

Haruna Asanuma Appointed Volunteer Youth Pastor in Omaha

Mark Lincoln, Katherine Lincoln and Doug Burton
July 16, 2013



The Kansas City church band "Lunch Break" performs "Run" by Snow Patrol

In Omaha, Nebraska second-generation Unificationists are stepping up to leadership roles as the national witnessing campaign picks up speed. The newly-appointed volunteer Youth Pastor is Ms. Haruna Asanuma, 23.



Haruna Asanuma, 23, with her husband, during their visit to Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo

“Haruna is always trying to see things from God’s point of view. She is very unselfish and very faithful. She is a dancer, speaks Korean and Japanese, studied in Korea, Scotland, London, and she is very well educated,” according to Pastor Mark Lincoln.



Asanuma graduated from the Scottish School of Contemporary Dance and also studied dance in London.

Interviewed by Katherine Lincoln, a second-generation Unificationist, in Omaha, Ms. Asanuma told us her reasons for taking the new responsibility: “Actually, Youth pastor became my fifth job (though unpaid, of course). I have taught ballet and modern contemporary modern dance at three different schools/studios and have also worked part-time at my dad's restaurant,” she said.



Nebraska Family Church young-adult Unificationists sang the closing worship songs.

She continued: “I really just wanted to make a difference in our church here in Omaha. After Lovin' Life ministries ended, our church was left with no leader and no structure. I was really frustrated attending church, because I felt like I could never invite anyone to come attend our services with its controversies and inconsistencies. When I was offered this position, I felt as if I was being offered a chance to make a difference for not only our Omaha church, but also for the people of Omaha who have not yet had the opportunity to meet True Parents and Divine Principle.”



Asanuma delivered the Sunday Service message on July 14, 2013.

“How has it been?” we asked.



A young-adult Unificationist, served as the Sunday Service worship leader at the Nebraska Family Church on July 14, 2013.

Asanuma: “So far, it has been really wonderful. I was very fortunate to have been given the opportunity to attend a Lead With Impact conference in California where I was able to meet many other pastors as well as pastors my age or even younger! Pastor Mark and Yoko Lincoln, as well as the other members of the Omaha community have been very supportive of me. Our main focus so far has been to improve the quality, consistency, and flow of our Sunday worship service. As that becomes more secure, I hope we can grow our witnessing efforts and hold events throughout the week that guests can attend and listen to Divine Principle.”



A young-adult Unificationist, gave a testimony about his experience at Camp Agape.

On Sunday, July 14, 2013, Asanuma gave the Sunday service message. “We knew she didn't have much time to prepare because of just returning from Camp Agape, but we planned a surprise party for her father's 60th birthday after service and wanted her to give the sermon. She did an excellent job speaking on the title ‘Shortcut to Happiness,’” Pastor Lincoln wrote. The worship service was completely organized by second generation, most of whom had returned the night before from Camp Agape in Madrid, Iowa. Approximately 40 young people from the prairie states attended.



A young-adult Unificationist, gave the offering prayer.

Lectures were given by first gen Unificationist, and second-generation leaders including Jaga Gavin and Haruna Asanuma.

Pastor Lincoln and other Omaha members have been witnessing on Thursdays around the church center door-to door and on the street with surveys on Saturday afternoons.

“The purpose of doing the campaign was to unite with True Mother’s 20/20 vision and Dr. Michael Balcomb’s direction for a 40 days of witnessing,” according to Pastor Lincoln, who added: “After the 40 day witnessing campaign we hope to create a church that is prepared to allow people to come and stay.”



Nebraska Family Church first-generation Unificationists sing along during the closing worship songs led by the youth.