

**BUDDHIST CHURCHES OF AMERICA
FEDERATION OF BUDDHIST WOMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS CONSTITUTION**

ARTICLE I.

Name

The name of this organization shall be the Buddhist Churches of America Federation of Buddhist Women's Associations (Beikoku Bukkyo Dan Fujinkai Renmei), hereafter known as the Federation. It shall be a member of the World Federation of Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Buddhist women's Associations, hereafter known as the World BWA.

ARTICLE II.

Object

Section 1. The object of the Federation shall be to:

- a. Coordinate activities of the District Buddhist Women's Associations of the Federation and the World BWA in accordance with its Bylaws.
- b. Promote Buddhist Women's programs based on the Jodo Shinshu teachings, including conferences.
- c. Contribute to the advancement of Buddhist Churches of America (hereafter known as the BCA).
- d. Support youth activities within the BCA. Contribute to the welfare of the community.

ARTICLE III.

Membership

Section 1. Membership shall be all BCA Buddhist Women's Associations within the following districts:

- a. Bay District
- b. Central California District
- c. Coast District
- d. Eastern District
- e. Mountain States District
- f. Northern California District
- g. Northwest District
- h. Southern District

ARTICLE IV.

Finances

Section 1. The Federation shall be financed by the annual membership dues, donations, and various fees solicited.

Section 2. The records of the treasury shall be maintained on a calendar year basis.

ARTICLE V.

Honorary President and President Emeritus

Section 1. The Honorary President shall be the Lady of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Monshu;

Section 2. The President Emeritus shall be the Lady of the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha Monshu Emeritus.

ARTICLE VI.

Honorary Advisor

The spouse of the Bishop of the Buddhist Churches of American, or alternate designee as chosen by the

Bishop may serve as the Honorary Advisor.

ARTICLE VII.

Officers

Section 1. The cabinet shall have the following elected officers:

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Two Recording Secretaries (one English-speaking and one Japanese-speaking)
- d. Treasurer
- e. Two Auditors
- f. Two Corresponding Secretaries (one English-speaking and one Japanese-speaking)
- g. Several Counselors

ARTICLE VIII.

Election

Section 1. The officers shall be elected by and from members of the district in charge of the Federation.

Section 2. The term of office shall be for two calendar years, or until their successors are elected.

Section 3. The incoming officers shall be installed at the Federation's Conference during the closing service.

ARTICLE IX.

Advisors

The advisors shall be the ministers who are also Advisors of the district in charge of the Federation.

ARTICLE X.

World BWA Offices (Article III of the World Bylaws)

Section 1. The Central Office (the main office) of the World BWA shall be located at the Headquarters of the BCA when the Federation is so designated.

- a. The location of the Central Office shall be determined at a World Representatives' Meeting.

Section 2. The Federation shall be a Branch Office of the World BWA, excluding the years covered by Article X (1) and shall be located at the Headquarters of the BCA.

ARTICLE XI.

World BWA Officers

Section 1. Secretaries-General

- a. Two members of the Federation shall be elected as Secretaries-General of the World BWA (refer to Article VII of the World Bylaws). The term of office shall be four years, or adjusted to ensure that there will always be a Secretary-General who will have planned and represented the FBWA at a World Convention, or until their successors are elected. The terms for each Secretary-General shall be staggered with each Secretary-General's term following that of the other by two years, more or less, her term to begin on January 1st the year following her election. Secretaries-General shall serve no more than two consecutive terms (see *Proviso on Constitution p. 3 of 3).
- b. As officers of the World BWA, they shall attend the World BWA's International Representatives' Meetings. Transportation and hotel expenses during the official meeting period shall be borne by the Federation.
- c. They shall file a report to the Federation on all World Federation meetings attended. They shall be responsible to follow through on all activities and resolutions passed at all World Federation meetings. They shall make annual report(s) to the Chairman of the World Federation on the activities of the Federation.

Section 2. Chairman, Vice Chairmen (2), recording Secretaries (2)

- a. When the Federation is designated as the Central Office:
 - i. A chairman and two Vice Chairmen shall be elected from the membership of the Federation as officers of the World BWA. They shall be recognized by the President of the World BWA.
 - ii. Two Recording Secretaries shall be appointed by the Chairman from the membership of the Federation as officers of the World BWA.
 - iii. As officers of the World BWA, they shall attend the World BWA's meetings. Transportation and hotel expenses during the official meeting periods shall be borne by the Federation.

ARTICLE XII.

Liaison to Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha and World BWA

The Office of the Bishop shall serve as liaison to the Jodo Shinshu Hongwanji-ha and members of the World BWA.

ARTICLE XIII.

Meetings

Section 1. Cabinet meetings shall be held as frequently as necessary.

Section 2. A Representatives' Meeting shall be held every year and as deemed necessary by the President. Section 3. The General Meeting shall be held on the last day of the Federation conference.

Section 4. A bilingual person (or one Japanese-speaking and one English-speaking) shall be appointed by the President to act as a Parliamentarian.

ARTICLE XIV.

Bylaws

The Federation may adopt Bylaws and/or Standing Rules and Procedures, which shall be consistent with the provisions of this Constitution.

ARTICLE XV.

Parliamentary Order

The rules contained in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall govern the Federation in all cases to which they are applicable and are not in conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules and Procedures, and/or any special rules of order the Federation may adopt.

Amended: October 17, 2015. Seattle, Washington

Amended: October 12, 2013. Los Angeles,

California Amended: October 14, 2006. Fresno, California

Amended: November 2, 2002, Santa Clara, California •Proviso adopted Nov. 2, 2002: Election for positions as Secretary-General shall be held in 2003 as scheduled by the Constitution. The position currently held by the Secretary-General from the Northwest District shall be for a term of four years. The position currently held by the Secretary-General from the Southern District shall be for a period of two years, after which, the Secretary-General shall be elected for the prescribed four-year term. The two-year term shall constitute a full term.

Amended: October 6, 2000, Sacramento,

California Amended: August 2.7, 1999, San

Francisco, California Revised: October 3, 1997,

Fresno, California

Amended: September, 29, 1995, Seattle, Washington

Amended: October 11, 1991, Burlingame, California

Revised: October 7, 1989, Fresno,

California Revised: October 13, 1985,
San Jose, California
Adopted: February 16, 1952, San Francisco, California