

WestRock Family News

Andrew Compton
November 17, 2013

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2013

Motto of the year:

Era of the Victory, Liberation, and Completion of the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind

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Weekly Greeting

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings!

This past week was both tragic and inspiring. It has been painful to see the destruction and the pain that was caused by typhoon Haiyan in the Philippines. On the other hand we received a wonderful reminder from Rev Young Hwi Kim of the incredible hope that our True Parents have brought to the world. In his speech this past Saturday at the New Yorker Hotel he gave us a clear explanation of the reality of True Parents victory, what that victory was, and how it will impact this world. The indemnity for the central providence has been paid and the foundation for the kingdom of our Heavenly Parent on this earth has been firmly established. It is just waiting for our sincere effort – so that it can expand both here on the earth and in the spiritual world.

By the way, I want to encourage everyone to make a donation to help our brothers and sisters in the Philippines. One way to do so is to go to <http://unificationnews.com/> If you click on the photo that shows the destruction (the caption reads “Every Penny Helps to Support Those Devastated by Typhoon Haiyan”) - it will take you to a link where you can make a donation.

You may have heard that the National Council, together with Dr Balcomb, has approved a National Charter. It contains a charter for local churches and councils (not too much different from the one WestRock has), a charter for a district council, and a charter for the national council. It is attached.

I am grateful to Julia Okamoto who took our ministers (Archbishop de la Rosa and Rev Dorcelly) to Las Vegas for the ACLC conference (see her report below). I am also grateful for everyone who helped to make the Intercultural Pot Luck program at the Jewish Community Center a success. We had about 8 guests. Also on Monday we had a new guest join us for the Divine Principle Study/Discussion.

Next month, December, our open door event will be a “Christmas Around the World” party at the White House (Saturday, Dec. 21 at 6:30 pm). There will be no fee, but everyone is asked to bring a Christmas snack that comes from your culture. There will be singing, games, and as always, an introduction to TP’s vision. Please mark it on your calendar.

Finally, please take a look below at the report from Julia on the ACLC conference in Las Vegas and an inspiring testimony from Rev Grodner.

Make it a great day!
God Bless You
Andrew Compton

Sermon

This week’s sermon at Belvedere was given by Justin Okamoto “Caring for the

Greater Good." You can listen to it if you go to: soundcloud.com/pastor-andrew/justin-okamoto

Light Thought for the Day:

The Wedding Dress

Groom-to-be to his fiancée: "\$6,800 for a dress that's only going to be worn ONCE? What's up with THAT?!"

"Who says it's only going to be worn once?"

"Oh? You're planning to get married again? Gee, thanks."

"That's not what I meant."

"You know you can't wear white the second time, anyway."

"No, but I do hope to have a daughter. She'll wear it on her wedding day. And she'll have a daughter who will wear it on her wedding day. And her daughter will wear it on her wedding day. It will become a family heirloom."

"I'll bet your mother never bought such an extravagant dress."

"Oh yeah? Well, she did too, smarty!"

"Then why don't you wear hers?"

"Who wants to get married in THAT old thing?"

Testimonies/reports

Las Vegas ACLC Convocation Nov 12 - 15. By Julia Okamoto

The ACLC Convocation was held in the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas. 137 Ministers (90% were guests) attended from all over the country including our good friends Archbishop de la Rosa (Mt Vernon) and Rev. Dorcelly (Spring Valley). Thanks to the hard work of Rev Grodner, the total number who attended from New York was 20 (including one who was in Las Vegas at the time).

The program schedule included DP in the morning and presentations after lunch from different pastors that focused practical topics like church growth and ministering to the youth.

Rev. Jenkins and Archbishop Stallings did a very good job of presenting the DP. At the end of the conference Naokimi Ushiroda gave a great presentation on CARP in which he offered to train young leaders. Rev. Dorcelly took his name and was interested in getting training for his youth.

Archbishop de la Rosa mentioned that this was the best conference that he had attended. Rev. Dorcelly said he liked it very much although he didn't agree with all the teaching and sometimes leaned over to me and whispered "that's a false teaching" but he hung in and listened to everything. Minister Glenda Phillips Lee said it was "amazing" Rev Betty Tatalajski from Arizona said that Margie de la Rosa was with us and had a message for Archbishop de la Rosa.

On the evening of the 12th at our dinner banquet Kwon Jin Nim gave a very rousing speech and was warmly welcomed by the ministers.

On the Friday morning we visited the site where the Peace Palace is to be built and prayed there.

Overall it was a very successful event and there were some very good testimonies by the ministers who either testified to TP directly or that they felt the spirit of God was there with us.

Testimony from Rev Grodner

I would like to share an experience that I had after attending the ACLC conference in Las Vegas. It happened not during the conference or in the conference room, but after the conference in the casino of the Riviera hotel .

The evening after the conference was over I shuttled a number of people to the airport. Upon my return at 2:00 AM I decided to visit a Blackjack table and relieve the casino of some money for the kingdom building work in New York. As I sat at one of the Blackjack tables a man and woman joined the table to play. At first I wasn't sure of their relationship, but during our game they shared openly that they were once married, had 2 children together and are now divorced but are best friends. They were both well educated, had their own professions and were very friendly.

A few minutes later something very mysterious and unexpected happened as I was playing my hand. The women next to me, Marcy, began to ask about my blessing ring. Up until this point I had said nothing other than my name and where I was from.

She asked me, "What is the meaning of the symbol on the ring?" I began to explain, but my words seemed to be far less impactful than what she was seeing and feeling as her eyes were glued to my ring. She began describing the ring's brilliant purple light shooting from all around it. I was trying to focus on the cards that were being dealt, but she, on the other hand, couldn't have cared less about where she was. She said, "Whatever it is that you are doing is right, the path you are on is so right."

This one way conversation lasted nearly 1 hour. During that time she would ask a question and then begin to state exactly what it was she was seeing and feeling. She kept repeating, "I am so proud of you. I am sitting next to you feeling a joy that is making me cry. You're presence has brought me so much happiness. I am so proud of you. "

Toward the end we took a brief moment to exchange telephone numbers. Her ex-husband said to me, "Because she sees more deeply than others she always meets special people."

Although I lost a bit of money, the experience was well worth it. They say "What you do in Vegas stays in Vegas," including your money.

I felt that the ACLC 2013 Convocation held in the Riviera hotel made great impact not only on the lives of those participants who attended but in the Heavenly realm, and that was confirmed to me by my encounter with Marcy.

If you have a testimony or report to share please send it to me.

Providential News

The 20-20 Providence has begun! WestRock and Upstate have been paired with the Solomon Islands and Italy. Metro NY and Long Is have been paired with Nepal and Israel.

Quote for the Week:

I have learned over the years that when one's mind is made up, this diminishes fear; knowing what must be done does away with fear.

Rosa Parks

Announcements

Announcements

Outreach

Inter-Cultural Pot Luck Dinner: Sunday, Nov 17, at the Jewish Community Center, 3:30 pm. Bring a friend, bring a food dish from your culture, and if you have an item of clothing bring that too!. No Fee. We will be making bookmarks – for those who can stay afterwards.

DP Study & Discussion: Next week, Monday Nov 25: **PURPOSE**: the reason we exist; it's the key to discovering our greatest value.

Bible Study: begins Friday Nov 29, a series of lessons that will highlight the key points of the DP.

Witnessing Cards are still available after Sunday Service & at White House anytime. They're easy to use & a great help for outreach! Free!

Community

Care Team Meeting: Thursday. Nov 21, 7:00 pm at the White House

Sunday School Chocolate Sales: Because of several requests and also because we had no requests for the chocolates by Thanksgiving, we will extend the chocolate sales for one more week. We will be collecting the chocolate orders this coming Sunday during Sunday School and also after Sunday Service. The children have been told that there will be a first, second and third prize for the most sales. The assistants are included in the prize efforts. Thank you all for your support so far and for your continued support. Cynthia Shibuya, Director Westrock Sunday School

Open House at Barrytown College: will take place on Dec. 7. All are invited. For more information check out uts.libguides.com/content.php?pid=517059&sid=4254341

Looking for Homes to Welcome Students for Overnight Stay, Christmas Eve: 18 graduate students from the Universal Peace Academy in Korea are visiting America. We need 9 families to volunteer to welcome 2 students into your home (can be male or female) for Christmas Eve and part of Christmas Day. If you can be such a family, please contact Rev Compton. THANK YOU!

Share Your Testimony: If you would like to share your testimony at Sunday service please visit our website at www.westrockfamily.com/sermons to find out more. If you are interested contact Rev Compton.

