



Unification Church of America  
District 3: Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania  
District Council Meeting Minutes

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**DATE:** Tuesday, December 4, 2012, 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM EST

**LOCATION:** Clifton Church

**PRESENT:** Mr. John Hessel (Chair) Mr. Atsushi Takino  
Mrs. Carol Pobanz Mr. Robert Beebe  
Mrs. Meadow Tallakson Mr. Takashi Yashiro  
Mr. Hiroshi Inose Mr. Hero Hernández (Secretary & National Rep)

**ABSENT:** None

**STAFF:** Dr. Ann I.

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I. CALL TO ORDER & CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Mr. Hessel called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM and confirmed a quorum of the Council was present.

II. OPENING PRAYER

Mr. Hessel offered the opening prayer.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motioned by Mr. Hernández  
Seconded by Mr. Hessel

CARRIED 8:0 UNANIMOUSLY

- A. Dr. Ann's report on developing local church communities and discussion
- B. Discussion on the relationship of the Council to the District Pastor

IV. COUNCIL BUSINESS

- A. Dr. Ann's report on developing local church communities and discussion

Summary: Mr. Hessel opened the discussion by inviting Dr. Ann to share her report on her efforts to develop local communities. Dr. Ann sought feedback from the members of the Elizabeth, New Jersey community concerning the creating of a local church. She made a point that a local church requires the ownership of the members which translates into a strong tradition of tithing. For a local community to thrive and to be functional, healthy finances are important. Ideally, in the beginning stages, the District would provide substantial support with resources and manpower, but overtime, as the local church would grow and strengthen and gain momentum, less support would be needed from the District, obviously requiring the commitment of tithes from those local church members. She shared how Mr. Agulan was selected by the Hispanic, Filipino, and African members to be a leader for the steering committee to discuss the creation of a local Elizabeth church. Again, this is still in planning and brainstorming stages.



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The Council provided their thoughts to her report: One major question was what would be the best manner of creating local churches, by geographic location or by ethnic group? The Korean Evangelical Association (KEA) has the opportunity to have their own separate services for Korean and Korean-speaking members. In addition, despite some general inaccurate beliefs of Kodan's purpose, some members believe that it is a Japanese-only organization with occasionally different objectives to the local community. Regardless of the great work either organization achieves, it is no doubt that there have been misunderstandings and confusion as to why a separate group exists for a specific nationality of members. Mrs. Pobanz commented that creating local churches by ethnicity would be counter to unity. In addition, it would provide a challenge to the many interracial couples and families. Mr. Hessel shared that one big factor of a person feeling connected to a community is language, which is perhaps a significant advantage provided by ethnic church divisions. After much discussion, the Council came to a consensus that creating local churches based on ethnic groups would not be in the best interest of the District and though it supported the current approach to geographic locations, would continue to discuss other methods as well.

Mr. Hernández provided some brief statistics of member geographies. These are rough, unofficial estimates gathered by the New Jersey Ministry Team:

*Supplement at the end of the Minutes. Highlighted areas point out major counties / cities with relatively large member populations.*

B. Discussion on the relationship of the Council to the District Pastor

Summary: A brief discussion on the relationship between the Council and Dr. Ann followed. Mr. Beebe hoped that the Council could have more involvement with the fiduciary decisions of the Clifton Church. Dr. Ann felt that since it was in one sense a local facility, that it was not part of the Council's responsibilities to review those issues. However, upon further discussion providing other perspectives of the topic, it seemed that since the local Clifton church practically is the District, it was reasonable that the Council would be interested in certain financial, human resource, and building management decisions. As a side note, Dr. Ann mentioned her desire to enroll more community leaders as volunteers than to expand the ministry staff and increase payroll. Finally, Mr. Takino contributed one last statement by sharing his hope to see a better system of tithing in the District that would eventually steer away from sporadic special donations that are requested on top of the traditional tithe. In addition, he did not appreciate the consistent targeting of Japanese members to fulfill the special donation drives.

V. SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS THAT REQUIRE FURTHER DISCUSSION

Is geography the best approach to determining the critical mass for local church creation?

VI. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, January 9, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Clifton Church.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Mr. Hernández  
Seconded by Mrs. Tallakson



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That the Council adjourns the meeting at 8:00 PM.

CARRIED 8:0 UNANIMOUSLY

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Minutes Approved by the Council on January 9, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. John Hessell  
 Chairperson

Mr. Hero Hernandez  
 Secretary & National Representative

Supplement A:

District 3 Member & Family Count (Unofficial) as of 12/4/2012								
NEW JERSEY			PENNSYLVANIA			DELAWARE		
County	Members	Families	County	Members	Families	City	Members	Families
BERGEN	706	167	PHILADELPHIA	53	12	Wilmington	27	5
ESSEX	365	86	DELAWARE	37	10	Newark	6	2
PASSAIC	351	82	MONROE	29	6	New Castle	4	1
UNION	173	47	ALLEGHENY	19	4	No City Indicated	6	2
MIDDLESEX	85	19	MONTGOMERY	16	5	Total	43	10
MORRIS	37	9	BUCKS	14	2			
HUDSON	33	10	BERKS	12	2			
CAMDEN	20	5	WAYNE	11	2			
MONMOUTH	17	4	LUZERNE	10	2			
MERCER	12	3	LEHIGH	7	2			
CUMBERLAND	10	2	YORK	6	1			
OCEAN	9	1	PIKE	3	1			
ATLANTIC	8	2	SCHUYLKILL	3	1			
SOMERSET	7	2	Total	220	50			
No County Indicated	12	2						
Total	1845	441						