

Open Meeting with the Clifton Family Church Council
1/22/2017

Attendance: Pastor Manoj Jacob, Mr. Alex Beebe, Mr. George Glass, Mr. Nathaniel Nitro, Mr. Ishikawa, Mr. Francisco Chamorrinha, Mr Atsushi Takino, and Mrs. Noriko Sprague. Absent: Mrs. Naria McGee

Meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Manoj at 1:31 pm
CIG Motto and Council Mission Statement was read

Reports:

A. Pastor's Monthly Talk by Pastor Manoj

- In 2016, we saw 3 new members of conviction join our church community. Though this number is small, it is more than have been joining in the last 10 years. We have been putting in a lot of effort in the last few years and we think that this is evidence of our efforts starting to pay off. This year we plan to really focus on witnessing and hope to see these new members numbers continue to increase every year.
- We had a lot of success in witnessing on the NJIT campus in 2016 and started looking at creating a witnessing presence on the Bergen Community College campus as well. This year we will expand to the Bergen Community College and we want to identify more college campuses for doing the same.
- Unity in our community will allow us to start achieving many of these goals. In the past, many of us have had our own ideas and would argue about the right way to do things. This argument tended to create disunity in our community. This disunity has prevented us from taking action and achieving our goals effectively.

B. Financial Committee Report by Mrs. Kyoko Andersson

- The Financial Committee was formed last year with Mrs. Kyoko Andersson, Mr. Benny Axelsson, and Mrs. Irmgard Baynes.
- We appreciate all of the effort and every penny offered by the community members as well as all of the efforts of Mrs. Eriko Endo as the church's bookkeeper.
- In November, the total tithing was \$35,633. Of that amount \$29,801 came from 156 first generation families, \$4,407 came from 17 second generation couples, and \$1,425 came from 17 single BCs. With other donations and fees, the total income was \$41,615. Total expenses were \$39,513.
- As of November, the Building Fund raised \$33,047 and spent \$54,444 on renovations.

C. National & District Council & Witnessing Report by Mr. Atsushi Takino

- Please make sure to use and check the national website, familyfed.org, for updates and resources on the National Council and the various national ministries.
- At the national level, we have established the mission statement “Bring America back to God through the Teachings and Marriage Blessing of True Parents”. Such statements and full realistic strategic plans were prepared by 7-8 selected countries for achieving our 2020 goal. These were presented to True Mother.
- In 2016, True Mother wanted us to bless many people and recommended joining together in witnessing to make it easier. The Elizabeth church formed 7 or 8 trinities and were recently able to bless 1 couple. During this time, the Clifton Family Church formed 3 trinities.
- The witnessing strategy for 2017 is to work together with other organizations, such as BFM and WFWP, to witness.
- For 2017, our witnessing team is planning together with Damian Dunkley to have a Tribal Messiahship Program.
- At NJIT, Yasu and Atsuki are always working together with the witnessing team and have had 71 students participate in DP study with 8 now continuing to study. Our goal for this year is to have 21 students complete DP studies and send 3 students to an IPEC workshop.
- In the Clifton area, street witnessing continues to be the main avenue through which new people are coming. Currently we have 18 people we are witnessing to through street witnessing.

D. Youth Ministry Report by Mr. Yasutaka Ozawa

- In January, there was a National Youth Ministry Summit that helped to inspire the youth ministers from across the country.
- The current theme at GO is “Your Personal Relationship with God”. We had the opportunity to discuss what everyone’s “God Language” was at different tables. All but “Nature” were covered due to the state of the weather.
- Recently, the middle schoolers and high schoolers had separate small group weekends that are organized to help the participants create strong, personal relationships with each other.
- As the last GO of the month, this Saturday will be a “Parent’s Night” where Mr. Raymond Burns will present education that participants will have the opportunity to discuss together with their parents at the same table.
- Il Shim is scheduled to begin in the beginning of March. The program will take place on Sundays between 1:30 pm and 3:30 pm this year instead of on Fridays. It will go on for 10 weeks.

