



From the Head Kyomunim

Rev. WonGong So

Dear friends in dharma,

Won-Buddhism is a religious movement founded in South Korea in 1916. The founder, Sotaesan, realized that while material aspects of our lives have advanced, our spiritual capacities have not kept up. So, it is critical to develop our spirituality to overcome the challenges of modern life.



Won-Buddhism of North Carolina endeavors to realize the religious ideals of spiritual cultivation and reach out to all living beings to relieve suffering. Won-Buddhism enshrines the *// Won Sang* ("One Circle Image") as the model of spiritual awakening. The image symbolizes our original true nature and the great oneness and truth of the universe. An essential tenet of Won-Buddhism is to live with gratitude because we are indebted to a Fourfold Grace: Grace of Heaven and Earth, Grace of Parents, Grace of Fellow Beings, and Grace of Laws and Universal Principles.

The Won-Buddhism Temple in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, started in May 2003 and has added more programs each year. I am thankful to Dharmakaya Buddha Fourfold Grace that the Temple has settled and evolved in this beautiful place, such that many wonderful people come here to search for their true self through dharma practice. I pray that all dharma practitioners and all living beings continually advance and transform themselves as they realize their true, empty, clear, and bright nature.

Palms together,

WonGong (소원공)



From the Associate Kyomunim

Rev. IIDug Kim

"I wish and pray, sincerely and truly, where my hands touch the world, where my feet walk on the ground, where my voice echoes through the hills, and where my mind is penetrating, that we share a true affinity for attaining Great Enlightenment and for reaching out to all living beings." – Ven. Daesan's Prayer.

This has also been my prayer and vow since beginning this walk on a spiritual path. Won-Buddhist priests carry out roles that help people come together with truth, come together with teachers, come together with dharma, come together with community, and come together with their original true nature and the vow to attain Great Enlightenment while reaching out to all living beings.

I am grateful to be serving in the Won-Buddhism Temple of Chapel Hill. In my first assignment since being ordained as a kyomunim, it has been my pleasure to serve the community and Temple practitioners in meditation services, as well as in its many other programs. The Temple has reached out to the community and beyond through these programs, in addition to offering deliverance services for the deceased, cultural and educational camps for children, and tutoring services for students. I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as a kyomunim in this Temple and for the chance to fulfill my priesthood as I support others in our dharma journey.



Palms together,

IIDug (김일덕)