

Clifton Family Church Open Council Meeting

5/21/2017

Attendance: Mr. Alex Beebe, Mrs. Naria McGee, Mr. Francisco Chammorrinha, Mr. Nathaniel Nitro, Mr. Atsushi Takino.

Absent: Mrs. Noriko Sprague, Mr. George Glass, Mr. Mitsuo Ishikawa, Pastor Manoj

Meeting opened in prayer at 1:29pm by Alex Beebe

CIG motto and Council Mission Statement was read

AGENDA

Pastor's Monthly talked: Postponed due to pastor being in Korea, and Rany leading another program.

Reports:

- Financial Committee-Mr. Chamorrinha
 - Tithing was better this month according to Pastor Manoj
 - It is the Financial committee's goal to think of a solution to balance the church's budget.
 - We will have to analyze the cost of the events happening at church
 - We are in the process of drafting a letter for the general membership to send by mail to them every quarterly just to say Hi. Members might not be coming because of things such as not having a ride so we want them to let us know and the church can try to help. Once the draft is approved by the council, the cost of mailing the letters will be calculated. We are hoping to increase the desire to be more involved and increasing the participation in our church activities.
 - A member mentioned that in Oakland, CA the way the church is encouraging members to donate more is if members tithe consistently they would get an award and plaque, recognizing and appreciating their support. It is like receiving a thank you from the church.
 - A member commented that there are often families that are just trying to survive, so they can't donate as much as they want to the church so making a plaque might cause negative feelings.
 - Another member added that there can be a balance with this idea and if a plaque or recognition is offered, it should be done with the right heart and those who have been giving should be appreciated in some way because it is often not easy for them either.
 - Tithing is an act of faith first, we might need to have more education explaining what it is.
- NOCP- Mrs. Naria McGee
 - The National Ocean Challenge Program will be July 6-15 and 20-29 in Kodiak, AK. There is a 10-day and 24-day option and scholarships are available.
 - NJ Ocean Church is also hosting (2) 3-day Ocean Challenges on July 28-30 and Aug. 25-27.

-There's also a Women's Fishing day for ladies on June 17th, and group fishing can be scheduled with Mr. Takahashi and Ocean Church anytime.

- Summer Martial Arts Program-Mr. Ryan Abenir
 - There will be a Martial Arts tournament in Brazil. We plan to send a delegation from the United States to Brazil. Outside people will also be attending.
 - Every year we have a local tournament here in Clifton, NJ and bring together all the masters. Our hope is to reach out to these masters and have them represent America and learn the Divine Principle and about the Blessing.
 - If anyone can help with supporting sending a delegation to Brazil and Korea that would be great.
 - There will be a week long education on the Divine Principle and Martial arts in July
 - On July 28-30, 2017 there will be a joint martial arts workshop with NJ and NY.
 - Since we don't have Camp Sunrise anymore we want to bring everyone together in Clifton.

- New Hope School Camp Program-Mr. Robert Beebe
 - There has been a New Hope summer program for many years. It is an 8 week program from June to August. It's for children and includes an enrichment program in reading, writing and math. There will be sports, crafts and cultural themes. We believe children should be engaged in reading and writing throughout the summer.
 - The summer program is a mixture of Blessed Children and non-church kids, even children just from the neighborhood who do not attend New Hope schools attend the camp.
 - Weekly rate is \$200, for the whole 8 weeks it's \$1400. Daily rates are also available.
 - New Hope School is going through an accreditation process and will receive the results next year.

- Other Camps and events
 - DP workshop in Gloucester, MA
 - Global Top Gun in Korea
 - Leda Project in Paraguay
 - E.P.I.C. High school DP workshop
 - Aloha Workshop in Hawaii

B. Old Business

- The Church Council created goals for this year based on the feedback from last year. There are 4 points for 2017:
 1. Collect and keep a record of returning and new attendee numbers at local events of the following types: ACLA, WFWP, UPF, Council, YUM, GO, Sunday Service.
 2. Establish a budget for 2017 before the end of the year, for the remaining months of this year.
 3. Achieve 430 blessings as a community and identify a successful tribal messiah couple to represent district 3 at Foundation Day of 2018.
 4. Obtain and review 2017 goals for each of the local ministries.

-For sending a tribal messiah representative, if several couples blesses 430 couples each on their own, we should send them all to Korea, but our minimum goal as a community is to bless 430 couples together. The idea is to budget the cost sooner rather than later for sending a representative.

- Address unanswered questions from last Open Council Meeting

-Q. If someone wants to start a needed program, such as a food pantry, who do they talk to?

A. They can speak to the council members and bring it up, but the person bringing it up should be willing to also take responsibility in leading it. Some programs we might not need to create, but can just support others if it already exists and that way also get to know the outside community.

-Q. True Mother often times tells us that the organization and management of our church must reflect our diverse, multiracial and multicultural community. Why is it that Clifton Family Church does not embody that direction from True Mother?

A. We believe it does. Our church, compared to others, is quite diverse and multiracial. We need more information to understand what exactly this question wants to address.

-Q. Can anyone explain the meaning of Famicon and its goals?

A. Famicon is the Leadership Conference turned into a Family Conference inviting the different ministries together. The details and what transpired there during the 3 days in Las Vegas are on the Family Fed website.

-Q. How much freedom does the local church team have to design their own liturgy?

A. Pastor Manoj will have to address this question when he comes back.

-Q. Some traditions in our church are difficult to explain to new guests

A. Our church teachings are Christian based, but we need to start with simple things for them to digest and gradually teach about more difficult things.

-Q. We had brought up developing creative ways of bringing in money to our church. Is there a team of researchers who are looking into this?

A. The council members are looking into this.

-A member mentioned that other church buildings in our movement often have 2nd generation living on the 2nd floor of the building. We could use the Parsonage house as student housing since it's so underutilized and ask them to "tithes" a certain amount regularly in exchange for living at the Parsonage to avoid tax issues. This will be discussed further.

C. New Business

- Ryan Abenir brought up that he works as a chaplain at a hospital and they have a system for connecting patients to the churches they associate with. The hospital would contact the church when a patient is from our denomination so we can visit and take care of them. The hospital is looking for liaisons for this purpose. The main goal is to connect to the larger community so we feel safe and comfortable with the larger community when we mention our church and Rev. Moon. Then they become more familiar with our religion and beliefs.
- George Tegha will be sharing about his couple's trip to Africa on the 26th for the Tribal Messiahship gathering. They were able to Bless 48 couples in Ghana.

- Dr. Robert Beebe is looking for a 4th grade teacher for New Hope School if anyone is interested.
- Mr. Nitro will start on the directory of the families and members in our Clifton Church in June and taking family portraits. Self-taken family photos can also be submitted to Mr. Nitro for the directory.

Meeting closed in prayer at 3:20pm by Mr. Alex Beebe