

## Explanation of the Ordination Ceremony

On this day, Sāmaṇerī Ahimsā will first reaffirm her sāmaṇerī ordination. She will then request *upasampada* (full ordination) by an act of the Dual Sangha, consisting of a quorum of Theravāda bhikkhunīs led by Ayyā Gunāsārī Therī as the preceptor (*pavattinī* or *upajjhā*) and a quorum of Theravāda bhikkhus headed by Ven. Bhikkhu Tekewe Śanṭharakṣita Mahāthera as *Ovadakacāriya*.

The upasampada ceremony begins with Sāmaṇerī Ahimsā entering the *sīmā* (ordination boundary), asking for forgiveness and requesting dependence on her pavattinī, Ayyā Gunāsārī Therī, who ensures that the candidate's five robes and bowl are complete.

Standing at the edge of the *sīmā*, the reciting bhikkhunīs (*kammavācācarinīs*) prepare the candidate for her full ordination.

The candidate reenters the *sīmā* and requests full ordination from her pavattinī, who asks the Bhikkhunī Sangha to question the candidate to ensure that she is free from obstructions to ordination. In the midst of the Bhikkhunī Sangha, the reciting bhikkhunīs question her and, finding her free from obstructions, request the Bhikkhunī Sangha three times to confer ordination. Consent is given in silence, and the candidate becomes a “one-sided bhikkhunī.”

Once she has received ordination on the bhikkhunī side, she approaches the Bhikkhu Sangha, together with the reciting bhikkhunīs, to receive confirmation of her upasampada. The reciting bhikkhus (*kammavācācariyas*) request the Bhikkhu Sangha three times to confirm the ordination. Then, with consent given in silence, it is announced that they have agreed. The ordination is now complete.

The ovadacāriya next explains the Three Requisites (alms food, robes, and medicine); the Eight Things Never to Be Done (actions that would defeat the purpose of the renunciant life); and the Threefold Training (ethics/*sīla*, concentration/*samādhi*, and wisdom/*paññā*).

## Bhikkhunī Candidate

Sāmaṇerī Ahimsā (Robyn Anne Church) will ordain as Bhikkhunī Ahimsā.

## Ordaining Bhikkhunī Sangha

Ayyā Gunāsārī Therī, Pavattinī  
Ayyā Ānandabodhī, Kammavācācarinī  
Ayyā Santacittā, Assisting Kammavācācarinī  
Ayyā Peliyagoda Sudarshanā Mahātherī, Supporting Kammācarinī  
Ayyā Medhānandī Therī, Supporting Kammācarinī  
Ayyā Santussikā, Supporting Kammācarinī  
Ayyā Tathālokā Mahātherī  
Ayyā Sudhammā Therī  
Ayyā Sobhanā Therī  
Ayyā Uttamā

## Confirming Bhikkhu Sangha

Ven. Tekewe Śanṭharakṣita Mahāthera, *Ovadacāriya*  
Ven. Tapowanaye Suthadāra Mahāthera, *Kammavācācariya*  
Ven. Mayakadawara Dhammika Mahāthera, *Kammavācācariya*  
Ven. Bogolle Sumana Mahāthera  
Ven. Suriyagoda Jinasīri Mahāthera  
Ven. Rikillagaskada Sumanasāra Thera  
Ven. Kotapola Chandima

## Robe Sponsors

Eric Deal (Son of Robyn A. Church), Boston, Massachusetts  
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