



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Buddhist Churches of America

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Statement on BCA Youth Leadership Development Programs

As reported in the Buddhist Churches of America (BCA) National Board Meeting, the Youth Advocacy Committee (YAC) will be discontinued as of February 2018, and the responsibility for planning summer youth retreats and related youth leadership, support, and training activities will now be taken care of by the Center for Buddhist Education (CBE). CBE is an educational arm of the BCA and provides a continuum of critical leadership and dharma programs serving the BCA national sangha.

BCA is deeply grateful to the YAC committee members, volunteers, and families for their extraordinary dedication to cultivating, inspiring, and supporting over 165 youth leaders since 2002. These leaders continue to be a part of BCA and active members in the Sangha. In addition to giving youth the opportunity to further their knowledge of Buddhism and leadership, YAC has served as advocates for young people and provided a space for community building and building lifelong friendships – all necessary for the future of BCA. The CBE now takes on this great task and looks forward to providing this continued support for young people as it embarks on the next phase of BCA's youth leadership and dharma education programs: building upon the foundation of YAC and other BCA youth programs throughout its history (e.g., Institute of Buddhist Studies summer program, Young Buddhists' International Cultural Study Exchange (YBICSE), local and district youth dharma programs, and more), as well as innovating new approaches and activities.

We are aware of many questions and concerns as we enter this new phase of BCA youth education programming, and kindly ask for your patience as we design programs that continue to meet the many needs of our BCA youth. Youth leadership development and dharma education are key to our BCA future.

In Gassho,

Rev. Kodo Umezu
Bishop, Buddhist Churches of America

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President, Buddhist Churches of America