

National Council Members Make Plans for 2015

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The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) USA National Council members gathered from around the country last weekend in New York City. On April 24, 2015 they kicked off a weekend of fellowship, learning and strategic planning.

Participants arrived at the New Yorker Hotel where they enjoyed dinner together. Many of the council members talked long after dinner was over, sharing stories and bonding on a deeper level.

On Saturday, some of the participants woke up extra early for a voluntary 6:00am Hoon Dok Hae (scripture reading) session. The rest of the group met them for more reading at 7:30am, and everyone participated in the national prayer condition in anticipation of True Mother's upcoming visit. The morning routine created a good foundation for the rest of the day, and helped participants to center themselves before beginning their work.

Following breakfast on Saturday, Dr. Ki Hoon Kim, Continental Chair of FFWPU North America and Dr. Michael Balcomb, President of FFWPU USA, greeted the council members during the opening ceremonies and helped set the tone for the rest of the day's meetings. Mari Curry, FFWPU Vice President, said, "The notion of proper, God-centered change for the sake of True Parents and the world, among other inspirational points was a helpful reminder that influenced the rest of our day."

After orientation, the team began a vision-sharing meeting, in which the participants spoke about their vision and hopes for the council. The conversation was a productive and respectful discussion, which led to the election of new officials.

After the new leaders were welcomed in, the team got down to the business of reviewing the activities for 2014. They reviewed the positive points including launching of the grants program, building relationships with the front line and community growth. The council also looked at the challenges from the past year and spoke of what to do moving forward. Council members were invited to join two committees out of six: executive, finance, charter, grants, recommendations, and judicial, in which they would work more closely on specific issues.

In the afternoon, the group took time for lunch and an outing to the beautiful Highline Park before reconvening again for separate committee meetings. The committees made plans for the coming year, including major goals and specific projects.

The day ended with a closing prayer at the 29th floor cafe, overlooking the breathtaking views of Manhattan. It was an inspiring experience for those who participated, and the council members look forward to the coming year.