

Report by the Chairman of elected Council of Maryland Unification Church

Christoph Wilkening
October 10, 2011

Dear New Hope Family Church members,

As the outgoing chairman of the New Hope Family Church (NHFCH) board, I would like to offer a short review and to encourage you to consider running for a seat on the NHFCH board during the upcoming election on Oct. 23 and Oct. 30. The Maryland Unificationist community with over 900 members, many organizations and small groups is by far the largest and most active community in the Washington Metro area. It has taken years to reach the current level of activities and community participation, even though it is by no means sufficient yet in God's view. Nevertheless, a momentum is in place that comes from the ground up.

The origin of NHFCH

In 1988, the first Sunday service meetings of local blessed families in mid-eastern section of Maryland area took place in the apartments of blessed families like Robert and Debby Preece, and David and Cathy Hill in Laurel, Maryland. It was followed by meetings in a multipurpose pavilion of an apartment complex near Greenbelt, organized by Mel and Holly Haft. Then, the service was held at New Hope Academy under the pastorship of Geoffrey Hinkle and his wife Claire. Under the leadership of Rev. In H. Lee and the reestablishment of local congregations, Susan Fefferman volunteered to take on the NHFCH pastorship. Afterwards, Pastor Angelika Selle continued practicing the Cheon Il Guk spirit of healing and reconciliation. Pastor Matthew Goldberg was appointed, first part-time and then full-time beginning of this year, after Angelika became president of WFWP in the spring of 2010.

NHFCH's charter and board

Towards the end of 2006, a group of elders under the guidance of Rev. In He Lee established NHFCH's charter and board to provide stability, balance, continuity, and good governance as well as to shift responsibility to the local community and to enable new inspiration and new initiatives. On December 16, 2006, the board approved the current charter, which was subsequently ratified by over 70 percent of NHFCH's members.

The board proved to be crucial when leaders and directions changed repeatedly. The board's purpose is to feel the community's pulse, care for it, as well as to elicit participation in the community and to encourage new activities and ministries.

Every year in September and October, the community elects half of the board members for a two-year term, and the board members elect a chairman. The board meets every two weeks, and the pastor, who is chosen by the board and approved by the district pastor, reports to the board about the state of the community. The board reports to the district director, who attends many board meetings. Due to three board members recently serving only shortened (1-year) terms, this year there are six board seats open for election.

I would like to express my deepest gratitude to all former and current board members, those who worked with me the during the last two years: **Beverly Berndt** who is responsible for the Sunday school, her home being also *youth central*—including the basement with a small weight lifting gym; **Keiko Burton** who is a tireless worker for the community with the outreach team as well as the hospitality team; **Brian Chase** who helped the community with his audio-tech and Web skills and with his wife Christine recently was blessed with their first child, a healthy son; **Dinshaw Dadachanji** who counsels us with his tremendous professional wisdom; **Daniel Hess** who is an energetic crusader for a principled lifestyle; **Eric Roschuni** who is a high-spirited activist who helps everybody without hesitation.

In recent years, community participation and ministry activities have steadily increased, especially by the second generation (2nd gen). Many activities have been held at New Hope Academy. Beginning of this year (2011), the board searched for and appointed new ministry leaders for the young adults (Teresa Ferrete), outreach (Doug Burton), education (Annemarie Weinmann), and hospitality (Keiko Burton).

NHFCH's budget

A key responsibility of the board is to develop and oversee NHFCH's budget. At the beginning of every year, the finance committee, the board chairman and the pastor plan the annual budget. It is presented to the board, voted on and approved. The board can initiate new ministries and also approve new ministries that were developed by members. It decides what budget each ministry is afforded.

The leader of the finance committee is Dan Bankus and the accountant is Kyoko Betancourt. They monitor and report monthly on the budget. The board's goal is to keep expenses within the monthly income through tithing. 30 percent of the tithing is dedicated to support the district pastor's budget. The board is also now discussing other sources of income other than tithing.

