

Seattle HPHC: Letter about Windermere Property and Christmas Party

Rosie Dijan Muyongo
November 26, 2022



Heavenly Parent's Holy Community of Seattle, WA Family Federation for World Peace & Unification

Dear Seattle Heavenly Parent's Holy Community, Blessed Families, Brothers and Sisters,

Greetings everyone! I hope you are all doing well. Yesterday, I sent out a letter about Windermere Property. In case you did not receive it, here is the link to it. [Letter On Windermere Property.docx](#) and if you have questions, you can direct it to anyone of our Seattle Properties Steering Committee members or our Advisory Board members. Here is the link to their contact info [Contact Info Seattle Properties Steering Committee and Advisory Board.docx](#)

One of the very important upcoming event is the Christmas Party on December 3, 2022. Somehow, I received only one RSVP for it. During our planning meeting last Wednesday, November 23, 2022, there was a request to move it to a later date, however up to this time that I write this letter, I have nobody to take ownership for a party of a later date. With that, we will push through with the December 3 schedule. It will be from 12:00 noon to 3:00 PM at the Beacon United Methodist Church, 7301 Beacon Avenue, South Seattle. Our organizing team is determined to make the event as much fun as possible. We are still looking for additional performer though, if you have the talent and you are available that day, please volunteer. I hope you will not miss the opportunity to be with our community. Bring your family and friends with you. We will appreciate it if you can let us know ahead, at least by November 30, that you are coming and how many in your group you will be bringing. It will help us a lot with the preparation. We do have an extra room to accommodate families with small children.

Around this time last year, we had a number of families who got hit by COVID 19 which later led to the death of two of our beloved brothers - Mr. Brian Granstrom and Mr. Shigeru Araki. As you go through your day, please take a moment to offer a prayer for them.

On December 11, 2022, I would like to invite you for an in person meeting at Ballard church from 1:00 PM. I would like us to look at our victories for this year 2022 and make some plan and determination for the new year of 2023.

Thank you very much for all your support. You are all greatly appreciated.

May healing and comfort be granted to all who are going through sickness, struggles and difficulty!

God bless!

Sincerely,

Rosie Dijan Muyongo

Seattle Heavenly Parent's Holy Community
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[Christmas party flyer](#)

Dear Seattle Heavenly Parent's Holy Community, Blessed Families, Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Thanksgiving!

As I promised I am writing to you to give an update on our Seattle Properties. I know that I mentioned at some point that we will call for another Town Hall Meeting to hear presentation from those who are in favor of selling our Windermere property. I am sorry that instead of doing so, our Seattle Properties Steering Committee listened to a presentation delivered by Rev. David Rendell from the Chicago Family Church on how they made decision on selling their properties in their area and purchase a new facility. Also, the sub-committee in-charge of the sale process consist of Pastor David Ryan, Mr. Ray McCready, and me, met with three different real estate agents and listened to their listing and marketing strategy presentations for selling the 6601 NE Windermere Rd property. We also sought guidance from real estate attorney, Mr. Ian Morrison of McCullough, Hill and Leary PS, regarding landmarking and other issues pertinent to the property.

We kept in mind the position of some of our members not to sell Windermere and instead upgrade it using the money we can get from selling the HSA property in Ballard. We have checked that possibility. However, because of Windermere being an old building, situated and zoned as residential property, it will be very challenging for us to go that route. As Ian Morrison has pointed out to us, institutions like us are not favored users in a residential area. We are the ones who must bend to the law and regulations in such an area instead of expecting the law and regulations bend in favor of us. It means that to upgrade the property, we would need to go through a zoning appeal process and if we win then we would need to apply for permit to build a new place for gathering, including creating space for parking. We would have to deal with the law and regulations of the City of Seattle and deal with the Windermere Homeowners Association. It can be a long battle that could cost us time and money with no guarantee of winning, even if the property is landmarked.

It is in our best interest to provide our young families and future generations with a facility that meets their needs. While Windermere is a very beautiful property, with great historic value for our community and for the City of Seattle, it is obvious to me and some others that the property is not suitable for our purposes moving forward. It does not meet the needs of our community. We saw this again as we gathered last Sunday for our Youth Ministry organized Sunday Service. We had five young second-gen families in attendance with their young children and some other first-generation members and single second-gen members for a total of 52 people altogether. Already the space felt crowded; and there is no indoor space for the children to play on a rainy day. The band had to stand in the separate room, obscured by the doorway.

Thus, **selling Ballard Church and keeping Windermere is simply not a viable, forward-looking option.**

As I talked with different members of the community, the following are some of the things they said they would want for our church community property.

1. That the property add value to the community
2. That it is more modern and easier to maintain
3. That it provides space for our children – nursery room, Sunday School rooms, recreation room
4. Multi-function meeting rooms/service hall
5. Good spacious prayer room

6. Great kitchen and dining hall
7. Coffee and snack bar
8. Great AV room
9. With plenty of Parking
10. Income generating

The Ballard and Windermere properties do not fit with the expressed desire of many of our community members. Also, the maintenance of both properties uses more than half of the monthly tithes and donations we are receiving from all of you. That does not include covering certain significant repairs to the properties that are needed.

Looking from the viewpoint of preparing for the future, and after consulting with the land use lawyer and hearing your opinions, as leaders of our community, we decided to go ahead and take steps to sell first the 6601 NE Windermere Rd property and later the Ballard Church property at 7000 26th Ave NW as we find another property that can meet the needs of our community.

We are preparing to sign a contract to put the 6601 NE Windermere Rd property on the market in mid-December. Through this we will find if there are buyers who are interested in buying the property at a price we set.

I know that many of you love and value Windermere Mansion so much. You have happy memories of the place especially when True Parents visited Seattle and stayed in the property. The idea of selling it may be very difficult to process. But let us remind ourselves that God and True Parents expect us to be responsible stewards keeping the public mind and deciding based on how and what can best serve the greater whole while staying in line with advancing God's providence. In the past decade to the present time, **keeping Windermere is more of a burden operating at a loss of more than \$20k/year rather than providing service to the greater community.** Just like a family that owns aging luxury ancestral homes comes to realize, we get to a point where we must make decision about letting go of the property.

Other Unification Movement communities in the country had to go through the same process and experience that we are going through now. Examples are Minnesota Family Church, the Chicago Family Church, and the Dallas-Fort Worth Family Church in Texas. They too had to make tough decisions of letting go their properties to get the newer and more suitable properties that they now have. Attached are pictures of the new facilities of Minnesota and Chicago Community.

Brothers and sisters, blessed families, my hope is that we can partner together in getting a better facility than what we have now for our community. That this prospect will lead us into greater unity rather than division. And we can allow God, True Parents, and the Heavenly Spiritual world to work with us and through us as we stand united. Let us go beyond sentimentality for the past towards greater hope and aspirations for the future.

If you have any questions, please direct it to me or any of our Seattle Properties Steering Committee members and our advisory board.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

Pastor Rosie Dijan Muyongo (253-282-1846, rdmuyongo.seattleHPHC@gmail.com)

ACLC-WA, UPF-WA &
FFWPU

 Christmas
Party

Saturday, Dec 3rd | 12pm-3pm

7301 Beacon Ave, South
Seattle