

Delaware Church Celebrates New Building Location for Worship

Anne Iparraguirre, Anne-Marie Mylar and Marion Miller.
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Back row (left to right): Miyuki Iwasaki, Pastor Shota Iwasaki, Sue Stoia, Alexia Miller Dilg, Jeffrey Dilg, and Fritz. Front row (left to right): Anne-Marie Mylar, Pablo Iparraguirre, Dr. Ann Iparraguirre, Wayne Miller, Marion Miller.

The inaugural service of the Grand View Farms Family Church was held on a beautiful spring day, Sunday, April 14, 2013 in Middletown, Delaware. Known as the first state in the nation to ratify the Constitution of the United States (December 7, 1787)—hence the nickname “The First State”—Delaware is a state of self-determined, self-motivated Unificationists. Delaware is also famous for the dramatic midnight ride of Caesar Rodney who rode 70 miles through a thunderstorm on July 1, 1776 to arrive at Independence Hall in time to cast Delaware’s decisive vote for independence.

District Pastors Pablo and Dr. Ann Iparraguirre presented a strategic plan for support and development of local churches, proactively moving toward True Mother’ church-growth goals, and integration of a Divine Principle Unificationist way of life. Thanks to the new karaoke tracks from Event Producer David Eaton and others at HQ, we enjoyed beautiful, inspiring music and singing!

In the climate of support for Family Church development at the local level, Anne-Marie Mylar (also the Webmaster of the Online Matching Service for adult Unificationists) was inspired to transform the basement of the Mylar’s beautiful home in the Grand View Farms community into a gathering place for the local Family Church. Mylar shared about her inspiration and experience bringing it to life:



Families gathered in the Mylar family home make up the new Grand View Farms Family Church in Delaware.

“Shortly after returning to the mainland from Hawaii, my husband, Kem, ascended to the spiritual world. Because of my husband’s passing, I found myself with a large house. Kem and I had often talked about sharing our house with church members, and I saw this time as an opportunity for our community that did not have a place to gather.

The community welcomed this idea and it seemed like just the right time to do it! Pastor Shota Iwasaki and his children came a couple of times to help in the transformation of the basement. Lyle and Nancy Barton helped with this project, and Lyle came every week to help with cleaning and construction. 2,500 pounds of paper were shredded as they cleaned out the basement in preparation for its new mission. “We repainted it, bought new chairs, and I am using my daughter’s childhood toys for the children who come to the service,” said Mylar.

“I am continually impressed by Aunt Anne-Marie,” commented second-generation Unificationist Alexia Miller, who added: “After moving to a new state and finding herself with time and a big house on her

hands, she didn't just sit back and relax -- instead, she made big changes, opening her home to our community, sharing the joy and beauty of Grand View Farms Family Church. Aunt Anne-Marie is not one to sit back and let the Providence take place all by itself!"

Their home has a large meeting room and a smaller adjacent room for sharing meals and children's activities. That room opens into a large, fenced back yard. The rooms are bright and airy, allowing sunlight to flood into the hearts of participants and into all the activities. It is a perfect place for Sunday Service, educational programs, as well as community- and social gatherings. It has a relaxing atmosphere, and the added benefit of a tree-lined field and garden.

Each Family Church is responsive to the needs and resources of its own community.



Families met with District Pastor Pablo and Dr. Ann Iparraguirre (third and fourth from left) to come up with a strategic plan for development and support of local churches.

There are twelve families in the Delaware community who have been holding services regularly in their homes. At the inaugural service of the Grand View Farms Family Church, three generations of the same family attended.

Marion Miller explained: "It was a beautiful sunny day in a countryside surrounding as three generations of our family gathered with other families for the first-ever Sunday Service in this beautiful new setting. I was overjoyed as for years it has been very challenging to meet at different homes, which were small and not easily set up for large groups. Now, in addition to our homes, we have this space that is always ready and available to build our community church. Bishop Pablo, Dr. Ann and Pastor Shota have blessed Delaware with much attention, and they give us lots of hope and joyful feelings about the future. I look forward to all kinds of gatherings in this heavenly and peaceful setting.

Miller continued: "Our granddaughter, Freya, was perfectly happy with Andrea Mylar's toys and the beautiful garden to run around in with friends. It is so important for young children to have a good feeling about going to church. I am so happy to have the Bartons moving to Delaware to enrich our community. My husband, Wayne, one of our most experienced Divine Principle lecturers, looks forward to lectures and having Divine Principle forums in this attractive location, with attendees from Delaware, Pennsylvania and beyond. All will be welcome to come dig deep into our roots, share testimonies and enjoy the miracle of rebirth."

According to Pastors Shota and Miyuki Iwasaki, the state-pastor couple in Delaware, "We are looking forward to support and develop planting and replanting Family Churches with our many wonderful families in communities all throughout Delaware and Pennsylvania."