

# HJ International Graduate School for Peace and Public Leadership is moving to New Yorker Hotel 12<sup>th</sup> floor

Thomas G. Walsh  
February 18, 2025



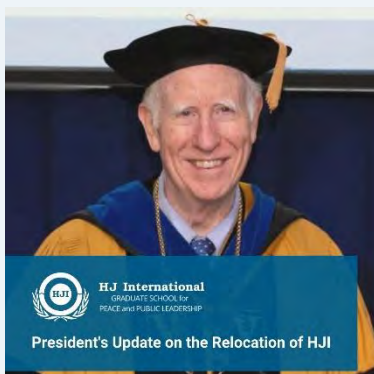
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## HJI International Conference

On January 24-26, 2025 HJI convened its 2nd Annual International Conference on Peace and Public Leadership. A distinguished group of 20 scholars gathered to discuss and reflect on the theme "New Directions in Unificationism: A Time for Consideration."

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## President's Update on the Relocation of HJI

Thank you for your continued support, friendship and encouragement as we--our faculty and

staff--continue to strive to honor the legacy and build toward the future of this great institution,

celebrating the 50th anniversary since welcoming its first class of students in 1975.

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For more information about HJI, email [admissions@hji.edu](mailto:admissions@hji.edu)

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## HJI International Conference



On January 24-26, 2025 HJI convened its 2nd International Conference on Peace and Public Leadership, with a focus on the theme of “New Directions in Unificationism: A Time for Consideration.” In addition to several HJI faculty members and students, the participants included Dr. Eileen Barker, Emeritus Professor of Sociology, London School of Economics; Dr. Peter Akerback, University of Stockholm; Dr. Holly Folk, Western Washington University; Mr. Daniel Fromson, an editor and writer for the New York Times; Rev. Dr. Willie Weston, an ACLC Pastor; and Dr. Minyoung Moon, a Lecturer in Sociology from Clemson University.

The conference brought together a group of approximately twenty scholars—both Unificationists and non-Unificationists—to discuss and reflect on recent developments in the theology and practices of Unificationism. For Unificationist scholars, this conference provided an opportunity to both articulate the core features of the “new directions in Unificationism” and to receive feedback, insight and constructive comments that may be helpful for the church and movement as it goes forward. For the non-Unificationist scholars in attendance, the conference provided an opportunity for an in-depth introduction and update on the mission, work and theology of the church and its wider movement.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> HJI International Conference on Peace and Public Leadership highlighted recent developments in Unificationism [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification], offering opportunity for scholars to share their reflections on the ways in which Unificationism has evolved theologically and practically over time, with special focus on the period since the passing of Rev. Sun Myung Moon in 2012 to the present.

HJI has always played a significant role in providing theological and historical context for the emergence of Unificationism as a new religious movement that has emerged out of the Christian, as well as wider multi-faith milieu of post-World War II Korea, and taken root in countries across the globe. During the early years of the founding of HJI, then known as Unification Theological Seminary, there were many occasions that brought together scholars of religion for discussions related to the Unification Church. It is this very tradition that HJI seeks to build upon and strengthen at this time.

HJI is grateful for the participation and support of FFWPU USA, especially Rev. Demian Dunkley, along with Mr. Steven Jares and Ms. Tal Zorer

[HJI International Conference Program and Photos](#)



## President's Update on the Relocation of HJI



Dear HJI Alumni and Friends of HJI,

Thank you for your continued support, friendship and encouragement as we—our faculty and staff—continue to strive to honor the legacy and build toward the future of this great institution, celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary since welcoming its first class of students in 1975.

We are continually inspired by the students who, year after year, come to study at HJI. They continue to be students of high caliber who carry forward HJI's great tradition of academic excellence, commitment to the wider community, to ministry and to public leadership.

At this time, in addition to providing a quality and innovative learning experience for students and faculty alike, HJI is currently developing its new Strategic Plan for HJI, looking ahead to the next five years, 2025-2030. I look forward to sharing more about this initiative in the near future.

At this time, I am pleased to inform you of an important and exciting development underway at HJI.

