

**Reverend Dr. David Ryo Matsumoto** was born in Detroit, Michigan and raised in St. Paul, Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1976 and practiced law until 1981. He decided to pursue a Buddhist path, earning an M.A. in Buddhist Studies from the Institute of Buddhist Studies (IBS) in 1984. In 1989 and 2004 he was a Visiting Research Fellow at Ryukoku University, in Kyoto, Japan, and in 2007 he received his Ph.D. in Shin Buddhist Studies.

Rev. Dr. Matsumoto obtained Kyoshi ordination in 1988 at the Jōdo Shinshū Hongwanji-ha in Kyoto. He was the Resident Minister of the Berkeley Buddhist Temple from 2005-2015. He is the IBS Provost and Vice-President of Academic Affairs, the George and Sakaye Aratani Professor of Shin Buddhist Studies, and the Director of the Ministerial Education and Kyōshi Certificate Programs.

**Venerable Madawala Seelawimala**, affectionately known to all as “Bhante,” was born and educated in Sri Lanka. Ordained at the age of ten, he was the first disciple of the Ven. Master (Achariya) Hendiyagala Seelarathana of the Ancient Cave Temple, who was respected as the most capable Dharma teacher in the country at the time. An unusual and illustrious educational path eventually led him to the U.S. in 1976, when he joined the Institute of Buddhist Studies faculty to teach Early Buddhism. Over four decades, Bhante has helped to establish numerous Theravada Buddhist temples throughout Canada and the U.S. and inspired countless students from diverse Buddhist traditions.