

UPF came on the foundation of True Parents' blood, sweat and tears

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UPF was inaugurated on September 12, 2005 at Lincoln Center in New York City. It emerged on a foundation prepared over the course of decades, as our True Parents moved the providence forward from the earliest days in Korea. In his inaugural address, True Father spoke of UPF as "God's cherished hope" and as "the fruit of True Parents' blood, sweat and tears." The seriousness of these words, which he asked us to engrave in our hearts, was evidenced over the course of the next twelve months. In that time, an unprecedented series of four consecutive global tours began, beginning with a 120-nation tour by True Parents from October through December 2005. True Parents' UPF inaugural address was presented as UPF was inaugurated in each country. A second 120-nation tour followed, starting in 2006, led by True Mother, with the true children, each of whom accompanied True Mother at various points along the tour, and with True Mother, co-officiated Blessings Ceremonies in each country after the UPF program.

True children and true grandchildren carried out a third world tour, and ambassadors for peace carried out a final world tour. This secured the foundation for UPF's development.

UPF did not emerge out of thin air but out of a long history of organizations and initiatives, including the Inter-religious and International Federation for World Peace, the World Association of NGOs, the International Federation for World Peace, the Inter-Religious Federation for World Peace, the Women's Federation for World Peace, the Professors World Peace Academy, the International Religious Foundation, the Summit Council, the New Ecumenical Research Association, and others.

The immediate predecessor of UPF, established in 1999, was the Inter-religious and International Federation for World Peace, a kind of marriage of the spiritual and the political, the realms of the sacred and the secular. True Parents articulated the concept at the United Nations in August 2000, the year of the United Nations Millennium General Assembly. Father's speech called upon the UN to develop within its system an interfaith council of religious and spiritual leaders, to complement the diplomatic corps that represented nation states. It called for the creation of peace zones throughout the world and for a day on the UN calendar when parents, and specifically the ideal of True Parents, were honored. A little over a year after that speech, the attack on the World Trade Towers took place, thus showing not only the reality of the historical enmity that still exists between peoples of diverse religious, cultural and civilizational spheres, but also the need for precisely what True Parents had proposed.

After True Father's passing in 2012, and through the initial period of mourning, UPF did not pause in its work.

In fact, in 2011 True Parents began the series of Legacy of Peace programs aimed at honoring world leaders who had passed away after having served humanity with absolute dedication. True Father had founded the Legacy of Peace series, which was preparation for his own Ascension Ceremony.

Upon True Father's passing, True Mother intensified UPF's work in the Cheoneuiwon era. She upgraded and expanded the World Summit series and the International Leadership Conference series. She established a fleet of associations under the UPF umbrella, including ISCP, IAPP, IAPD, IAAP, IMAP, IAED, IAACP and, as a part of ISCP, the IAFLP. She toured the world, convening summits in Albania, Brazil, Cambodia, Japan, Korea, Nepal, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Africa, and the USA, always in partnership with the heads of state and government, transforming nations and regions.

She hosted World Summit 2020, which was the first of its kind and which succeeded beyond all expectations. Moreover, as the Covid-19 pandemic arose, she adapted quickly to a virtual and hybrid format for conferencing, creating the Rally of Hope series, Think Tank 2022, the Think Tank 2022 Forums and the Interfaith Prayer Rally series. As of the time of this publication, UPF is asked to convene World Summit 2022, in partnership with the government of the Kingdom of Cambodia and under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen.

UPF has exclusively focused over the past year on the promotion of reconciliation, peace and development on the Korean Peninsula. World Summit 2022 will carry that objective one step forward.

UPF has been a significant part of the providence centered on True Parents, promoting interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values globally. Gratitude and appreciation are due to True Parents and to many others who worked to open the path to the kingdom of God, the holy community, Cheon Il Guk and everlasting peace.