

FFWPU Europe and the Middle East: FFWPU Japan President Tomihiro Tanaka Names Masaichi Hori Successor

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Tomihiro Tanaka), president of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), announcing his resignation and answering questions at a press conference on the afternoon 9th December in Shibuya Ward, Tokyo



Japanese President Tanaka resigns, urges generational renewal within Family Federation as entire executive board is to be replaced

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Family Federation President Tanaka Resigns: "A First Step Toward Restoring Trust"

Successor to Be Masaichi Hori

by the Editorial Desk of [Sekai Nippo](#)

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From the press conference at the [Family Federation](#) Japanese headquarters in Shibuya, Tokyo 9th December 2025

Tomihiro Tanaka (田中富広), 69, President of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#)

(formerly the [Unification Church](#)), held a press conference on 9th December at the [organization's](#) headquarters in Shibuya, Tokyo, and announced that he would resign effective that day.

Explaining his resignation, he stated:

"The fact that our activities have caused deep pain to some individuals is something that absolutely cannot be taken lightly. As president, I must confront this reality with utmost sincerity. I decided to resign in order to take a first step toward restoring public trust."

He also cited as reasons the conclusion of appellate proceedings at the Tokyo High Court regarding the government's petition for a dissolution order – final written arguments were submitted on 21st November – and his assessment that, as a result of internal reforms he initiated, the environment was now prepared to welcome the next generation of leadership. At one point, he bowed his head in an apology – going beyond the framework of criminal and civil liability – intended to express remorse toward "the voices expressing pain and harm".



Masaichi Hori nominated as new president of the [Family Federation](#) in Japan

He recommended Masaichi Hori (堀正一), 55, former vice president of the [Family Federation](#) in Japan, as his successor. Tanaka explained that Hori

"was the first second-generation member born in Japan and is the most suitable individual to unite and lead the first, second, and third generations."

The [organization](#) reportedly plans to replace all six executive officers in addition to the president.

When asked for his views on statements made by defendant Tetsuya Yamagami (山上徹也) and his family during the trial at the Nara District Court regarding the shooting of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (安倍晋三), Tanaka declined to comment, saying he had "not attended the trial".

At the same time, Tanaka remarked that he had "drawn courage" from members during the difficult period following the incident and the government's pursuit of a dissolution order. He said,

"What gave me hope, was seeing the next generation move with strong faith. I had feared that many members might leave, but in the end almost none did, and that strengthened me."

Regarding his plans after stepping down, he said:

"As an ordinary member or as an individual human being, I want to continue seeking ways to contribute both to the [religious organization](#) and to society."

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Press release issued by the [Family Federation of Japan](#) 29th October 2025 concerning the [Family Federation](#) establishing a Compensation Committee that will operate independently from the [Family Federation](#) to review and determine the contents of compensation for claimants neutrally and fairly. See [original article](#) in Japanese.

See also [Long-Running Donation Claims Settled in Japan](#)

See also [Buddhist head: "Donations as Spiritual Training"](#)

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Out of reflection on the fact that our [organization](#) had faced numerous civil lawsuits in the past, we issued a **Compliance Declaration in 2009** [\[See editor's note 1 below\]](#), and since then we have continuously worked toward **church reform**.

After the incident [assassination] involving former Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe**, we further strengthened our reforms, such as by establishing specific procedures for receiving donations.

As a result of these efforts, the number of lawsuits and complaints related to donations has **decreased dramatically** in recent years.



Faithful believer offering donation.
Illustration by Microsoft Designer Image Creator 14th July 2024.

However, given that

1. there are individuals participating in the so-called **"group mediation"** [\[See editor's note 2 below\]](#) who continue to raise claims of harm, and the *Tokyo District Court's* [dissolution order](#) stated that "the existence of unmanifested damage cannot be denied," and
2. we have received recommendations from the members of the **Compensation Committee**,

we have decided to **change our previous policy** and move forward toward becoming a **religious organization that is open to society and trusted by the public**, offering peace of mind and confidence to the people of Japan.

Specifically, we will shift away from our previous approach – which was based strictly on law and evidence – and will now **face those who claim harm in the group mediation process directly**, going **beyond the legal framework** to pursue an **early resolution**.

In addition, to respond appropriately to the above-mentioned [court decision](#), we have asked **independent and impartial lawyers** – who can make fair and just judgments from a standpoint separate from [our organization](#) – to form a **Compensation Committee**, and we have begun efforts to resolve the issue through this new framework.

