



THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF BUDDHIST MINISTERS

ROSEMEAD BUDDHIST MONASTERY

7833 Emerson Place Rosemead, California 91770

Application Packet for Admission into the International Order of Buddhist Ministers.

Introduction:

Thank you for your interest in the International Order of Buddhist Ministers. The membership of the Order consists of Buddhist Laity who have been ordained as ministers and take upon themselves the responsibility to teach the Dharma.

The Dharma is not a dogmatic faith, but a teaching of self-responsibility that encourages the cultivation of morality, wisdom, and limitless love and compassion for all living beings.

Letter from the President:

Thank you for your interest in the IOBM. We now count among our ranks chaplains in the United States Military, Ministers that help the incarcerated build mindful wisdom, teach meditation, attend and organize multicultural and inter-religious events, manage charities, and help the needy all over the world.

Buddhist Ministers are an old breed technically beginning centuries ago they, helped Monks and Nuns achieve their goals. Now our Ministers help Monks, Nuns, temples and centers promote and bridge the gap between cultural Buddhism and Buddhist teachings in this modern world.

I look forward to working with you in your own development as a Minister and Buddhist practitioner - as well as helping you help others to become mindful, compassionate and wise.

*With Metta,
Dr. S. Thompson (Dhammajivaka)*

Name of Candidate:

Date: _____

HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

In 1994, Ven. Chao Chu of the Los Angeles Buddhist Union proposed to form a Lay Buddhist Ministry to help address the various needs of the Buddhist community and to help Sangha members address their many tasks more effectively. The Order of Buddhist Ministers is based on the historical *assistants to monastics* who were not meant to replace the existing Sangha but held 10 precepts and devoted themselves to personal cultivation along with aiding members of the Sangha in their work. The decision was approved by the Buddhist Sangha Council of Southern California and has proven effective over the years.

TEN GUIDES TO BEHAVIOR

Buddhist Ministers follow the “Ten Guides of Moral Behavior,” which include the Five Precepts. These GUIDELINES are intended to strengthen commitment to essential Buddhist ethics and to devoting one’s life to living by that example.

Ten Precepts of the Buddhist Minister International Order of Buddhist Ministers

1. I undertake the training precept to refrain from taking a life. I will find what ever means possible to protect life.
2. I undertake the training precept to refrain from taking that which is not given.
3. I undertake the training precept to avoid sexual misconduct.
4. I undertake the training precept to avoid harmful speech.
5. I undertake the training precept to refrain from the use of intoxicants that cause carelessness.
6. I undertake the training precept to refrain from unskillful conduct in quest of personal gratification.
7. I undertake the training precept to refrain from excessive behavior or flamboyant exhibition.
8. I undertake the training precept to refrain from brazen or showy body adornment.
9. I undertake the training precept to refrain from pretentious lifestyle or behavior that would demean others.
10. I undertake the training precept to refrain from using the ministry for accumulation of wealth for personal enrichment and use any excess wealth to benefit others.

WORK TO BE UNDERTAKEN

Members of the Order of Buddhist Ministers have taken upon themselves work which is intended to promote Buddhism. This includes:

- Working on their individual development of sustainable Mindfulness through thorough learning and practice of the Dharma.
- Assist the Sangha and/or Buddhist Centers in functions, ceremonies, teaching activities, and other appropriate and requested Dharma activities.
- Cooperate and Communicate with others in the Buddhist community and those from other faiths for better understanding and greater social harmony.

Name of Candidate:

Date: _____

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Some activities being done by current Ministers:

- Presiding over active Buddhist Centers
- Ministering to the Armed Forces
- Writing articles on Buddhism
- Participating in public interest forums, seminars, interfaith dialogs, etc.
- Helping to teach Dharma Classes
- Ministering to children, teens and college students
- Assisting Monks and Nuns in their activities.
- Assisting people in prisons, nursing homes, and hospices.



WHO MAY BECOME A BUDDHIST MINISTER

Any interested and dedicated individual may apply for admission into the Order. Primarily, they must be willing to accept the following principles for the application process:

- Be committed to mindfulness practice, have and develop knowledge and respect for the various Buddhist traditions, and the willingness to apply Buddhist teachings to help society when and where it is needed.
- Be willing to live by the 10 Precepts* as well as the six rules of conduct* of the Order and continually develop and maintain their character.
- Have an adequate history of personal practice and study relating to Buddhist teachings and be committed to continued learning and personal development.
- Be willing to serve the needs of the Buddhist Community, regardless of the tradition.
- Have gone through a refuge ceremony.

Ministers rules of conduct.

1. Maintain a standard of mindful behavior and appearance that will reflect well on Buddhism and The Order at all times.
2. Maintain an ongoing level of personal study and practice of Buddhist teachings.
3. Whenever possible, assist any Sangha with events, teaching activities, or other projects.
4. Honor and respect Sanga and take care to never intrude in their exclusive field of responsibility or engage in any activity reserved for the Monastic community.
5. When representing yourself as a Buddhist Minister, always wear one of the approved symbols of the order while performing ministerial duties.
6. Work to improve the ministry by actively contributing to achieving the goals and mission of the order and striving to create good public relations on behalf of yourself, the ministry and Buddhism.

