

[Greeting From BCA President.....]

“DANA FOR WORLD PEACE”

Welcome to the 2020 BCA Ministers' Association and National Council Meetings, joined together this year with our BCA NW District Convention. The theme of our meeting, “Dana for World Peace,” is a deeply compelling wish with a different meaning for each of us. Yet, perhaps there is a common thread which joins us all.

I have always believed in the importance of placing the Dharma and its impact upon our lives at the forefront of our religious concerns. The aspiration to Buddhahood, to kindness, compassion, peace, and love, have long been a part of our Shin Buddhist teachings. More than an aspiration, these teachings have become part of the language of the west and are now embraced, at least rhetorically, both by Buddhists as well as by all who are searching for a better way to be in the world.

We meet this week on the shores of Lake Washington seeking ways in which to live life to its fullest. All of us -- ministers, leaders, and friends -- share a common wish...that BCA provide a foundation for the propagation of Shin Buddhism in America. We are the keepers and trustees of that wish, which includes our yearning for peace... both our inner peace as well as our wish for peace for all our brothers and sisters everywhere around the world.

In these times of profound division, of hatred, racism, hate speech and fear, I believe that seeking harmony through acts of Dana is one way in which we can bring peace to repair the world, and at the same time honor our founder, Shinran Shonin, and his timeless teachings. *Namoamidabutsu*.

In gassho,
Richard A. Stambul, President
Buddhist Churches of America®