



NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

## Buddhist Churches of America

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### Greetings

*Whenever the Buddha travels, be it country, province, town, or village, there is no place which does not benefit from his virtue. Peace and harmony reign throughout the land, the sun and the moon shine brightly, the wind and rain are timely, and no disaster or disease ever occurs. The land is prosperous and the people live in peace, so there is no need to use soldiers and weapons. People respect virtue, cultivate benevolence, and diligently observe propriety and humility.*

(The Sutra on the Buddha of Immeasurable Life)

Welcome to the 2020 Buddhist Churches of America Ministers Association and National Council Meeting being held in Renton, Washington in conjunction with the BCA Northwest District Buddhist Convention under the theme of "Dana for World Peace."

As the mission statement of the BCA states, we are here to promote the Buddha, Dharma, and Sangha as well as to propagate the Jodo Shinshu Teachings. Our wish is for everyone to receive and share the Three Treasures as appreciated by Shinran Shonin. I firmly believe that to share these Three Treasures and Shinran Shonin's Nembutsu teaching with all people is the greatest Dana to the world.

Sharing the Three Treasures is to share the Light of Wisdom. The Light of Wisdom gives us warmth, peace, hope, joy, clarity, and appreciation. When this Compassionate Wisdom of the Buddha spreads throughout the world, when each of us encounters the compassionate heart of the Buddha, peace and harmony will naturally occur, as stated in the above passage. By sharing the Name of the Buddha, we can help create a better world to live.

I would like to ask each of you to listen to the Nembutsu Dharma and continue to share this Dana of the Buddha that has been extended to all of us. Please continue to help our BCA organization so that people today and tomorrow will be able to hear and appreciate the peerless Treasures and Nembutsu teaching as given to us by Shinran Shonin. Namo Amida Butsu.

In Gassho,

Kodo Umezumi, Bishop