As you may be aware, the property at 4 West 43<sup>rd</sup> Street in Manhattan which serves as the main campus of HJI is expected to be sold sometime this year. We are in close communication with FFWPU USA on this matter. As has been the case over the past 50 years, FFWPU leadership remains committed to assuring that HJI has a suitable, in many ways, superior location to serve as our new home and main campus.

President Demian Dunkley, in regular communication with HJI, has begun work on a new suite of offices, classrooms, library, and meeting space for HJI at 481 Eighth Avenue, on the 12<sup>th</sup> floor. Our new HJI campus will be ready by May of this year, and we expect to relocate to our new campus in June and July, ready to start the Fall Semester in the latter part of August.

This relocation will not present any significant challenges for the continuation of our academic programs offerings, student life, or general operations. It will have no impact on HJI's financial projections nor our enrollment numbers.

We are ever grateful to the guidance and support of Dr. Hak Ja Han in opening this new chapter of HJI's history. Our faculty and staff, and, of course, our Board of Trustees are fully on board with the relocation. An academic conference which HJI held in January pointed to the advantages of relocating to a facility with state-of-the-art audio-visual capabilities with a professional technical and hospitality staff. Relocation to 34<sup>th</sup> Street also will make it easier for local students to reach HJI through the New Jersey PATH train and the New York subway, which are within walking distance to the New Yorker from Penn Station.

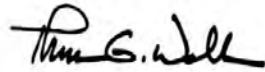
I find it fitting, even providential, that we are relocating at the precise time of our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. This may be an indicator that we are ready for our next 50 years. In October 2020, True Mother said that the New Yorker should become a world center for education and I feel confident that HJI is

meant to play a leading role in bringing that vision to fruition.

All of us at HJI are encouraged by the progress being made at HJI and recognize that our best days are yet to come.

Thank you once again. I hope to see many of you soon at our new home, at 481 Eighth Avenue.

Sincerely and with appreciation,



Thomas G. Walsh



**HJ International**  
GRADUATE SCHOOL for  
PEACE AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

Campus:  
4 West 43rd Street  
New York, NY 10036  
Phone: (212) 563-6647



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## Student Spotlight – Bruce Clarke



### What inspired you to apply to HJI and your program? What do you most appreciate about being a student at HJI?

As a teacher at a premier public high school for over 25 years, I knew I wanted to do something special and different for the rest of my life. Memories of my many years in children's and youth ministry are joy-filled and deeply satisfying. I held onto a sense of doing something like that again: diving into something that concerned communicating God's love, wisdom, history and grace.

Once I jumped into a master's level class in the Fall of 2021, my expectations were surpassed by the quality of the different kinds of challenges presented by the various professors. Some challenges were more academic, and some more spiritual and personal. I have really appreciated the classes in Church History by Dr. Michael Mickler and those by Dr. Andrew Wilson which deepened my love for the whole of Christianity, the Bible and the Jewish people. At the same time, I have made huge strides in writing my spiritual autobiography as part of my doctoral coursework with Dr. Drissa Kone.

The sheer diversity of the international student body has also been deeply stimulating.

### If applicable, share about the benefits of your online learning experience

The online classes have enabled me to spend evenings taking classes while continuing to teach at my school. It has been a big challenge to balance both, but that's how many people in today's changing world are creating transitions and improvements in their lives.

The environment at HJI is welcoming, challenging and, like most learning done anywhere, more about what you put into it. I've invested time in reading and writing on course topics that have helped me advance in my current career as well as set up a platform for my next phase of life.

### Is there any other highlight or aspect of your study at HJI that you would like to share?

I have made many new friends through attending HJI from around the world, but also friends from different generations, both younger and older than myself. This has been a rich reward.

My experience has given me more tools to have a more direct impact on my local church culture. My pastor has been able to trust in what I'm learning and its practical application in positively stimulating the community.

### What do you enjoy in your free time?

Gardening, keeping fit through stretching/yoga and exercise, exploring American history, climbing indoor rock walls, special meals with my wife and son (great cooks both), and reading widely.



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# Welcome to the Application Center



Please use the form below to begin your application:

- Fill in all fields
- Upon clicking "Submit", you will be asked to verify the Email address you provided.
- Next, you will receive an Email with a link directing you to fill out the full application.

Note: You will be able to return via the link provided as many times as you need. Completed fields will be automatically saved.

Application

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

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Confirm Email

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Use for text messaging  
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