Name of Candidate:

Date: _____

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Mission of the International Order of Buddhist Ministers:

“The mission of the International Order of Buddhist Ministers is to maintain a legitimate organization of dedicated lay Buddhists to encourage proficiency in learning and teaching the Buddha dharma.”

Purpose: *Secretary of state September 4, 2008 #3161948*

To promote unity cooperation and education amongst Ministers, Monks and Nuns.



Goals of the Buddhist Ministry:

1. Constantly work on one's own individual development of the Eight Fold Path.
2. Assist other Buddhists in their development in the Dharma.
3. Assist individuals coming to the Dharma.
4. Assist existing Buddhist temples, organizations, and centers in spreading the Dharma.
5. Assist in forming new Buddhist organizations and centers.
6. To cooperate with others in the religious community to increase mutual respect and understanding.
7. Promote compassion for all beings.

The Application Process:

1. Complete the application, in your own hand, with preferably blue ink. All correspondence should be sent by regular mail only, emailed applications will be held until a hard copy is received.
 - a. Make sure you have the non refundable \$50.00 check or money order for background check. Also should be included is the 'ordination fee' of \$200.00 this should be a money order or cashier's check so you can better control your accounts during the evaluation of your application (this may take a few weeks to months depending on conditions of your application)
 - b. Once we receive your application you will get an informal note via email, your official notice of receipt will come to you via regular mail on letterhead with an IOBM stamp.

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IOBM Application:

You may be instructed to provide clarification or more information at that time. That too should be in your own hand and in blue ink...

2. The background check consists of using a reputable paid service to check criminal background only. We do not check credit or other financial data. We will send you a copy of the background check and may request explanation/clarification at that time. (What we are looking for: There are five basic precepts in Buddhism. If there are major offences regarding those you may be asked to better explain what your background check finds. The IOBM does not discriminate on color, background, age, race, ethnicity, gender, or sexual preference.
 - a. Also in the background check we will contact the references you have provided. We may ask for other or more references depending on the references you give us.
3. If you are denied, you will receive a letter on IOBM letterhead via regular mail.
4. If you are accepted: Your acceptance letter will come to you via regular mail with an invitation to the next ordination held in Los Angeles. You will be given information on accommodations, and other info for the ordination.

You may be instructed to comment on some of the reading or activities you have listed in your application. We are not expecting a thesis or dissertation; usually a paragraph or two will suffice. In the event your application is denied your \$200.00 check/money order will be returned to you, your application however, will remain in our file. There is no appeal process for denial, all decisions are final.

So now that you are more acquainted with the IOBM, please take some time to fill out this application. Mail it to us or email it. (The address is provided at the end of the application).

In your application packet don't forget to include the following:

1. A passport sized photograph.
2. A check or money order for \$200.00(usd) for application fee. (*will be returned if you are declined*)
3. A check or money order for \$50.00 (usd) for your background check.

Please feel free to use more paper if your answer is longer than the space provides.

Given Name:

Last	First	Middle
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Address:

Number	Street
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City	State	Zip
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Telephone

Home	Work	Cell
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E Mail

Name of Candidate:

Date: _____

IOBM Application:

Personal Information:	
Citizenship:	Date of Birth:
	Place of Birth:

Current Employer:	Occupation:

Education: List school	Degree/certificate	Date

Please feel free to use more paper if your answer is longer than the space provides.

Religious history: Religions pursued,	level of achievement/ studies	Date

Comments:

Refuge: When and where did you have your first refuge ceremony? Did you accept precepts? Explain.

Background Information: Please provide a history of your Buddhist engagement and/or other religious experience:

Name of Candidate:

Date: _____

IOBM Application:

Comments: Please discuss your reasons for wanting to become a Buddhist Minister.

Please list Temples in your area you have attended and volunteered at.

Once you become a Buddhist Minister...

1. Once you are a Minister, how will being a Minister change/benefit/or impact your life.

2. What activities do you see yourself doing as a Minister?

3. Is there any specific Temple or center you currently help with? What capacity?

Please feel free to use more paper if your answer is longer than the space provides.

Study history:

Please provide a list of Buddhist Literature, books, Dharma study you have become familiar with:

Please feel free to use more paper if your answer is longer than the space provides.

Name of Candidate:

Date: _____

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References: Non family members

Please provide address, phone, email or other contact information of three references:

Name:	Years acquainted:
Relationship/affiliation:	
Address	
Phone:	
Email:	
Name:	Years acquainted:
Relationship/affiliation:	
Address	
Phone:	
Email:	
Name:	Years acquainted:
Relationship/affiliation:	
Address	
Phone:	
Email:	

What do your family and friends think of you pursuing Buddhist Ministry?

As a minister you will be expected to commit several hours per week in performance of your ministerial duties. On occasions you may be requested to dedicate more significant periods to assist with special occasions. Minor financial expenses may not be reimbursed if funds are not available. No compensation is allowed, except with prior approval of a Sangha Master.

Periodic and annual Meetings will be scheduled. Ministers will make every effort to attend and participate in these affairs.

Ministers agree to accept and conform to the 'Rules of Conduct' for the Order of Buddhist Ministers.

Signature

Date

Mail your completed application to:

IOBM
7833 Emerson Place
Rosemead, CA 91770

Name of Candidate:

Date: _____