

## **Clifton Family Church Open Council Meeting**

07-30-2017

Attendance: Mr. Mitsuo Ishikawa, Mr. Alex Beebe, Mr. George Glass, Mr. Nathaniel Nitro, Mr. Francisco Chamorrinha, Mr. Atsushi Takino, Mrs. Noriko Sprague

Absent: Pastor Manoj Jacob, Mrs. Naria McGee

Meeting convened at 11:30 am.

### **Reports**

#### **A. Invitation to Share About the Peace Starts with Me Event**

- Mr. Beebe invited everyone in the audience to share their experience with the July 15 event at Madison Square Garden.

#### **B. Mr. Steve Edwards**

- The choir and dance performances were powerful. He saw people's eyes really open in amazement to see the energy of the performances.

#### **C. Mr. Georges Tegha**

- Two of his guests to the Peace Starts with Me also came to the Japanese Summer Festival the following weekend. These guests were very open and showed no issue with accepting all steps of the Blessing at the festival.
- He thought that the overall response to True Mother's call to action could have been better and more energetic.

#### **D. Mr. Frank Bell**

- Brought a minister and his daughter to the Peace Starts with Me event. The minister was inspired to work on starting a news network as he felt that Fox News, the mainstream conservative channel, was not doing such a good job.

#### **E. Ms. Karen Nishinaga**

- As a vocalist in Apple Heaven USA, she saw a lot of sweat and tears go into the realization of the Peace Starts with Me event on the part of the headquarters staff. There were many all nighters and many slept over at headquarters without returning home.
- Apple Heaven USA and the original Apple Heaven band from Korea had to overcome language barriers to unite and put on a good show at Madison Square Garden.

**F. Mrs. Christine Libon**

- She participated in the 3000 voice choir and it was an amazing experience.
- Since the early 2000's, A. Curtis Farrow had dreamed of expanding his work to more diverse singing groups. In the past, his work mostly involved black American choirs. This 3000 voice choir was really a dream come true for him when he received the opportunity to direct it.
- Farrow united the choir asking them to come and work together beyond all differences in belief.

**G. Ms. Miwa Ishikawa**

- She was leading the high school workshop, EPIC, when she was asked to bring her workshop participants to the Hyo Jeong youth program and the Peace Starts with Me event. She had some difficulty at first but found that the education from EPIC helped her participants to better receive and understand the heart and thinking behind these larger programs.

**H. Mr. Joe Leonard**

- He helped with the EPIC workshop where he learned many things that did and did not work when teaching DP content to high schoolers in a program originally designed for college aged adults.
- He was initially very upset to have to derail the EPIC workshop after months of planning to go to the Hyo Jeong program but ultimately gave in and learned the importance of flexibility in God's work.
- He applauded Miwa for all of her hard work as the real driver of the EPIC program to make it happen.

**I. Mrs. Evelin Francis**

- Her guest was not able to hear and understand True Mother's talk as they had no translation. However, they noted that it was very impactful to see everyone in the audience become like a child in front of True Mother when she took the stage.

**J. Mrs. Noriko Sprague**

- One guest she had invited denied her invitation and then denied the invitations of two other people close to them. However, they finally text messaged Mrs. Sprague the day before the event and asked if she still had any tickets.

**K. Mrs. Chiyoko Thibault**

- Was encouraged to join the dance team and was very inspired by the amount of time and effort that Mr. Higuchi put in to prepare the dancers.

**L. Sister from Peru**

- She had heard many great things about True Mother in Peru from which she had only recently come to the US.
- It was beautiful to see all the different brothers and sisters from so many different backgrounds at the Peace Starts with Me event.

**M. Dr. Robert Beebe**

- One of the guests he brought is a single mother from Mexico with four kids and private business. Her kids attend New Hope School. At one point she had been led by members of other churches to look into sending her kids to Catholic schools in the area. After this experience, she redoubled her resolve to support New hope School and has since started to participate more in activities of our church community. Even though she could not hear the speeches for lack of Spanish translation, she was inspired by the atmosphere at Madison Square Garden.
- His second guest is a teacher at New Hope School whom he is hoping to lead to the Blessing.

**N. Mr. Johnson**

- We all have many different religious backgrounds. At the event, many were from different faiths than ours. Still, after True Mother's proclamation that she was the Only Begotten Daughter, there was no protest from the audience. He had expected there might be some push back. In the end, the only resistance that True Mother seemed to encounter was from among us, from the Sanctuary Church.

**O. Mrs. Yoko Burns**

- Along with 5 others, she was asked by Pastor Manoj to call and invite everyone in the church registry. This was very spiritually difficult as many on the list have splintered and are now following either Hyun Jin Nim or Hyung Jin Nim.
- In this effort, she felt the support of the spirit world, especially from the sisters that had passed away recently.

**P. 2nd Generation Member from Germany**

- He had come to the US for the Hyo Jeong workshop. He was impressed to see so many young 1st generation members there, especially since there are so few in Europe.
- He was inspired to hear Sun Jin Nim speak openly about how she came to where she is now.
- On the Sunday after the event, True Mother emphasized the importance of members keeping their purity and that this starts with the self.

**Q. Filipino Sister**

- She participated in the dance group after having gone to dance practice everyday after work.
- After the event, her coworkers were impressed to hear that she had danced at the famous Madison Square Garden. She also heard from many people overseas who had seen her dancing in the international broadcast of the program.

**R. African American Brother**

- He had grown up with an anger against his mother. Recently, he has wanted to be able to forgive his mother and make peace. He loved to hear in Mr. Sprague's sermon that you have to start with yourself. His teacher said to him "get your butt where it belongs." Today's message has reminded him that to make things right, he need to put himself in the right place with the right people and this is what he feels he has in our community.

**S. Mrs. Tegha**

- She was initially doubtful that we could put an initiative such as the Peace Starts with Me event. It had been so many year since True Father's big events of this magnitude and she wasn't sure that we were still capable of accomplishing this.
- She learned that she had to change her mindset and allow things to happen.

Closed in Prayer by Mr. Alex Beebe at 12:40 pm