



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

DATE: Tuesday, November 27, 2012, 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM EST

LOCATION: Clifton Church

PRESENT: Mr. John Hessell (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., Mr. Pablo I. (entered around 7:00 PM, arriving from inauguration ceremony with Hyung Jin Nim)

I. CALL TO ORDER & CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Mr. Hessell called the meeting to order at 6:00 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. How to properly represent all members in District 3? How to be more accessible to members?
- B. Dr. Ann's report from the District Pastor inauguration with Hyung Jin Nim
- C. Financial transparency and tithing

IV. COUNCIL BUSINESS

- A. How to properly represent all members in District 3?

Summary: Mr. Beebe opened the discussion by suggesting the option of town hall meetings after service on Sundays as one way to better hear the concerns of the members. He added that a completely open-ended meeting would not be effective, however, but a town hall gathering centered on a theme or a specific issue would be more effective. Mr. Inose supported the suggestion and added that it would provide the members with a safe place to voice their concerns. With members being constantly bombarded by negative rumors and disappointing news on the internet, they need a venue to find answers to the questions in their heart, in order to find peace, and to either validate the truth or reveal the inaccuracies of rumors. Mr. Beebe continued by suggesting, for the time being, that the Council could make its contact information public on the church website and on the weekly newsletter. Also, he brought up the question of in what manner can the Council be accessible to the providential organizations such as UPF, WFWP, ACLC? Is it important for the Council to hear their concerns or are their needs the responsibilities of their respective national offices?



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Mrs. Tallakson returned the Council to an important concern: the enrollment of the 2nd Generation in church activities. She has worked with local WFWP and Mrs. Nelson for quite some time, but has experienced difficulty in capturing the interest of the younger generation. Mrs. Tallakson believes that 2nd Generation do have a heart to serve, but they must sincerely feel that they are delivering value and being efficient with their time. She asked the question of whether the providential organizations could provide opportunities for 2nd Generation to get more involved? Mr. Takino contributed by explaining how this same concern was brought up in a recent ACLC meeting and that the reality is a lack of communication and intermingling between the 1st and 2nd Generation. Mr. Beebe suggested the idea of creating a questionnaire or survey to gauge the interests of 2nd Generation. Beyond the importance of simply their involvement in providential activities, he shared his worries that 2nd Generation are not being spiritually nourished, in general, and that many 2nd Generation are not connected at all to this faith community. Mrs. Tallakson mentioned how middle school and high school youth, as well as college-age staff, have a wonderful GO program guided by Mr. Hunter, but young couples and young families have almost no support. She did voice her support for the revival of a YAM-type service, but also cautioned the risk of it becoming too separate and insular. Mr. Hernández believed that it's better to have something and risk separation than nothing at all, but also shared that perhaps the separation could be curbed by the natural transition of elder 2nd Generation moving into the normal Sunday service as their needs change, perhaps when Blessed or eventually with the arrival of children. Mr. Beebe followed by stating that he believes the District needs a substantial youth minister, not specifically in place of or in addition to Mr. Hunter, that can focus on the needs of the elder 2nd Generation, especially young couples and young families, and to change the current ministry structure (where several leaders provide more peripheral support instead of one dedicated leader for elder 2nd Generation). Mr. Hessel agreed that further serious discussion is needed on this point and moved the conversation along to the next order of business with an action step to at least make the Council's contact information public.

Motioned by Mr. Hessel
Seconded by Mr. Beebe

That the District Council provide their full contact information that is to be displayed publicly on the church website and newsletter.

CARRIED 8:0 UNANIMOUSLY

B. Dr. Ann's report from the District Pastor inauguration with Hyung Jin Nim

Summary: Dr. Ann entered the meeting around 7:00 PM upon returning from the District Pastor inauguration ceremony with Hyung Jin Nim and Yeon Ah Nim at East Garden.

Dr. Ann began her report with an encouraging message to the Council that one of Hyung Jin Nim's highest concerns is how to win the hearts of the 2nd Generation.

She continued by sharing that Hyung Jin Nim's desire is to minimize the national headquarters office to focus primarily on providing support to local churches. Hyung Jin Nim believes that the heroes of the Unification Movement will be the local pastors leading and guiding local church communities. She explained that in the past, the field had to be more responsive to providential demands. Though it may feel as if the Church is starting over, especially with the recent difficulties, in reality, a foundation has been built overtime. Furthermore, it may not be a question of doing the old ways better but thinking



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outside the box with completely fresh solutions. In conjunction with Hyung Jin Nim's desire to support local churches, Dr. Ann further explained her desire to also create local churches within the District. She felt that the Clifton Church is too big to adequately serve the needs of each member. She has been talking with members to see what geographic locations would be best prepared to start a smaller church. Mr. Hessell proposed an important question of what would be a critical mass, or minimum congregation size, to ensure an adequate talent and income pool to create a vibrant local church? He also asked about how the local pastor would be selected? Dr. Ann explained her belief that the pastor would be voted by the members of that local church and would also be a part of her own pastors' small group.

C. Financial transparency and tithing

Summary: Mr. Inose began the conversation by sharing his interest in the tithing levels of the membership. District 3 is the largest community in the nation and it should have the financial strength to properly compensate its ministry staff. Though tithing is especially a sensitive issue, it is both a tell-tale sign of the spiritual health of the community but also an important part of achieving solidarity and independence as a District. A financial foundation is an important factor in the success of the community. Dr. Ann followed by stating that tithing has been slightly lower recently. In addition, almost no 2nd Generation tithe monetarily (though many GO staff have contributed with volunteer hours). Mr. Hessell shared his sincere hope to increase financial transparency, even on an international level. For members to want to tithe, they have to believe in the integrity of the Church. According to the original church charter written by Young Oon Kim in California, it states that any member can have access to church bookkeeping and finance records upon request. Mr. Hessell shared several instances where he witnessed the misuse of public money and how passionate he is about ensuring the proper use and protection of members' donations. The whole Council was in agreement that a standard of never misusing public money is imperative, but felt that such a topic would require further discussion before any decisions would be made.

V. SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS THAT REQUIRE FURTHER DISCUSSION

How to properly represent all the members in the District?

Can proper young couple and young family care be accomplished with the current ministry structure or does it require a dedicated ministry staff member?

In what manner would a young adult service provide spiritual nourishment to the 2nd Generation? Should it be a completely separate service? Do the college age 2nd Generation and young couples demographic have completely different needs?

What guidelines / metrics are important in creating local churches?

How to ensure financial transparency as well as increase tithing?

VI. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, December 4, 2012 at 7:00 PM at the Clifton Church.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Mrs. Pobanz

Seconded by Mr. Takino



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That the Council adjourns the meeting at 10:00 PM.

CARRIED 8:0 UNANIMOUSLY

Minutes Approved by the Council on January 9, 2013

Respectfully submitted,

Mr. John Hessell
Chairperson

Mr. Hero Hernández
Secretary & National Representative