



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

DATE: Tuesday, February 5, 2013, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM EST

LOCATION: Clifton Church

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

ABSENT: Mrs. Meadow Tallakson

STAFF: Dr. Ann I., Pablo I.

I. CALL TO ORDER & CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Mr. Hessell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and confirmed a quorum of the Council was present.

II. OPENING PRAYER

Mr. Beebe offered the opening prayer.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motioned by Mr. Hernández
Seconded by Mr. Hessell

CARRIED 8:0 UNANIMOUSLY

- A. Dr. Ann's report
- B. Representation from Delaware and Pennsylvania

IV. COUNCIL BUSINESS

- A. Dr. Ann's report

Summary: A brief report from Dr. Ann

Dr. Ann – I want to praise the Ministry Team for their hard work in overseeing the many different simultaneous Divine Principle programs. Members that haven't attended in the past are participating and it's encouraging to see. The Ministry Team has been laying the foundation for a long time and it's starting to bear fruit.

We had a meeting in Elizabeth last week with about 30 members. We have gathered a preliminary list of members in the Elizabeth community. I shared about the National and District Council and their responsibilities. I felt it wasn't appropriate to start a Local Council just yet. The question of selecting a Pastor will naturally arrive. The members selected Mr. Greg Agulan as Interim Pastor for the Elizabeth community. In addition, an organizing committee was formed to help assist the development of the local church. The organizing committee is divided into three areas where local members can contribute.



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The meeting was very inspiring and the members were happy to take on a leadership role themselves. The first event will be the Holy Wine Ceremony in the Elizabeth area. Eventually, they will have their first service, perhaps after Foundation Day. A name was also suggested as Elizabeth Family Church, given that we are now the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification.

I had a chance to read through the book *Managing the Non-Profit Organization* by Peter Drucker and I feel it is appropriate as a guide for the strategic planning session. I had a further discussion with Mr. Robert Sayre and he provided a proposal for our review.

Mr. Hessell – I am worried that Mr. Sayre’s plan is too complex and grand in respect to everything else. Is this complex of a plan necessary to really get the strategic plan rolling? Could we have Mr. Sayre visit the Council to discuss more clearly his plan?

Dr. Ann – It’s important to have some way to open the channels for feedback and to earn the trust of the members to want to engage in providing feedback.

Mr. Beebe – I would like more time to read it over and pray about it before we commit to it. It seems every few years we have had this type of planning session which gets rolling after much investment and cooperation but then eventually burns out. It seems to me that the most important topic is to find ways to re-energize the Blessed Families. Members come to church but don’t feel excited or embraced in contrast to our own experiences when we joined the Church. In the end, we want to grow and expand and not be completely insular. We need to teach the Divine Principle and mobilize spiritual world. I would like to see something that is more closely related to spiritual revival and church growth.

Dr. Ann – I really support this plan because it provides an opportunity for members to really own the process of the strategic planning. I see the small groups meeting consistently with the support of Mr. Sayre. The small groups will create their proposals which will be submitted to the District Council. I like the required length and time requirement because it would attract those who really have a sense of ownership.

Mr. Takino – I want to see more clarity on the long term goals of the community. Based on what vision are we hoping to see, and then this plan may be necessary. I still don’t know where we like to go as a New Jersey community in the long term. Hyung Jin Nim provided some goals including the creation of healthy local communities and doubling the membership in the next three years. Is this strategic planning process to create new leaders in this community? What kind of goal would we like to see in three years?

Mr. Inose – National HQ is planning a training workshop for pastors all over the country as well as preparing for Foundation Day. It seems that HQ is still stuck in transition and is unable to provide clarity on many things. We may have to wait for mid-April for more clarity.

Mr. Yashiro – Peter Drucker’s style is very heavy management principles, but perhaps it lacks a spiritual quality needed for our organization. What is our goal as a community? Isn’t it in doubling our membership? How will our church be organized in order to achieve that goal? I agree with Mr. Inose that we should wait for clarity from National HQ and Hyung Jin Nim’s desire.

Mr. Beebe – I think the best use of our time is discussing the most effective ways to reach people and how to use the Divine Principle to inspire people. Our goal is to inspire the community and to create a welcoming and vibrant church.

Mrs. Pobanz – When your goal is clear, then you have the freedom to find ways to achieve it. I believe that this strategic planning process is simply to clarify the goal.

