

2020 年 米国仏教団総会 総長メッセージ

ワシントン州、シアトルにおいて米国仏教団定期総会が西北部教区担当にて開催されるにあたり、開教使及び寺院代表の皆様には、各地からご参集いただき、誠にありがたく存じますとともに、平素より伝道布教、および寺院の護持運営にご尽力を賜り深く感謝申し上げます。

また、伝灯奉告法要前にカナダ開教区より始まりましたご門主様開教区及び開教地ご巡回も昨年度の北米開教区をもって実施が一巡となりました。各地において多くの門信徒の方々にこのご勝縁にお遇いいただきましたこと、皆様のおかげと重ねて御礼申し上げます。

昨年、宗門総合振興計画の一環として、国際伝道のさらなる強化・推進のため、浄土真宗インターナショナルオフィスがサンフランシスコに設置となり、同年 9 月にはご門主様ご臨席、全開教総長ご参集のなか開所式が執り行われ、ご門主様より、アメリカをはじめとする世界各地へ浄土真宗のみ教えを伝える拠点として発展することを切に願っております、とのお言葉をいただきました。開教区の枠を越えこれからの海外開教を担う拠点として発展いたしますよう、引き続き皆様のご指導、ご協力をいただきたく存じます。

さて、宗門においては、来る 2023 年の親鸞聖人御誕生 850 年・立教開宗 800 年慶讃法要厳修に向け、昨 11 月 1 日に法要推進体制がスタートいたしました。この法要は、聖人の説き示してくださった浄土真宗の教えに出遇うことがなければ、今の私はあり得なかったという聖人への感謝と、その教えに出会えたことの喜びを込めてお勤めいたしますものです。自己中心的なあり方が社会・国家レベルで蔓延する今日、み教えをいただく同朋教団である私たちは「自他共に心豊かに生きることのできる社会の実現に貢献」すべく、この感謝と喜びの気持ちを新たに法要をお迎えいたしましょう。

今年の米国仏教団総会が実りあるものとなり、貴教団が今後ともますます興隆されますよう念じあげ、ご挨拶いたします。

2020 年 2 月 19 日

浄土真宗本願寺派

総長 石 上 智 康

Message

On the occasion of the annual Buddhist Churches of America National Council Meeting, hosted by the Northwest District in Seattle, Washington, I humbly extend my appreciation to you, the ministers and sangha representatives from throughout the mainland U.S., for gathering here. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you all for your continuing efforts in propagating Jodo Shinshu and maintaining the temples within your respective districts.

Upon completion of Monshu Ohtani Kojun's trip to the BCA temples last year, the first round of his official visit to the overseas districts was duly finished. Having Canada as the first destination, his trip began 5 years ago, prior to the conducting of the accession ceremonies. Thank you for welcoming the entourage at every stop. This successful accomplishment would have never been possible without your cooperation, and for that, we are truly grateful.

Another significant incident of the last year is the establishment of the Jodo Shinshu International Office in San Francisco, which is expected to enhance the efforts in sharing the Buddha Dharma on the global scale. Its opening ceremony was conducted last September with the attendance of Gomonshu, as well as the bishops and presidents of the four overseas districts. In his address delivered during the ceremony, Monshu Ohtani expressed his keen anticipation for the office to become the foundation to share the Jodo Shinshu teaching with people across the world. In order to allow the office to expand as the propagational base beyond the framework of each overseas district, your guidance and cooperation is crucial.

At Hongwanji, the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin's Birth and the 800th Anniversary of Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching will be conducted in 2023. Having this Joint Celebration before us, the special organizational structure that consists of several divisions was launched on November 1st last year. Since then, every conventional department of the Hongwanji institute has been allocated to one of those divisions. This celebratory service should be observed with our gratitude to the founder Shinran Shonin and our joy of encountering the Jodo Shinshu teaching because we would not be who we are today without either of them.

In today's world where a self-centered way of thinking prevails, ranging widely from small communities to the national level, we, the sangha of Nembutsu followers must endeavor to realize a society in which everyone can live a life of spiritual fulfillment, and as an activity in that effort, we must move forward aiming at the successful observance of the Joint Celebration.

In closing, it is my hope that the Buddhist Churches of America will continue to prosper and that many fruitful results will arise from this annual meeting.

March 5, 2020

Governor General Iwagami Chiko
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha