

FFWPU USA: Dallas Family Church's Revive Conference Inspires Leadership

Naokimi Ushiroda
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Photo courtesy of Dallas Family Church

Unificationists in the South had a recent revival weekend, bringing together the region's key leaders and pastors for a special "Revive" leadership conference at the Dallas Family Church on Sept. 24.

"Dr. Chung Sik Yong had said a while back that we should become a movement filled with new life during the New Life Campaign [earlier this year]," said Izak Hernandez, FFWPU USA South secretary general, during an Oct. 4 report to FFWPU USA leaders. "We felt we wanted this time to be about revival in our communities, not just for new members, but also for current and distant members, to feel a sense of new life and revival as we develop and grow."

Among the speakers, the conference featured Rev. John Jackson, FFWPU USA South regional director, who gave a presentation on the heart of a pastor. "This discussed how much care and attention a pastor has for each of his members," said Hernandez.

Rev. Jackson shared about his personal experience of planting a church and the progression of his journey, as well as some lessons and tips he learned along the way. Pastors Jario and Leena Vincenz-Gavin of Gather Family Church in Mobile, Ala., also gave testimonies of their past experiences, including holding church services in a rented movie theater, and later a brewery. "They shared great ideas and tips for developing small, medium, and large communities ... so that every community gains something," said Hernandez.

Outlines of a Sunday service program and other pastoral materials were presented by the couple, as well as ways to integrate more guest-friendly language during services. "This makes it easier for guests to attend and feel a part of the community," said Hernandez.

CARP National President Jinil Fleischman then delivered a presentation on public outreach and Divine Principle education. Dallas CARP has seen steady [success](#) this year, doubling its chapters and expanding its impact in 2022. "He shared the strategies that Dallas CARP uses that have been pretty effective," said Hernandez. "It was a time for all of us to focus and really share with one another."

Various bonding activities united the participants, who were given certificates and origami pieces crafted by local members. "I'm really grateful [we had] this conference, and to Rev. Jackson and all the district pastors for organizing it," said Hernandez. "We're inspired and very hopeful for the future of all of [the movement's] communities."

The "Revive" conference came on the heels of national leadership meetings in Korea and Kodiak, Alaska, in August. FFWPU USA leaders aim to [empower](#) individuals and families while further growing the movement's communities nationwide.

National

CARP Momentum 2022: Chapters Double in One Year



Photos courtesy of CARP USA

“CARP Momentum is all about building up momentum as we go into each new school year, and I think that is what we’re experiencing,” said Jinil Fleischman, CARP USA President. “At our [leaders] workshop, you could really see and feel the spirit of our bright young people discussing CARP’s vision. There was a great sense of connection ... with a really clear sense of unity where we are all united on True Parents’ vision as CARP America.”

From July 25 to 27, CARP USA held its annual workshop for all CARP leaders at the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) in Barrytown, New York. Some 90 college students participated in the program representing 24 states. “It was an amazing group,” said Fleischman during a recent FFWPU USA leaders’ meeting. “This was our largest CARP gathering since about 2016 ... These students are all witnessing on their campuses and leading their chapters, doing the work of our movement and True Parents on their campuses.”

From 2021 to 2022, CARP’s national presence doubled, said Fleischman – jumping from 11 to 22 states with CARP activity. Growth continued, he said, with an increase from 12 to 23 established chapters, and expanding from 31 to 47 campuses. “This doesn’t include five new potential chapters,” added Fleischman. “We have activity

that's now taking place on many more campuses and we have really grown in the past year."

CARP leaders have been diligently working toward the group's national goals, as they aim to have 30,000 members and 1,200 chapters nationwide by 2027. "We're not quite there yet," said Flesichman, "but even in just one year we have grown in pretty significant ways."



Dr. Chung Sik Yong, Regional President, FFWPU North America, and all FFWPU USA regional leaders were on hand at the workshop to share guidance and messages of inspiration with the group. "Dr. Yong gave a really passionate speech to our leaders and called on them to really be the ones to respond to True Mother and make sacrifices," said Flesichman. "He and his family have made a lot of sacrifices for True Parents, and so that was the spirit of his message to our CARP members – to be willing to make that kind of offering for God's Will."