Old Business

A. Results of Council Effectiveness Survey

- There were a total of 108 responses to the council survey. Among these, 19 responses were by young adults aged 35 and under.
- Community surveys and efficiently allocating project spending are the top two areas of focus for the council desired by the community. This result is even stronger among the young adult respondents.
- The top two metrics of interest to the community are general community participation number and 2nd gen participation numbers. Both metrics were deemed important by 70% of respondents.
- Despite the high preference ratings of E-News and Facebook among young adults, these forms of communication were comparatively ineffective in reaching the young adult population with this survey. By contrast, personal contact proved to be more effective with young adults than it's preference rating would suggest. Overall, Sunday Service was the most effective method for reaching respondents of all ages. These results were in part affected by the fact that outreach on Facebook was limited.
- The complete report will be released to the community in the coming weeks.

B. Building Oil Tank and New Gas Line

- There are no new updates at this time as PSE&G continues to be unresponsive to our inquiries for installing a gas line.

New Business and Community Discussion starting at 2:25 pm

- **Questions to Mr. Yasutaka Ozawa**

- Do you think that the kids in our community are starting Il Shim at the right age? - **Mr. Ozawa:** Il Shim is currently held for kids in the 7th and 8th grades. The program covers some more mature topics that might not be appropriate for younger kids. As such, I think that 8th grade is about right for this program.
- Could Il Shim be Opened to non-Unificationist kids? - **Mr. Ozawa:** I do not have any issue with inviting non-Unificationist kids. Il Shim has not begun yet but, with GO, I have encouraged participants to bring a friend or a 2nd gen that has been out of touch, offering them a free complimentary meal with the program. I have not, however, pushed this very hard and I have yet to see participants invite anyone. If we do get such kids, I would just want to be aware so that I can make the effort to effectively communicate concepts that they might not be familiar with otherwise. - **Pastor Manoj:** We have also had a member create a program with Il Shim content specifically for non-Unificationist kids. She held this program for about 10 kids.
- Is our Youth Ministry giving our youth opportunities to do service projects? - **Mr. Ozawa:** We want to contact the Clifton Mayor's office to see what service projects could benefit the Clifton community. Based on the response we received from showing participants images of Cambodian service projects, we think that this could potentially be a very powerful experience for participants.

- **Recommendation by Mr. Saunders**
 - **Mr. Saunders:** I'd like to recommend that the council think about creating an advisory committee of elders like Mr. and Mrs. Ang who have had direct experience working with True Father. The committee would be made up of couples and would help guide our leaders.

- **Question regarding witnessing and pathway to the Blessing**
 - How are we actually working to bring people the blessing? - **Pastor Manoj:** We have workshops and lectures and I usually try to take time to talk with visitors to see where their interests are. Based on these interests, I try to guide their education. - **Mrs. Nancy Jubb:** Together with Andrea, I have put together two Marriages Courses together that were only advertised to community members so far. Now, however, we are planning to expand the reach of this program to our neighborhoods as a starting point. This results in couples that are already familiar with our church community and creates a more natural pathway for them to get involved and even convert and receive the Blessing after digging deeper into our teachings. - **Mrs. Beebe:** At New Hope School we occasionally see parents who could use relationship guidance and we would like to be able to refer them to such a marriage course provided by the church. - **Mr. Takino:** We currently have a clear pathway to the Blessing for new members. We start with a variety of DP study classes, move on to a membership class where we read True Father's autobiography, and then we get BFM involved and find a matching advisor who mentors and guides the new member towards the Blessing. Though this is the official track, we also have many cases where couples receive the Blessing and continue DP and membership education after the Blessing.

- **Question regarding witnessing team staff to Mr. Takino**
 - You are very busy doing things. Have you tried increasing the size of your witnessing team? - **Mr. Takino:** New volunteers are always welcome.

- **Comment regarding parents and the Matching**
 - **Mr. Ishikawa:** I was very surprise by the content of the Matching Convocation when I went. It was very useful for parents to understand how to approach the matching with their kids. I would recommend attending the convocation right after your child does Il Shim.

Meeting closed in prayer by Alex Beebe at 3:15 pm

Alex Beebe,
Council Chairman