The Compensation Committee will operate independently from [our organization](#), reviewing and determining the contents of compensation neutrally and fairly, from the standpoint of social appropriateness.

[Our organization](#) will, of course, accept the committee's decisions, and will fully cooperate by providing necessary materials (such as donation records) for the committee's reviews and deliberations.

(According to the committee, decisions on compensation will not be made solely on the presence or absence of records; rather, the committee will conduct hearings and other inquiries to assess the plausibility of donation facts from multiple perspectives.)



As for the members of the



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Masaru Wakasa, lawyer and politician. Photo (2013): Ogiyoshisan / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC Attr 3.0 Unp.](#) Cropped



Toru Hashimoto, Japanese TV personality, politician, and lawyer, giving a campaign speech 11th July 2013 in Kyoto during a regular election for the House of Councillors. Photo: 雪融 / Wikimedia Commons. License: [CC ASA 3.0 Unp.](#) Cropped

Compensation Committee, in addition to four lawyers from the *Hashimoto General Law Office* (Representative: Attorney Toru Hashimoto – 橋下徹), we have heard that Attorney Masaru Wakasa (若狭勝) will participate in specific examinations as an advisor. Attorney Kazuya Maruyama (丸山和也) is providing neutral, fair, and comprehensive guidance.

The Compensation Committee will be based in Osaka, where it will handle all administrative matters, and plans to launch a compensation application website on 31st October. Applications will generally be accepted until 31st March.

For details on the specific compensation framework and procedures, please refer to the announcements from the Compensation Committee.

See also [Long-Running Donation Claims Settled in Japan](#)

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Featured image above: Two Japanese men shaking hands in front of *Family Federation* logo. Illustration: ChatGPT, 30th October 2025.

[Editor’s note 1: The **2009 compliance declaration** of the Unification Church of Japan (now the *Family Federation for World Peace and Unification*) was a formal commitment by the organization to reform its practices in response to longstanding public criticism and legal challenges.

The Unification Church in Japan had faced numerous allegations related to recruitment tactics and donation solicitation, termed “spiritual sales” (霊感商法) by a hostile network of activist lawyers who had declared the religious organization an enemy. These issues led to multiple lawsuits orchestrated by the activist lawyers and significant media backlash. This prompted the organization to take measures to restore its reputation and demonstrate compliance with legal and ethical standards.

The religious organization pledged to stop possibly unethical donation practices, including what the hostile network of lawyers claimed amounted to “pressuring members into making large financial contributions under spiritual pretexts.”

This was in response to accusations from the same activist lawyers that followers “were being manipulated into giving away substantial amounts of money or property.”

The Unification Church stated it would enhance internal oversight to ensure compliance with ethical and legal standards. Measures included better training for leaders and stricter guidelines for evangelization and solicitation of donations.

After this compliance declaration, there was a significant decrease in the number of lawsuits against the Unification Church – since 2015 called the *Family Federation*. The religious organization has used this as evidence that it has improved its practices and should not be subject to dissolution.]

[Editor’s note 2: The group mediation referred to here is a mediation process between the *Family Federation for World Peace and Unification* in Japan and a network of activist leftwing lawyers called *National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales*. The hostile network of lawyers represents a group of 186 petitioners.

On 28th October 2025, the *Family Federation* of Japan issued a press release about the group mediation, writing,

“With respect to the **group mediation** currently being

conducted between [our organization](#) and the **National Network of Lawyers Against Spiritual Sales** (hereinafter, 'the Lawyers' Group'), we hereby report that **a settlement has been reached with a portion of the petitioners**.

[Our organization](#) has, from the beginning, responded to each of the **186 mediation cases** sincerely and individually.

We have conducted **thorough fact-finding investigations** and promptly submitted the results to both the petitioners and the court.

We have also provided, to the fullest extent possible, all materials in our possession that the petitioners requested for submission and have earnestly engaged in discussions.

Under these circumstances, beginning this year, the Lawyers' Group requested **urgent resolution** for certain petitioners, such as those **aged 80 or older** or suffering from **serious illnesses**.

In response, [our organization](#) decided to **significantly change its approach** – shifting from handling each case individually to **pursuing early resolution** as a general policy.

After multiple mediation sessions, on 27th October, we successfully reached **settlement agreements with 39 petitioners** who are elderly or have other special circumstances.

[Our organization](#) will continue to face each petitioner with sincerity and will remain committed to achieving an **early and comprehensive resolution** of this matter.”]

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