

Segaki Ceremony

All participants sit, facing into the Meditation Hall.

Beginning 3 bells

Precentor: Invocation

“To the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas gone before,
To the sacred Dharma, flawless and supremely rare,
And to all the Buddhas’ offspring,
We make these offerings of candles, incense, flowers, fruit, rice and cakes
That we might gain this precious attitude of Bodhicitta.
And, with kind generosity, seek to drive away the endless fear and pain of
ourselves and all beings.
Let us vow, with irreversible intent, to embrace this heart of Bodhicitta,
Willing to set free ourselves and the endless multitudes of beings.”

Precentor: Each participant will now confess and silently acknowledge his/her neurotic crimes.

Confession first, all read together: “All harmful actions, behaviors and karma perpetuated by me has been and is caused by beginningless greed, anger, and delusion. I now make full and wholehearted resolve to release these.”

Recognition and acknowledgement of neurotic crimes: Silently read the 1st & 2nd steps in the Laying Down process that you have written on paper, Recognition and Reliance. Then silently recite the Three Homages and place the slip of paper aside for burning later.

All recite together the Buddha bead: “I am born of karma, I am heir to karma, I abide in karma, and I am supported by karma. Whatever I do creates karma, and I shall surely experience this karma. The merit for all good acts I do freely offer to all beings. Dutiyampi, tatiyampi, savaha. Again and yet again, may it be so.”

Then each participant silently reads and releases steps 3 and 4 of his/her neurotic crimes and places it aside to burn later. (Remedial and Resolve)

All recite Cleansing/Releasing Karma Verse* 3 times

*Cleansing/Releasing Karma Verse:

“In this and all my other lifetimes,
Wandering in the round without beginning,
Blindly I have brought forth immorality,
Inciting others to commit the same.

I have taken pleasure in such harm,
Tricked and overmastered by my ignorance.
Now I see the blame of it, and in my heart,
O great protectors, I declare it!

Whatever I have done against the Triple Gem,
Against my parents, teachers, and the rest,
Through force of my conditioning,
By the faculties of body, speech and mind;

All the harm I - unskilled - have committed,
The layers that cling to me through many harmful deeds;
All the frightening things that I have caused to be,
I openly declare to you, teachers of the world.”

All recite once: “Here, in humble submission, in order to experience this most perfect now, I deeply bow* and sacrifice all thoughts, all tensions, all pressures and desires.”

Guide: Offertory

“With joy we celebrate the virtues of kindness and compassion
That relieves all beings from the sorrows of the states of loss.
Now we gassho and ask the Buddhas and Bodhisattvas who reside in every
quarter
To kindle the Dharma’s light for those who remain bewildered in the dark of
pain.”

Precentor: Offering of Merit

All: Three Homages

Homage to all the Buddhas in all Worlds;
Homage to all the Bodhisattvas in all Worlds;
Homage to the Prana Paramita Hridaya Sutra.

Final bow to end the ceremony and leave the hall.

Ending 2 bells

Revised 10-23