Other

Jina Hamad is seeking a room to rent or a room to share the rent starting Monday 18. Please call Josephine

I'm looking for volunteers, 20+ people and 4 animals to participate in free energy healing sessions. This is for my certification in the Emotion Code system. Emotion Code/ Body Code systems was developed by Dr. Bradley Nelson. This natural healing system is the way to find underlayment for, or what is contributing to sickness/illness and remove it. You can find a lot info by following links: Healers Library and Dr. Bradley Nelson. The sessions can be done in person and also distant. All I needed is description of the issue and grade it on a scale from 1 to 10. Thank you for consideration.
Anton Gromov

Prayer

Grace Elliot: she is in a nursing home. Her condition has been growing worse. She is at a point where they have done all they can do medically for her. Now she needs our loving prayers to give her spiritual support and protection.

Laura Nabetani: she is fighting a pneumonia infection that is resistant to drugs and is now in the White Plains hospital.

Angel Shimazaki: a heavy ladder fell on her at the school where she works. It damaged her neck and she is experiencing numbness in her arms and face. They want to do surgery, but she is not sure if that is what is best and is hoping to be healed with the help of physical therapy. Also she cannot go to work now - so I am sure she would love to get a phone call or a visit.

Please also continue to pray for Jiau-Lan Weinstein. She continues to fight cancer.

Next Ahn Shi II: Friday, November 22, 2013

MAKE IT A GREAT WEEK!

National Charter

for the

**Family Federation for
World Peace and
Unification of the United
States of America**

October 20, 2013

I. National Charter for Local Churches

This document sets forth the structure for Local Churches of the Family Federation for World Peace in the United States of America.

1. Statement of Purpose

A Local Church is established for:

- a. the worship of God,
- b. the proclamation of True Parents, Rev. Sun Myung and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon,
- c. the study, teaching and practical application of the Divine Principle,
- d. the promotion of the Holy Marriage Blessing,
- e. fellowship within and beyond our community,
- f. the expansion of True Parents' leadership in America and the world, and
- g. creating and expanding God's Kingdom of heaven on earth.

2. Affiliation

The Local Church is a branch of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (HSA-UWC) / Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), a religious nonprofit organization with national headquarters in New York, NY. and world headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, founded by Rev. Sun Myung Moon.

A Local Church will comply with all legal policies of the Corporation.

3. Establishment

- a. A Local Church is established based on a petition from a local community, with the authorization of the National President. Local Churches established prior to this document will be considered as authorized.
- b. A Local Church may be closed for cause by the National President with approval of the National Council, or by a 2/3 vote of the local church membership.

4. Membership

- a. Requirements for Membership:
 - i. Members are those who choose the Local Church as their church "home" as defined by the Church Council.
 - ii. Members shall have completed the basic membership criteria determined by the National Headquarters.

- iii. Members support basic membership expectations to be determined by the Church Council, such as worship, tithing, and an educational path.
- b. Rights of Membership
 - i. Members may participate in Local Church activities.
 - ii. Members have the right to express their heart and concerns to the Pastor and/or the Church Council, make new proposals and to report abuses, or perceived abuses, without fear of reprisals.
 - iii. Members will receive regular financial reports from the Church Council.
 - iv. Members have the right to elect the members of the Church Council.
 - v. Members have the right to vote in Church Council elections based on the following requirements:
 - 1. They must be a member in good standing. This is automatic unless revoked by the Church Council for serious violations of church principles as determined by the Pastor and two-thirds of the Church Council. Any revocation may be appealed to the District Leader or National Council.
 - 2. Other membership status may be determined by the Church Council.

5. Church Council

- a. The Church Council is elected as the governing body for the Local Church.
- b. Church Council members will serve two-year terms. The Church Council may choose to stagger the elections such that one half of the Church Council will be elected each year.
- c. A member may run for office if they have been a member of the Local Church or resided in the area for one year.
- d. The Church Council will conduct at least one open meeting every other month. At that meeting, the Church Council will hear issues and get feedback from the community. The Church Council will create a procedure for members to have their issues included on the agenda.
- e. Composition
 - i. The Church Council is comprised of five, seven or nine members, including the Pastor.
 - ii. The Church Council has a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer as elected officers. The Secretary and Treasurer may be the same person. Officers will be elected by the Church Council.
 - iii. Officers will serve 1-year terms and the Chairperson may not serve for more than 2 consecutive years.
 - iv. For there to be a quorum, not more than two Church Council members may be absent from that meeting.
 - v. Church Council decisions will be made by simple majority vote.

