

2026 Kieshiki Affirmation Ceremony

The Seattle Betsuin will sponsor a special *Kieshiki* (Affirmation) Ceremony **at 2:30pm on Saturday, November 7th** at the Seattle Betsuin Buddhist Temple. The ceremony will be held as part of the Seattle Betsuin 125th Anniversary.

The *Kieshiki* is an individual's affirmation to follow the Buddha's Path. There is no age restriction for the ceremony. *Socho* Marvin Harada (Bishop of Buddhist Churches of America) will have the privilege of conducting this meaningful *Kieshiki* ceremony for our Sangha.

At the time of the *Kieshiki*, each participant takes refuge and affirms (*KIE*) the Three Treasures: the Buddha, the Dharma (Teaching), and the Sangha (Community). The Buddhist name, or more correctly the Dharma Name (*Homyo*), is then presented. The Buddhist name is composed of two *kanji* (Chinese character), preceded by the *kanji* for *shaku* 釈. This character is used as an abbreviation for Shakyamuni, in reference to the historical Buddha. The Buddhist name is given to a Jodo Shinshu priest at *Tokudo*, the first ordination. For individuals, it is given during the *Kieshiki*. If one has not received a Buddhist name during one's life, then one is given at the time of one's funeral.

Sometimes the ritual is called the *Okamitori* (Hair-shaving ceremony). It is a simple ceremony in which the basic ritual is the symbolic shaving of the head, recalling the act of Siddhartha when he resolved to enter the spiritual path of life, as well as the time when Shinran entered the monastery at the age of nine. When this service is conducted by the *Gomonshu* (Chief Abbot of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha), it is called the *Kikyoshiki* (Confirmation Ceremony). Only the *Gomonshu*, or in special cases a selected representative, can conduct these services.

To apply for this ceremony, you need to select one character (*kanji*). You can use the HOMYO KANJI LIST as reference. Please contact me if you would like to consult with me on the selection of a Buddhist name.

There is a registration fee of \$50 per person. Registration deadline is **September 21st**. (Make check payable to Seattle Buddhist Temple and write 2026 *Kieshiki* in memo). Please fill out the enclosed form and mail it to the Seattle Buddhist Temple (1427 S. Main Street, Seattle, WA 98144) along with your payment. If you have further questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Seattle Betsuin office for more information (206) 329-0800.

I look forward to your participation in the *Kieshiki* ceremony.

In Gassho,

Rev. Katsuya Kusunoki, Rimban
E-mail: rev.kusunoki@seattlebetsuin.org