Mr. Hessell – I’m worried that we are overcomplicating the process with a whole new management approach and jargon. Are there best practices that we can take from the New York City Sunday service? I was very inspired by their service.



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Mr. Inose – My impression of attempting a six month planning program with the goal of engaging 200 members is a huge undertaking.

B. Representation from Delaware and Pennsylvania

Summary: Mr. Hessel returns the Council to the discussion of being able to properly connect with members in order to get their feedback.

Mr. Hessel – How can we be the means through which members can provide their opinion? One idea would be at each meeting to allow a member or representative of a demographic to voice his or her concerns. This brings us back to our original mission to hear from constituents. Members need to know that they are heard.

Mr. Takino – Are representatives based on ethnic group? Are we trying to build communities by ethnic group?

Mr. Hessel – We decided that we don't want to promote Sunday services by ethnic group. However, I know that in New York, Rev. Andrew Compton has selected Mr. Ricardo Sena to organize a Hispanic Sunday service. He is also the National Director for Hispanic Outreach.

Mr. Takino – I would like to see how we can balance the ethnic community needs and ensuring that we aren't separated solely by ethnicity and language.

Mr. Takino – I believe in the “free market” approach, so if it's easier to have people join via ethnic group segregation, then I think that's ok. Whoever is bringing new members should be supported. Also, what are the expectations of a new guest? Are they meant to enroll full time or be more associated with the Church?

Mr. Hessel – Mr. Inose, would the local Kodan have a need to report anything to the Council?

C. Other business

Mr. Inose – During Sunday service, we have to really take care of our guests. I also think we need a prayer team to set the spiritual foundation for the service.

Mr. Takino – I have a guest that I'm trying to have attend a Divine Principle lecture. I brought my guest several times, but because there were no backup lecturers, the lecture was canceled.

Mrs. Pobanz – I think there are plenty of people who are eager and ready to lecture.

Mr. Takino – It always takes a long time to get an answer from the Ministry Staff and it's always unclear who is responsible for certain issues, etc.

Mr. Beebe – Most important is developing a powerful Sunday service. This is the place where we can bring guests.

Mr. Hernández – Could we make a specifically separate Sunday service subcommittee? I believe that the Local Congregation subcommittee is too large to adequately support the Sunday service development.

Mr. Yashiro – We should clarify the ways volunteers could plug in and see how they can impact the Sunday service.

Mrs. Pobanz – Pastor Manoj, Mr. Onishi, and I facilitate a sermon review the week before to ensure the quality of the lecture.

Mr. Beebe – What is the current situation with Camp Sunrise?

Mr. Hessel – In Noah Ross' mind, we should definitely take the lease renewal. At the least, even if for some reason we didn't have any summer plans, the District could still sublease the property. Our



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upfront commitment for securing the lease is only \$7000. However, there are other operational costs to be considered.

Mr. Yashiro – Who will be responsible for searching and hiring the property manager and all other logistical tasks?

Moved Mr. Hessel
Seconded by Mr. Inose

That we will commit the \$7,000 towards the renewal lease.

CARRIED 8:0 UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Hernández – Can we create some way to have separate meetings or discussions without Dr. Ann?

Mr. Hessel – I agree that there are times that we need our private discussion as well as times when we can have Dr. Ann present.

Mr. Inose – I agree. We are responsible for Dr. Ann and so there are times when we need to be honest with her and give her advice. Hyung Jin Nim preaches that top-to-bottom approach is the wrong way. In his relationship with his staff, he has very open and honest discussions. We have to be able to share freely. I think we should have dedicated meetings with just the Council and others that include Dr. Ann.

Mr. Hessel – For the next meeting, can we invite a guest from either Pennsylvania or Delaware?

V. SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS THAT REQUIRE FURTHER DISCUSSION

1. What is the best process for engaging the community in strategic planning?
2. Who are potential candidates for property manager for Camp Sunrise?

VI. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday, February 27, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Clifton Church.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Mr. Hessel
Seconded by Mr. Hernández

That the Council adjourns the meeting at 9:00 PM.

CARRIED 8:0 UNANIMOUSLY



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Minutes Approved by the Council on February 27, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. John Hessell
Chairperson

Mr. Hero Hernández
Secretary & National Representative