- vi. The Pastor will have a special role. He/she will not serve as an officer, but as a spiritual advisor and will cast a vote only when a tie-breaking vote is needed.
 - vii. If a council member resigns or leaves, the Church Council will select candidates to fill out the term.
- f. Election of the Church Council
- i. At-large election. Church Council members will be elected from the community at-large.
 - ii. In accordance with the international model, for every three open seats, the two candidates with the most votes are elected and the third seat will be appointed by the Pastor from among the next three candidates with the most votes. If the number of open seats is two or four, the Pastor will select one; if five or seven, two; if eight 3. If there is no Pastor, the selection will be made by lottery. In the case of candidates being tied for any seat, the outcome shall be decided by lottery.
 - iii. Elections will be supervised by an election committee. For the first election, an election committee will be approved by the National Office or District Leader. The Church Council will determine how future election committees will be selected.
 - iv. No Church Council member shall serve for more than two successive terms.
 - v. Elections will be held annually as the Church Council may decide.
- g. Duties
- i. Approval of the Local Church plans and budgets.
 - ii. Give quarterly financial reports and an annual report to the community.
 - iii. Approve paid Local Church staff and key personnel.
 - iv. Appoint or remove department leaders with Pastor's approval. (Approval is not needed if the Pastor position is vacant).
 - v. Appoint standing or ad hoc committees as needed.
 - vi. Hear concerns of church members.
 - vii. When there is a need for a new Pastor, the Church Council will search for and recommend a candidate to the President or his authorized representative for approval.
- h. Veto and Appeal
- i. Any Church Council decision may be vetoed by a higher church authority, such as a District Leader. If the District Leader is also the local pastor, a veto must be exercised by a higher level, such as the President.
 - ii. The Church Council may appeal a veto to a higher authority, such as the Continental Director, President or National Council.

6. Pastor

- a. Appointment and Removal
 - i. The Pastor is selected by the council and approved by the President or higher authority.
 - ii. The Pastor will serve for a three-year term, at which time the Council may reappoint the Pastor for another three-year term or select a new Pastor. There is no limit to how many times the Church Council may reappoint the same Pastor.
 - iii. The Pastor can be removed at other times by a two thirds majority Church Council vote and the approval of the President.
- b. Pastor's Responsibilities
 - i. Convey God's word to the congregation.
 - ii. Oversee the spiritual well-being of Local Church members. This may include education, counseling, worship services, small group ministries, camps, etc.
 - iii. Promote church growth – includes outreach and witnessing.
 - iv. Encourage service to the local community – to oversee and develop efforts to serve and be involved in the local community.
 - v. Act as the point of contact with the National Headquarters of the FFWPU. This involves representing the Local Church to National Headquarters or other associations.
 - vi. Prepares Local Church plans to be approved by the Church Council.
 - vii. Administration – The Pastor is responsible for the Local Church office and staff, church records, membership lists, etc.
 - viii. Participate as a member of the Church Council with the special position of spiritual advisor. The Pastor has the privilege of casting the final tie-breaking vote when necessary.
 - ix. Operate within the budget approved by the Church Council.
 - x. Administer pastoral functions such as those related to birth, membership, Il Shim education, engagement, marriage blessing and death.

7. Church Plants, New Worship Communities and Activities

- a. In accordance with its missionary roots, the Family Federation encourages and endorses the planting of new worship communities and new “Planted Churches”, as well as individual ministries. At the same time, we honor the ideal of unification by encouraging all churches and worship communities to remain in close and regular communion with each other.
- b. A Planted Church is a new church established under the auspices of an existing Local Church that is not yet large enough to have its own Church Council.

- c. A Ministry Team is the governing body of a Planted Church, consisting of a Pastor and at least three Elders. An Elder is a church member in good standing who will share in the leadership of the Planted Church with the Pastor of the Planted Church.
- d. The Ministry Team will approve a budget and key church decisions by a majority vote.
- e. Members wishing to plant a new church shall petition the Church Council for approval. The ministry team of the Planted Church shall also be approved by the Church Council, and shall be mentored and supervised by the Pastor of the Local Church. The Church Council may also close a Planted Church for cause, subject to an appeal by the Planted Church to the National Council.
- f. Members of the Planted Church will be considered members of the Local Church and will be entitled to vote in Local Church elections. Once the Planted Church can meet all requirements in Sec 3a and Sec 5, it may petition to become an independent Local Church.
- g. The Planted Church is expected to follow the basic tenets of FFWPU, as provided by National Headquarters.
- h. Small Group ministries may be started by any member of the Local Church, and does not require Local Church approval.

