

## Jeff Schmidt's First Sermon District Seven Pastor

Michael Balcomb  
January 24, 2016



*The Chicago Family Church band opens Sunday Service on January 24 with worship songs.*

On Sunday, January 17, 2016, members of District 7 (Unificationists in Illinois, Wisconsin, and Michigan) welcomed Rev. Jeff Schmidt in his new role as District Pastor. One week later, on January 24, Rev. Schmidt gave his first sermon as District Pastor at the Chicago Family Church Sunday Service. He used the opportunity to formally introduce himself to the community and share his story of how he joined the Unification movement.



*Rev. Schmidt giving his first sermon as District Pastor*

The sermon title was “Reaching the Core,” based on a scriptural reference from the Cheon Seong Gyeong. Rev. Schmidt described his own life of faith, beginning with many spiritual experiences when he was 17 years old, including loneliness and the realization that God’s heart is also filled with loneliness

and longing. After much prayer and efforts to connect with God through nature, he joined the Unification movement at age 18 through the guidance of his sister, already a Unificationist.



*Rev. Schmidt shared the story of how he joined the Unification movement.*

The sermon delivery was very simple and sincere as Rev. Schmidt expressed gratitude for the blessings that he has received throughout his life, including a wonderful marriage and four children. The congregation was very moved by his message and warmly welcomed him, his wife Toyoko, their youngest daughter Hope and Hope's husband, Seichi Nagai.



*Rev. Schmidt and his family were welcomed warmly by the Chicago Family Church.*