

Thich Nu Tien Lien was born in Saigon, Vietnam, in 1966. She enjoyed learning about Buddhism from a young age. From the age of thirteen, she went to chant *sutras* every night and attended Dharma teachings every week. She began living as a Buddhist nun in 1980, received novice ordination in 1983, and became fully ordained as a *bhiksuni* in 1985.

In 1991, Thich Nu Tien Lien and her family settled in San Jose, California. There, she lived and studied with the nuns of Duc Vien Temple. In 1994, she moved to San Diego and, in 1996, she founded Tinh Xa Ngoc Minh Temple. In 2008, she founded Tinh Xa Ngoc Hoa Temple and, in 2011, the Buddhist Center for World Peace and the International Bhiksuni Buddhist Congregation, all in San Jose. Over the years, she assisted senior monastics in establishing temples throughout the United States. She earned a B.A. and a Master's in Social Work at San Diego State University and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Religious Studies at the University of the West. Venerable Tien Lien is a lifetime member of Sakyadhita and has been active in the organization since 2004.