.
- b. Shall exercise general supervision over all NWDC affairs and activities.
- c. Shall appoint all committees members.
- d. Shall call special meetings of the NWDC when deemed necessary.
- e. Shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, except the nominating committee.
- f. Shall perform other duties as directed by the Council.

### Section 2. VICE-CHAIRPERSON.

- a. Shall assist the Chairperson.
- b. Shall act in the absence of the Chairperson, with all of the powers and prerogatives of the Chairperson.
- c. Shall perform other duties as assigned by the Chairperson and/or as directed by the Council.

### Section 3. TREASURER.

- a. Shall handle all income and fund disbursement of the Council.
- b. Shall record all receipts and expenditures and pay all authorized bills.
- c. Shall prepare Treasurer's report.
- d. Shall transmit records to the Treasurer's successor.
- e. Shall prepare the Annual budget.
- f. Shall perform other duties pertaining to financial matters as directed by the Council.

### Section 4. SECRETARY.

- a. Shall have custody of the NWDC Bylaws.
- b. Shall keep all records and Minutes of the NWDC.
- c. Shall handle all correspondence and issue all notices.
- d. Records and Minutes of the NWDC shall be filed and kept at the titular headquarters.
- e. Shall transmit all records and Minutes to the Secretary's successor.
- f. Shall perform other duties as directed by the Council

## ARTICLE X. MEETINGS

Section 1. The Annual meeting of the NWDC shall be held concurrently with the Annual Northwest Buddhist Convention. If no Annual Northwest Buddhist Convention is to be held for the year, then the Chairperson, in consultation with the NWDC Cabinet, shall determine the place and date of the Annual Meeting. The date shall be in February prior to the BCA National Council Meeting.

Section 2. Meetings shall be held prior to the June and December BCA National Board meetings.

Section 3. Special meetings of the NWDC may be convened by the Chairperson. Special meetings may also be requested by other Officers with the written concurrence of one-third of the NWDC members.

Section 4. A notification of the meeting and an agenda of the business shall be sent to the members of the NWDC at least four (4) weeks prior to the meeting. However, in case of an emergency meeting, the four (4) weeks requirement may be waived.

Section 5. Any action taken at the meeting shall be decided by majority of members present, except when otherwise required in other sections of these Bylaws.

Section 6. Meetings may be held via teleconference as described in the NWDC Guidelines and Procedures for Conducting Teleconference.

## ARTICLE XI. PROXIES

Section 1. Any voting member may grant proxies.

Section 2. All proxies must be in writing to identify the meeting, the date of the meeting, recipient of the proxy, any limitations on the power granted, and duly signed by the grantor.

Section 3. A member may not carry more than (2) proxies.

## ARTICLE XII. QUORUM

A majority of the NWDC membership shall constitute a quorum for any Council meeting

## ARTICLE XIII. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 1990 (9th) Edition shall govern this organization in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws or the special rules of this organization.

## ARTICLE XIV. DISSOLUTION

In the event the NWDC is dissolved, all assets of the NWDC shall be distributed to the member Temples in proportion to the remaining listed temple membership in the NWDC records just prior to dissolution; or if no member Temple is in existence, then all assets shall be distributed to the BCA. In the event that the BCA is not in existence, then all assets shall be distributed to the successor organization having general jurisdiction over all Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist Churches in the United States of America.

## ARTICLE XV. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these Bylaws may be adopted at any annual meeting of the NWDC by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present, provided previous notice of the proposed amendment was submitted to the NWDC members at least four (4) weeks and not more than eight (8) weeks prior to the meeting.

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Edited to incorporate Amendment adopted at May 11, 1996 meeting.

Edited to incorporate Amendment adopted at February 9, 1997 meeting.

Edited to incorporate Amendment adopted at February 15, 2004 meeting.

Edited to incorporate Amendment adopted at November 18, 2006 meeting.

Edited to incorporate Amendment adopted at May 16, 2009 meeting.