CARP leaders also heard more about the mission of Cheon Shim Won from CheonBo staff, as well as a Q&A session and moving student testimonies. "One young lady is one of two Unificationists going to school at Princeton, and she shared about pioneering CARP there," said Fleischman. "Despite backlash from Christians on campus, she was able to successfully establish a chapter."

"I'm really inspired to see the growth and engagement of all our student leaders," said FFWPU USA President Rev. Naokimi Ushiroda. "It's very hopeful for our future."

For Fleischman and CARP's leaders, the new school year is already off to a powerful start. "I think this workshop was a really reviving experience for all of our students," he said. "I think it's giving them new life, and it's really preparing all of us to go forward."

You can connect with a local CARP chapter near you [here](#).

National

Empowering Families: A Mission and Vision



A consolidated outline of the 2022 mission, vision, objectives, goals and strategies of FFWPU USA were presented in a special report by President Rev. Naokimi Ushiroda on Sept. 20. “Our mission is to advance world peace by *empowering families* to develop their four realms of heart and establish the blessed family culture through True Parents’ teachings,” he said.

Focusing on the four realms of heart – children, sibling, conjugal, and parental – has helped clarify all the different types of education provided by the U.S. movement, Rev. Naokimi said, and underscores the primary mission to empower families. “When we fulfill our mission, we will see our vision emerge of a peaceful world where every family embodies God’s true love,” he said. “This is something that True Parents brought to us that we are still responsible to manifest in our own families and in all families throughout the world.”

Rev. Naokimi identified in his report four main objectives, or ‘long term pillars,’ that circle back to relationships: Empowering individuals to develop a personal relationship with God and True Parents and fulfill the three great Blessings; empowering couples to create a God-centered marriage through the holy Marriage Blessing; empowering parents to raise their children with love and the *Divine Principle*; and lastly, empowering tribal

messiahs and community leaders to expand the blessed family culture and create a unified, peaceful world through community service.

“All of our activities related to [FFWPU USA] should fall under these four categories,” he said. “We also have short-term goals that fall under our immediate providential focus.” By April 2023, Rev. Naokimi said U.S. leaders aim to go to Korea with the substantial offering of a breakthrough in church growth. “This is something that has really been on True Mother’s heart, and she has guided us since May of this year to focus on our local church development. We’re focusing all of our resources toward breaking through in this particular area.”

Over the next seven months, leaders aim to have at least 3,000 members regularly attend Sunday service nationally, read the *Divine Principle* one-hour manual a hundred times each, have at least 400 new FFWPU USA members, increase tithing by 50 percent, and prepare 210 singles from America for the next Cosmic Blessing.

“Each of our subregions have committed to a certain portion of the goals,” said Rev. Naokimi before explaining that, aside from California – which has the Bay Area and Los Angeles – the major city in each region would be responsible for their results. He said past outreach campaigns, like the Online Holy Communities (OHCs), have been successfully evolving and will continue on that trend.

“We actually achieved more than 120 new signed memberships during the New Life Campaign that was started earlier this year,” said Rev. Naokimi. This goal was slated for the August anniversary of True Father’s seonghwa. “That was a great victory,” he said. “By April 2023, we can get to 400 or more.”

The Clifton Family Church in New Jersey, where Rev. Naokimi and Dr. Chung Sik Yong pastor, was highlighted as an example community where “small group care training” – through the Dare to Care workshop and Achieve program – has been used to increase Sunday service attendance. “We had more than a hundred people come and receive training and education, with a newfound commitment to invest in a handful of other people ... and really invite them to participate in our community,” he said.

Large quarterly services akin to a ‘friends and family day’ have also proved successful. And new programs celebrating eternal love and married couples, as well as a “clear track” to FFWPU USA membership have created an uptick in community participation, too. Rev. Naokimi concluded by emphasizing the importance of clarifying a new member’s commitment and what that entails.

“These are the things we have developed to focus on growth in our local churches,” he said. “This is what we’re working on in Clifton, and it can be implemented by all the other regions across the country.”

You can connect with a Unificationist community near you [here](#).