NHFCH's members

The NHFCH includes many outstanding organizations and individuals, who deserve our highest gratitude and praise for their countless efforts and contributions. They are too many to list them all – among them are (in no particular order): **Unificationist Boy Scout troop 1212** lead by **Jim Boothby**, a scout master. In existence since 1999, troop 1212 recently graduated its 24th and 25th Eagle Scout. Currently, six graduated scouts, among them three Eagle Scouts, attend STF, now Generation Peace Academy (GPA). The **Girl Scouts** lead by **Debbie Robbins**. **New Hope Academy's** principal **Joy Morrow** as well as many of its teachers and staff graciously

support our community by providing a sanctuary for worship and more. **Kaleigh Moffitt** leads the super-dynamic *youth group* (middle school and high school age). The *Lovin' Life Outreach team*, lead by **Doug** and **Keiko Burton**, recently spearheaded our participation in the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival with a book table, a "Virgin Mocktail" booth, and a booth featuring Japanese origami and Chinese calligraphy. Both booths combined won the first prize for best in appearance and were awarded a blue ribbon and a check for \$100. *Ballroom dance teachers* **Rex and Emiko Butler** have lead many ballroom dance lessons and organized dance events. **Tomiko Duggan** leads the local *Universal Peace Federation* chapter. **Dan Fefferman** heads up the *The International Coalition for Religious Freedom*. **Mary Holden** and **Concha Marchiatelli** organize an activity group for young children, the *Kid's Club*. **Henri Schaufler** helps with educational programs like the *Real Relationship Seminar*. **Angelika Selle** nationally leads the *Women's Federation for World Peace*, and **Kim Dadachanji** leads it locally. **Kate Tsubata** leads the *WAIT* organization. **Doug and Cheryl Wetzstein** represent the *Blessed Family Department* in District 1. **Lan Tsubata** helps families with her *Great Family Living* ministry. **Hiroshi Butler** secures the Lovin' Life video feed from New York every Sunday; **SunJae Smith** and his LightSmith Productions keeps us in the loop with his video news; ... and many more deserve our gratitude for their continuous public service. (Please excuse if I didn't mention everybody. To register and to receive support as a group, please contact Pastor Goldberg.)

Community building and outreach



Jake Mas and Matt Holden deep-fried turkeys for the Thanksgiving Extravaganza 2010.

During the last two years, there have been many community events that fostered unity and volunteerism and reached out to the public. The *Thanksgiving Extravaganza 2010* featured a sumptuous community potluck lunch with live entertainment. The *Christmas Celebration 2010* featured a delicious Christmas desert party. From Nov. 20, 2010 to Jan 31, 2011, members participated in a 3 x 21-day condition to read and distribute of *True Father's autobiography*. At the *NHFCH ministry fair 2011*, most of the above-mentioned groups set up tables after Sunday service and explained about their activities in order to encourage volunteers to join them. The *Easter Sunday Celebration 2011* featured a community potluck lunch and music entertainment. All these events were made possible by many enthusiastic volunteers. The Boy Scouts and their family members deserve special thanks because of their consistent and never-tiring help.

EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION

You are invited to an Open House
Join us for worship, song, lunch and entertainment
Feel the power of LOVE, LIFE and MUSIC

New Hope Family Church
7009 Varnum St., Landover Hills, MD 20784
10:00 a.m., April 24, 2011




Music from The Pentate, Shiri Taylor and others; Band photos by peterholderphotography

**Come celebrate with us. It's:
Inter-denominational
Inter-national
Inter-racial
Inter-esting!!**



Guests will receive a free copy of
"A Peace-Loving Global Citizen"
Please contact
Douglas Burton
202-203-9883
dougburton51@yahoo.com

The **Japan Aid Festival and Concert** on May 1, 2011, raised funds for the victims of Japan's earthquake and tsunami and received wide-spread support (see the video on <http://vimeo.com/23645282>). To illustrate the level of volunteerism that such an event requires, the following groups together made this festival a great success: *New Hope Academy* not only provided its building, rooms and grounds to hold the festival, but also publicized and invited parents and students to come; the *young adult group* with Teresa Ferrete; the *outreach team* with Keiko and Doug Burton; the *youth group* with Kaleigh Moffitt set up and staffed the ticket booth, the face painting and more; the *Boy Scouts* helped set up and sold grilled chicken; the *Girl Scouts* helped set up; the Japanese women prepared sushi; the local *True World Group* donated the sushi material; the *WFWP* with Kim Dadachanji hosted well-known floral designer Mme Yuki Sakata, who travelled from Japan to teach floral design for this event; the *WAIT* team performed during the concert; the band *The Rumble* with George Burton, Matt Holden and other musicians, the Mizanis, Ahmad and Emiko Nadimi, Laurence Baer, and Shin Taylor entertained during the concert.

District 1 sent a soccer and volley ball team to the **Blessed Culture and Sports Festival**, Aug. 10-14, 2011, at the UTS in Barrytown, NY. Both teams were comprised of players who were younger than other teams' players, but nevertheless earned great respect. The soccer team, with team captain Teo Wilkening, won 3rd place.



