



**Rev. Rich Willard:** Kyoshi Willard started karate practice in Illinois in 1969 under Shojiro Sugiyama of JKA Shotokan until 1973. He studied briefly under Kojosho head Fred Absher in 1974, and later with Steve Clapper, Gary Purdue and Dick Rienstra from 1974 until 1980. Sensei James Hawkes was the ranking member on Mr. Willard's Shodan promotion board in 1976, and subsequent promotions came through Master Hawkes. As a direct Shorin Ryu student of Sensei James Hawkes, Mr. Willard was awarded the Shorin Kai chief instructor patch, and awarded Seki Ryu Kai membership. He was also awarded the Kyoshi designation in 1996 by both Hanshis Hawkes and Absher. With his focus on research, experimentation, and teaching of Karate, Mr. Willard has been director of two different karate clubs in Albuquerque from 1980 to 1990, and a club later in Las Cruces between 2004 and 2010. Along with his wife he was a karate school owner specializing in teaching Special Olympics students in Oklahoma between 1995 and 2000. A retired architect, a seminary trained and ordained Southern Baptist minister, and a former hospital chaplain, he was appointed to the USAMA Executive Board as organizational chaplain and advisor to President Sue Hawkes in 2014. He holds the rank of 4<sup>th</sup> Dan in Shotokan, 8<sup>th</sup> Dan in Shorin Ryu, and serves on faculty at the Hawkes Shorin Kai hombu.