

## FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: FFWPU Linked to Religious Meetings with President Trump

Knut Holdhus  
January 18, 2025



*President Donald J. Trump participates in a prayer with African American Leaders and Pastor Paula White Thursday, Feb. 27, 2020, in the Cabinet Room of the White House. Official White House*

### South Korean media links Family Federation to high-level religious meetings between Christian leaders from South Korea and the USA



Chosun Biz, the prominent South Korean online business news platform operated by the Chosun Ilbo, one of South Korea's leading newspapers, reports 15th January 2025 that a key South Korean religious leader will attend the inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump on 20th January.

The article carried the headline, "[Young-hoon Lee Attends Trump Inauguration Amid Influential Religious Meetings](#)".



*The founder of Yoido Full Gospel Church, Paul Yonggi Cho (1936-2021)*

According to the news outlet, Young-hoon Lee, since 2008 senior pastor of the Yoido Full Gospel Church - the world's largest church - is set to travel to the United States from 19th to 23rd January to be present at the inauguration in Washington DC as well as other meetings.

Reporter Su-jeong Kim of the Chosun Biz has been told on 15th January by sources within the church that Pastor Lee's itinerary includes significant appointments. During his visit, he is expected to hold discussions with Paula White, who chaired the Evangelical Advisory Board during Trump's first term, as well as Donald Trump Jr., the president's eldest son.

Elder Pastor Jang-hwan Kim (Billy Kim, a famous Baptist evangelist), chairman of the Far East Broadcasting Company, the large international Christian radio network, was also invited to the inauguration. However, he declined the invitation due to scheduling conflicts.

In the same article, the South Korean online news platform writes that former President Trump has long maintained a "close relationship" with the [Unification Church](#), now known as the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#). According to Chosun Biz, this relationship was underscored by a congratulatory message he sent in 2020 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Reverend [Sun Myung Moon](#), the [federation's](#) late founder. Despite these ties, reports indicate that no representatives from the [Family Federation](#) are expected to attend the inauguration ceremony on 20th January.

**The Korea Times** Also the Korea Times, the oldest daily English-language newspaper in South Korea, [writes 16th January](#) about Pastor Lee's USA visit. The article mentions the Yoido Full Gospel Church highlighting that many Christian leaders are part of Donald Trump's inner circle, which enjoys significant support from conservative Christians.

According to the Korea Times, prominent individuals include Donald Trump Jr., a committed Christian; Rev. Paula White, Trump's spiritual advisor who delivered the invocation at his 2017 presidential

inauguration; and Rev. Franklin Graham, son of the renowned Rev. Billy Graham.



*Rev. Paula White, here June 11, 2021 in Grapevine, Texas*

The English-language daily explains that Trump Jr. notably visited Yoido Full Gospel Church twice last year. Rev. White is a prominent speaker at the Church Growth International (CGI) conference, founded by Yoido Full Gospel Church. She has been a regular participant in CGI events for over a decade and visited Korea last October.

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# Lee Young-hoon attends Trump inauguration amid influential religious meetings

By Kim Su-jeong

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Pastor Lee Young-hoon, head pastor of Yoido Full Gospel Church. /Courtesy of News1

Lee Young-hoon, the senior pastor of Yoido Full Gospel Church, will visit the United States from the 19th to the 23rd to attend the inauguration ceremony of U.S. President Donald Trump, which will be held on the 20th (local time) in Washington, D.C.

According to the religious community on the 15th, Pastor Lee is scheduled to meet with Paula White, who served as the chair of the Evangelical Advisory Board during the first term of the Trump administration, and Trump's eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., during this visit.

Elder pastor Kim Jang-hwan, chairman of Far East Broadcasting Company, was invited to the inauguration ceremony but decided not to attend due to scheduling conflicts after agreeing to participate in the funeral of former President Jimmy Carter, which was held at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C. on the 9th.

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Trump has been known to maintain a close relationship with the Unification Church (now the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification), as evidenced by his congratulatory message sent in 2020 for the 100th anniversary of the late Reverend Sun Myung Moon, the founder of the Unification Church. However, it has been reported that there will be no attendees from the Family Federation at this inauguration ceremony.

※ This article has been translated using the OpenAI translation tool.

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Kim Su-jeong



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## Yoido Church pastor to seek stronger Korea-US ties at Trump inauguration

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Lee Young-hoon, senior pastor of Yoido Full Gospel Church / Korea Times photo by Shim Hyun-chul

By Baek Byung-yeul

Lee Young-hoon, senior pastor of Yoido Full Gospel Church, aims to contribute to strengthening the United States-Korea alliance and promoting peace on the Korean Peninsula by attending the inauguration ceremony of U.S. President-elect Donald Trump, according to the church on Thursday.

The Seoul-based church said the senior pastor will leave for Washington, on Saturday to attend the inauguration ceremony of the new U.S. president. Lee is scheduled to participate in all official events taking place from Jan. 18 to Jan. 20 and his attendance was made possible through the assistance of his longtime acquaintance who is a key Republican figure and supporter.

The senior pastor said his attendance at the inauguration events is seen as an opportunity to engage in private diplomacy and foster communication between the two nations.

"Through this visit, I plan to emphasize the importance of the U.S.-Korea alliance, share opinions on establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula and contribute to building bridges of exchange and cooperation based on Christian values in U.S.-Korea relations," Lee said.

Lee's itinerary includes attending the Cabinet Reception on Saturday (local time), the Make America Great Again Victory Rally on Sunday and the presidential swearing-in ceremony on Monday. He will also participate in the celebratory parade and inaugural balls following the main ceremony.

The pastor's presence at these events is expected to provide a channel for dialogue and communication with the incoming Trump administration. Lee emphasized that he would focus on advocating for the U.S.-Korea alliance and highlighting the role of Christian values in bilateral relations during his interactions with American officials and dignitaries.

"This visit is expected to open new horizons for private diplomacy, beyond merely attending the inauguration ceremony," the church said in a statement. "It is anticipated to be an example demonstrating diplomatic efforts based on U.S.-Korea relations and Christian values, while also presenting possibilities for cooperation and communication at the level of private diplomacy."

According to Yoido Full Gospel Church, many Christian leaders are among Trump's inner circle, who received overwhelming support from conservative Christians.

Notable figures include Donald Trump Jr., a devout Christian; Rev. Paula White, Trump's spiritual mentor, who delivered the invocation at his 45th presidential inauguration in 2017; and Rev. Franklin Graham, son of Rev. Billy Graham.

Notably, Trump Jr. visited Yoido Full Gospel Church twice last year, in April and August. White is also a key speaker at the Church Growth International (CGI) conference, established by Yoido Full Gospel Church. White consistently participated in CGI events for over a decade and visited Korea last October.

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### DARKROOM



“Since there is a common ground of Christian values at the foundation of U.S.-Korea relations, if I can be of help in this aspect, I will continue to play whatever role I can in the future,” the senior pastor said.

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