

## John Doose appointed State Leader of South Carolina replacing Randall Reeves

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The Unificationist community in South Carolina recently welcomed Rev. John Doose as the new state leader. Rev. Doose was appointed the position after Pastor Randall Reeves, who served as state leader for four years, stepped down. "We are a pretty small and scattered community, but we have known each other for a long time," said Rev. Doose. "I'm ready to serve however I can and believe this is what God has been preparing me for during the past few years."

Raised in Charleston, Rev. Doose has called the Palmetto State home for many years. Though he spent some time away in Oakland, California, where he joined the Unificationist movement in 1976, and later graduated from the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) in New York in 1983, he and his wife Sanae returned to South Carolina to raise their family of three children. "There are about a dozen couples throughout the whole state," said Rev. Doose. "It's a great place, but South Carolina is where the Civil War started so there is a real challenging spirit in this state."

However, Rev. Doose has embraced challenges head on with determination to overcome any hurdle. He received his undergraduate degree in editorial journalism and honed his skills at News World Communications, Inc., a corporation of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) USA. While different experiences posed hardships along the way, bringing together his community is now his biggest challenge. "My main mission is to get us back to being internally focused and healing families," said Rev. Doose. "Part of my journey has been my own personal healing so I can make more room toward bringing unity and balance to our community."



Geographical distance between families across the state has now been mitigated through regular video conferences online. The virtual meetings have led to more open conversations and a communal shift in perspective, with members forging greater unity through prayer together. "It's a wonderful way to begin working together," said FFWPU-USA Southeast Subregional Director Rev. Ernest Patton during a recent online meeting among pastors. "I was amazed that Rev. Doose began his role as state leader with offering up this spiritual foundation."

"I'm really inspired by what Rev. Doose is doing," added Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, FFWPU-North America regional chairman. "His leadership through prayer can let God in and change our situation in America."

As a grandfather of three, Rev. Doose is focusing on supporting families in his new role and strengthening relationships between community members. "We quickly started getting feedback that people were starting to feel appreciated and understood in our community," said Rev. Doose. "I think now we are really on solid ground together and can invite God in to really take over in our community."