



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

## **Buddhist Churches of America**

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### Greetings

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2019 Buddhist Churches of America Northwest District Buddhist Conference. This year, we gather under the theme of “Compassion, Gratitude and Community.”

As human beings, we live our lives recognizing that we are part of an interdependent community. We live our lives, not by ourselves, but through the interactions with and the support of others. It is through the Buddha’s teachings that we are reminded of the interdependence of all things.

Our lives are touched by the Buddha’s compassion in many ways. Your contemplating and ultimately deciding to attend this conference is proof that you have been grasped and embraced by the Buddha’s compassion.

We cannot but feel grateful for the past and present conditions that have urged us to turn to the light of the Buddha so that we can become good citizens of our communities.

I thank the members of the planning committee for their hard work in organizing this year’s conference. Let us express our appreciation and gratitude to the committee by enjoying this conference and taking advantage of this wonderful opportunity to deepen our understanding and appreciation of the Buddha-dharma.

In Gassho,

Kodo Umezu, Bishop