

Dear Friends,

This is to let you know Rev. Celia from Shasta Abbey has asked to join our monastic community and I have agreed. She has also asked for a new monastic name and so now she is Houn Valeria - Valiant friend of the Dharma Cloud.

This decision has the full support of the Head of the Order and the Abbess of Shasta Abbey.

This means that with Rev. Valeria, Rev. Sophia, Rev. Brian, Rev. Aurelian and myself we are now a community of five monks - a monastic Sangha. This is a big step of faith in the life of the Priory - as big as when in 1985 the lay sangha in Vancouver invited me to stay and I agreed or when we purchased Dragon Flower Mountain in 2003 or when Rev. Aurelian and I moved up to the mountain in 2007.

From the beginning this has been a work of faith - not in a particular person or organization - but faith in the ability of the Buddha's Teaching to truly benefit us and that this is worth supporting. We have trained together, lay and monastic, through richer and poorer in sickness and health for more than twenty - five years now.

I do not know what the future holds just that this path is well worth traveling - in the words of the old spiritual - I will go, I shall go, to see what the end will be!

Let's all go together to see what the end will be.

in gassho,

Koten