



GIÁO HỘI PHẬT GIÁO VIỆT NAM THỐNG NHẤT HẢI NGOẠI TẠI ÚC ĐẠI LỢI-TÂN TÂY LAN
The Unified Vietnamese Buddhist Congregation of Australia - New Zealand

HỘI ĐỒNG ĐIỀU HÀNH

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In the Year 2564th of the Buddhist Calendar, Sydney 22 December 2020

NOTICE

Namo Sakya Muni Buddha

To Distinguished Recipients: Most Venerable, Senior Venerable and all Venerable Members of the Sangha, and Buddhist Laity,

Dear Venerable Bhikkhus and Bhikkunis and Lay Buddhists,

The Year 2020 has almost passed and yet the Unified Vietnamese Buddhist Congregation of Australia and New Zealand (the Congregation) has not been able to conduct its regular activities as it normally did in years gone by. Indeed the Congregation's three main Buddhist events scheduled for this year, namely the Summer Retreat, the Grand Masters' Commemorative Service and the Dharma Studies Course in Australia, had to be postponed as a result of the Covid 19 Pandemic.

Due to some obstacles emerging during this period, the Congregation held several special meetings in search of a suitable solution. Faced with a series of rumours, we steadfastly obeyed Lord Buddha's edict of stoic silence. In spite of regrettable actions adversely affecting the Congregation, we kept our patience and remained true to the Teachings of our Enlightened Great Master.

On 15 December 2020, the Congregation met at the Minh Giac Temple to resolve the obstacles on the bases of noble words and constructive deed in full right mindfulness and to leave the past behind. One of the seven ways to resolve issues is similar to grass growing over a bare ground. Looking forward to the future of Buddhism in a joint effort to strengthen the Congregation, Venerable Members of the Sangha agreed to move away from past differences and to restore step by step the previously harmonious spirit to jointly shoulder Buddhist tasks and activities.

The Congregation reaffirms its Executive Council which was selected to serve upon the Congregation's request and respectfully and formally elected by the last General Congress. The Executive Council was tasked with the management of the organisation for future development on the basis of voluntary work and intellectual contribution by all who serve the Three Jewels. The Congregation would recommend Venerable Members of the Sangha as well as lay Buddhists:

-To receive and enhance Buddha Nature in a liberal and innovative spirit, rather than just to inherit an existing grandiose legacy in situ.

- To utilise the Congregation as a refuge to serve the Dharma and humanity.

- To utilise mutual respect and mutual repentance overriding any internal conflict
- To jointly contemplate and understand both the present and the future in order to make contributions to Buddhism and to its continuing promotion in depth.

The Congregation takes this opportunity to thank contributions of good will by all Venerable Members of the Sangha and all lay Buddhists to enable all of us to move the Wheel of Dharma forever in this world for the benefit of all sentient beings. Through disruptions - we can see the value of stability; and through vicissitudes - we can see the internal strength of resilience.

May the Buddha bestow upon you peace and harmony within body and mind.

Namo Treasury of Happiness Bodhisattva

Head of the Congregation's Executive Council



Most Venerable Thich Bao Lac

Copy to:

- The Central Senior Sangha Council,
- The Executive Council
- All Temples – Members of the Congregation
- The Inter-Continental Unified Buddhist Congregation
- The media

(Translated by Quảng Tường, Sydney)