8. Tithing

- a. The Local Church will contribute 10% of its income to the District and/or National Headquarters, as decided by the Church Council

9. Amendments

- a. This charter may be amended by the National Council with the approval of the President
- b. With approval of the Local Church Council and a two-thirds vote of the Local Church membership, a Local Church may amend this document for its own purposes as follows:
 - i. Requirements for Local Church membership and voting
 - ii. Election rules
 - iii. Composition of the Church Council
 - iv. Frequency and rules for Church Council meetings
 - v. Participation requirements for Church Council members

II. National Charter for Districts

This document sets forth the purposes and policies for the Districts of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) in the United States of America.

1. District

- a. The District is a geographical area of church governance determined by the President.
- b. District Leader
 - i. The District Leader may or may not be a local pastor.
 - ii. The District Leader is selected by the District Council with the approval of the President for a term of 2 years.
 - iii. Duties:
 1. Represents the President to Local Churches.
 2. Reports to the President on behalf of the Local Churches.
 3. Resolves issues between Local Churches.
 4. Facilitates communication within the District.
- c. District Council
 - i. The District Council is comprised of the Pastor and one additional representative chosen by each Local Council of all Local Churches.
 - ii. The District Council will meet only as needed, at their own discretion. Meetings may be conducted by conference call.
 - iii. Duties:
 1. Elect the District Leader.
 2. Elect a representative to the National Council.
 3. Approve the District Budget, including any salary or stipend to the District Leader.

III. National Charter for the National Council

This document sets forth the purposes and policies for the National Council of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) in the United States of America.

1. Purpose

- a. The National Council is a representative body that serves to advise and consult with the appointed national leadership of FFWPU and its headquarters, and mediates between the national and local levels of the organization.

2. Constitution

- a. The National Council will consist of 13 members comprised of one representative from each of the 12 Districts and a Vice President of the Church selected by the Church President.
- b. The President of the National Council shall be a Vice President of the Church. He or she will only vote in case of a tie.
- c. Each of the elected National Council members shall serve for two years. The terms shall be staggered such that six members will be elected each year. For the first election, representatives of six districts will be chosen by lottery from the Interim National Council to serve for an additional year. No National Council member may serve for more than two successive terms.
- d. The National Council shall elect its own Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Each shall serve for one year and may be elected to at most one additional term.
- e. National Council decisions will be made by simple majority except where otherwise specified.
- f. For a quorum, at least 9 elected members must be present.
- g. A National Council member may be removed for cause by a 3/4 majority vote.
- h. If a National Council member resigns or is removed, the Districts shall select another representative to serve the remainder of the term.
- i. Any National Council decision is subject to a veto by the Church President, Board of Directors or higher office.

3. Duties

- a. The National Council shall have the following duties.
 - i. Review and approve grant requests from Local Churches and districts from the budget provided by the Church President.
 - ii. Strive to ensure protection of membership at all levels, including as specified in the HSA-UWC National Whistleblower Policy.

- iii. Adopt Amendments to the National Charter for Local Churches, with approval of the Church President.
- iv. The Church President shall submit to the National Council, no less than 10-days before a regularly scheduled meeting, documents concerning matters on which s/he seeks the National Council's advice and consultation.
- v. The National Council will prepare recommendations to the Church President and the HSA-UWC Board.
- vi. Adjudicate Appeals from Local Churches.
- vii. Provide recommendations for fiscal prudence and accountability, and participate with HSA Board members on a Financial Review Committee.
- viii. Recommend candidates for the HSA Board. Candidates will be approved by 2/3 majority vote.
- ix. Prepare petitions to the HSA Board of Directors, to be approved by 2/3 majority of the National Council.
- x. Consider other duties as requested by the Church President.
- xi. Publish theologically grounded public statements that represent the position of the National Council.

4. Meeting

- a. The President of the National Council will convene all National Council Meetings, and the elected Chairperson will chair them. The President of the National Council shall convene a meeting at his or her discretion or upon the request of three or more National Council members.
- b. The National Council shall meet in person twice annually, in April and October. The April meeting will constitute the beginning of a term.
- c. The National Council shall conduct additional meetings, including by telephone, electronic or other means.
- d. The National Council may authorize standing or ad-hoc committees as required. Committees may include members outside of the National Council.
- e. National Council members who are absent from more than 2 council meetings annually shall be subject to review and possible removal.

5. Funding

- a. National Council members, with the exception of the National Vice President, serve without pay.
- b. The National Council shall submit a reasonable annual operational budget for approval to the Church President for council activities.