

## 2023年 米国仏教団総会 総長メッセージ

2023年米国仏教団定期総会が沿岸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さまには、オンラインにて各地よりご参加いただき、誠にありがたく存じます。また、平素より伝道布教及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。

まず、新型コロナウイルス感染症により、今なおその影響を受けておられます皆さまに心よりお見舞い申し上げます。現在は多くの国で感染症との共存政策が進められていますが、まだまだ予断を許さない状況です。さらに、昨年2月24日にはロシア連邦のウクライナへの軍事侵攻が起きました。今もなお戦禍に苦しむ人たちの映像がテレビを通じて放送され、私たちはあらためて戦争という悲しい現実を目の当たりにしています。新型コロナウイルス感染症は発生当初、人びとの間に大きな分断を生じさせ、以来大きく世界を揺るがしました。そしてロシアによるウクライナ侵攻をきっかけに武力重視の雰囲気の世界中で高まり、人びとは不安や恐怖に包まれています。世界規模での人類の生存に関わる困難な問題の根本原因にある、私たち人間の自己中心性を省みるとき、ますます仏法という真実を依りどころとして生きることの大切さを感じずにはおれません。

ご門主様はご親教「浄土真宗のみ教え」において、「阿弥陀如来に願われないのちと知らされ、その温かなお慈悲に触れる時、大きな安心とともに生きていく力が与えられ、人と喜びや悲しみを分かち合い、お互いに敬い支え合う世界が開かれてきます」とお示くださいました。次世代の人々にご法義がわかりやすく伝わるよう、その肝要を述べられた「浄土真宗のみ教え」のお心を深く受け止め、時代に即した方法で「伝わる伝道」の実践に努めてまいりましょう。

宗門におきましては来る3月29日より親鸞聖人御誕生850年・立教開宗800年慶讃法要が修行されます。この節目の年にあたり、親鸞聖人のご誕生を祝い、立教開宗への感謝とその意義を、改めて皆さまと共に分かちあいたいと思います。北米開教区の皆さまのご参拝をお待ちしております。

今年の定期総会が実りあるものとなり、今後の米国仏教団のますますの興隆を念じあげ、ご挨拶といたします。

2023年2月26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, which is being conducted online, I humbly extend my appreciation to you, the ministers and sangha representatives from throughout the mainland U.S. I would also like to express my heartfelt gratitude to you all for your continuing efforts in propagating the Jodo Shinshu tradition and maintaining the temples within your respective districts.

I would first like to express my sympathy to those who have been directly affected by COVID-19. Though nowadays, countries are adopting policies of “living with the virus,” infections remain high in many areas. In addition, another significant global issue has been brought about on February 24, 2022, when the Russian military invasion into Ukraine began. Throughout the year, visual images of the people suffering from the devastation caused by the war have been shown on TV and it makes us face the harsh reality of war. The global pandemic has brought about social division among people, particularly when it spread at furious speeds a couple of years ago and as a result, social instability has spread in various forms throughout the world. Amid such circumstances, Russia’s aggression against Ukraine occurred. This incident has prompted many countries to put more emphasis on their military power and equipment which is stirring up people’s fears and anxieties. Being aware that these issues are fundamentally caused by our own self-oriented mindset that every one of us possesses as a human being, I cannot help but renew my appreciation for the value of Buddhist life relying on the Dharma as the foundation.

In his Message on ‘Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching,’ Monshu Ohtani Kojun provides us with the following words, “When we are touched by this warm compassion and learn of Amida Tathagata’s wish for our life, we are empowered to live at ease, share joy and sadness with people, and a world of mutual respect and support opens up.” Receiving and deeply reflecting on this message, let us recite in unison the ‘Gratitude for the Jodo Shinshu Teaching’ while endeavoring to share the teaching in effective ways that is in accord with the time and age.

As announced, the Joint Celebration of the 850th Anniversary of Shinran Shonin’s Birth and the 800th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Jodo Shinshu Teaching will be observed at Hongwanji from March 29, and we are preparing for the occasion. It would be wonderful if we are able to celebrate this special event together with the BCA delegation in Kyoto.

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.

February 26, 2023

Governor General Iwagami Chiko  
Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha