

New Jersey ACLC Holds First Prayer Breakfast Since 2011

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July 11, 2013

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Rev. Kathaleen Sato, the New Jersey American Clergy Leadership Conference Co-chair, attended the first Prayer Breakfast since 2011 at the Berean Baptist Church in Newark, NJ on June 29, 2013.

The New Jersey American Clergy Leadership Conference (ACL) held its first Prayer Breakfast since 2011 on June 29, 2013 at the Berean Baptist Church in Newark, NJ. Dr. Wilson Tolbert hosted the Prayer Breakfast with 50 clergy, Family Federation members and guests in attendance. Three young Unificationists attended the Prayer Breakfast as well. It was a refreshing alternative to the monthly Pastors' Forums. Whereas, the Pastors' Forums are primarily a small group of clergy earnestly seeking to grasp the content and application of the presentations on the Fall of Man or Mission of Jesus, to fit their specific needs – in their churches. The Prayer Breakfast provides a broader base for participation of both clergy and lay persons.



Rev. Tanya Edwards was the main speaker that the Prayer Breakfast and interwove the concept of Adam and Eve as True Parents and the Three Blessings, into the course of Abraham and Sarah.

It was a special treat to have Rev. Tanya Edwards give the sermon. She cleverly interwove the concept of Adam and Eve as True Parents and the Three Blessings, into the course of Abraham and Sarah.



SunHee Simons, a young second-generation, served as a usher and greeter during the Prayer Breakfast and also recited a poem without notes.

A few second-generation Unificationists helped as greeters and welcomed the guests. SunHee Simon, a second-generation girl recited a poem for the program. She said, "I was apprehensive at first when my mom told me to recite *Somewhere There Is A Poem* by Gina Loring...but once I finished my performance the wonderful audience showered me with love and I truly felt that I had done something bigger than myself." Everyone was amazed that she could recite such a long and passionate poem, without any notes. Her parents, Alice and Cleveland Simon, are quite active in ACLC outreach.



50 clergy, Family Federation members and guests hold hands during the prayer.

The video, *The Power of True Love*, was shown. Even though I may have seen it before, this time it was like watching it for the first time, like a new guest. Sasha Okon, a second-generation Unificationist, the video said, “It was the first time I saw my older sister crying because she was touched by a beautiful video that was shown [The Power of True Love]...I left the meeting feeling touched and inspired.” Everyone else was also inspired by the clergy testifying about how much they benefitted from receiving the Blessing from Father and Mother Moon.



Rev. Michael Jenkins (far left) attended the prayer breakfast.

The songs, the video and the message, all flowed together. The atmosphere was high spirited and filled with brotherly love. Many guests and members we hadn't seen for a while joined us as well as a few new faces.



Some of the Prayer Participants gathered in the Berean Baptist Church Chapel afterwards and took a group photo.

I was so happy that the Headquarters and National ACLC staff, Rev. Michael and Reiko Jenkins, Rev. Tom Cutts, Rev. Bruce Grodner as well as Rev. Tanya Edwards, joined us. I felt how much they want ACLC to grow and flourish in each District. Pablo and Dr. Ann Iparraguirre, the District Pastors for Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) of New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware, also attended and are leading development of a local ACLC Chapter to build on the foundation already created through OSDP and the 172 Ministers.