



Dear Dharma Friend,

As we begin our journey towards a new home for Red Cedar Zen in Bellingham I'm thinking about places of practice and how deeply they can touch us.

When I stumbled into a Zen Center as a young man something touched me deeply. I'd never been in a place like that. I'm sure the teacher offered teachings and we tried zazen meditation, but what I remember most is the place. There was a depth there - a place where I felt whole and at home in myself in a way I'd never felt before.

Fast forward 40 years to Bellingham. A Sangha community has grown up together. Over the years we've set up homes everywhere from library meeting rooms to park shelters; we've been a part of multi-Sangha shared Halls; and we leased and remodelled our own Hall in 2007 which we were happy to share with other Sanghas and groups.

In these places over these many years: so much practice and growth, lots of love, the occasional upset as we worked things through and grew up in the Dharma together. With Zoketsu Norman Fischer's steady guidance, we learned the traditional way of Soto Zen and adapted it to meet (and at times: challenge!) our modern lives.

One of the deep joys of my life is watching people entering the zendo from the teacher's seat. At our home on Forest Street as people bowed and entered I could feel their shoulders release, their faces soften: that feeling of coming home in a place of practice.

It's been quite a journey and we're just getting started. We are also reaching beyond the zendo walls: helping families experiencing homelessness, joining the Whatcom Interfaith Coalition, and hosting the more accessible style of mindfulness practice at the zendo.

We gave up our last leased home in 2020. Now we're ready to take on the responsibility of owning property; ready to offer this coming home practice to many more people, of all walks of life, for many more years to come.

I hope you'll join us in our capital campaign, *Our Journey Home*. With your support we will purchase and remodel a space in Bellingham to offer to all as a spiritual home, as a place of practice, as a place for coming home. We can do this: together.

With deep gratitude,
Nomon Tim Burnett
Guiding Teacher

Nomon Tim

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