L to R: Madame Maria Antonio, Mrs. Keiko Burton, Madame Yuki Sakata, and Mrs. Tomiko Duggan. More than forty ladies took home flower bouquets and vases from the floral design demonstration. (Photo courtesy of Randall Francis.)

The latest examples of increasing community participation and outreach efforts were the Lovin' Life booths and book table at the **Greenbelt Labor Day Festival** in Greenbelt, MD, and the **9/11 Memorial Festival** at the Unification Church in Washington, D.C.



Keiko Burton points to the best booth award by the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival.

From Friday afternoon, Sept. 2, to Monday, 5 p.m., a group of volunteers set up two booths at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival. Under the banner of Lovin' Life Ministries, one offered its visitors to write their names or any phrase of their choosing with beautiful Chinese calligraphy, lovingly designed by Japanese women, as well as to teach how to fold origami creatures; the other sold so-called "Virgin Mocktails," alcohol-free smoothies that were a favorite for many youth and children. Both booths combined received an award, including a \$100 check, by the Greenbelt organizers for the best booth with special recognition for the use of environmentally-friendly, corn-based plastic cups.

The public's response was overwhelmingly positive. About two dozen members witnessed around the booths as well as on Sunday at the Lovin' Life book table, featuring True Father's autobiography and other literature. As a result, more than two dozen new friends want to be involved with one of NHFCH's groups and members.

A week later, warm sunshine engulfed the 9/11 Memorial Festival, held at the Columbia Rd. National Cathedral after Sunday service. The sounds of Jamii African drummers, the Washington Peace Choir, Ottmar Weinmann on the keyboard, as well as the hourly prayer for peace and reconciliation by pastor Matt Goldberg staged on the patio behind the church building drew many visitors. Over 30 new friends were counted throughout the day. A free memorial luncheon and a promotional video entertained the guests.

A very significant education seminar was held on Sept. 9 at Hew Hope Academy and on Sept. 10 at Kazuo and Kate Tsubata's home, called "Empowering Families," sponsored by Lan Tsubata. The presenters were John Lowen, a certified Forensic and Family Social Worker, Life Plan Counselor, and Sandra Lowen, PhD, a certified Marriage and Families Counselor, Trauma Therapist. They are an exceptional couple who have helped many people of all ages and backgrounds. They "dealt with the 'red flags' in our relationships with our spouses, parents or children, what to do and what *not* to do in turning our issues around and where we can proceed from this point to pick ourselves up and build the world God—and we—want to live in through healing ourselves and our families." The seminar did not deliver "quick fixes," but provided thought-provoking new insights and for many a new start into their couple and family relationship.

The Lovin' Life Autumn Launch Pad

The board members were instrumental in the planning, budgeting and execution of all these events. Now, we are looking forward to implement **Lovin' Life Ministries' Autumn Launch Pad**, scheduled for October 9. During preliminary discussions among Pastor Matt, the outreach team and the board the following events have been identified: A sushi party on Oct. 22; a Fall Harvest Dance Social on Oct. 29; a Thanksgiving Extravaganza on Nov. 20.

Future board members will find a ready base for launching the next phase of community life and growth. We are aware that we are facing many challenges. A special focus of all future activities will be the youth and young adults. To be culturally relevant, we are focusing to develop the creative arts—music, video, dance, and stage production. Pastoral care for blessed families of all ages is another priority. In all activities, an increased Web presence will be crucial to reach an increasing audience. To be an open and growing community our purpose is outside our Unificationist community—understanding and meeting the needs of our community at large.

LLM's approach emphasizes team work. The board understands itself as a team and a team player. I wholeheartedly encourage everyone who cares for our Unificationist community and the community at large to take your turn to serve on the board for the next two years, in support of Rev. In Jin Moon's Lovin' Life Ministry, our District 1 pastor Randall Francis, and NHFCH pastor Matthew Goldberg. It's your turn now.

The **upcoming election will take place on two Sundays, Oct. 23 and 30.** The nomination process is easy: You can nominate any Unificationist adult in good standing, who “has been an adult member for one year and resides in the state of Maryland.” (NHFCH Charter.) You can vote for yourself. Candidates are required to write an introduction of themselves, about 300 words, and send them or hand them to Peter Holden. A complete list of all candidates will be distributed and e-mailed on the first day of election. You can vote on either Sunday by ballot or e-mail. For any questions, please contact me or call me.

Thank you!

Christoph Wilkening
NHFCH board chair