

Ground Breaking Ceremony for Dharma Centers

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

Members of [*Dharma center name*], people with karmic connections to this area, and related parties, all of pure heart, have gathered to respectfully conduct this ground breaking ceremony for the construction of the Dharma center of [*Dharma center name*]; we solemnly purify this land, which now becomes a sacred place of the Buddha Dharma.

Here,

“May This Dharma Center and the Earth Supporting It Be Places of Awakening.”

(Recite the Land Purification Inscription twice.)

We reverently pray that through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, this location may become a place from which the true Dharma reaches far and wide. We also earnestly pray for guidance in all things.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapters 2 and 16 from the Kyoten*)
- Dharanis (*Chapters 26 and 28 from the Kyoten's appendix, five times each*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit
- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
 may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
 The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
 The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
 The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
 The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
 Practice;
 The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
 mahasattvas;
 Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
 Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
 Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
 The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
 The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, having sincerely recited the sutra together with the participants of pure heart at the site of
 [*Dharma center name*], we respectfully express our gratitude to the Buddha for arranging the ground
 breaking ceremony for the Dharma center of [*Dharma center name*].

We reverently pray that
 All those who have passed beyond, known and unknown to us, wherever they be,
 And, especially, those who were related to this place,
 may delight in the taste of the Dharma and quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect
 Awakening.

We also earnestly pray that all hindrances to completing this Dharma Center may be dispelled and purified so that it become the site for sharing the Dharma.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Ritual of Purifying the Four Corners (*Sprinkle salt, rice, and sake.*)
- Ritual of Taking the First Shovelful of Earth
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Making a Congratulatory Toast

Note

As for the Ritual of Purifying the Four Corners above, sprinkle salt, rice, and *sake* at the four corners of the ground for the Dharma center. Further, you can replace the rice and *sake* with products available in your area that are traditionally used for religious rituals and ceremonies.