

New Hope Family Church Charter to be updated

Joanne Parrish

July 14, 2014

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

All those interested are invited to attend a meeting at the Melford Maryland Center to discuss the New Hope Family Church (NHFC) charter. The meeting will be held Monday, July 21st at 7:30 pm.

In the past, the NHFC council has discussed the need to update our current charter to better reflect the current structure of our church community. Since the National Council has recently sent a recommended charter for local churches, this provides a motivation for us to move forward to accomplish this now.

In some ways, the proposed charter from the National Council reflects the existing charter of New Hope Family Church, but there are some differences which need to be addressed. Our current charter, which was approved by our congregation in December 2006, requires that any changes must be voted upon and approved by a majority of the congregation.

At our last council meeting we briefly brought up this topic. At this meeting concerns about the charter sent to us from the National Council were expressed by members of our congregation. For this reason it was proposed that a committee be formed to consider the concerns and recommendations of the congregation, to facilitate town hall meetings and to prepare a charter to be presented to the congregation for approval.

That is the purpose of the meeting on Monday, July 21st. From those attending and those who have expressed an interest, we hope to form this charter committee. If you can't attend the meeting but you are interested in being involved, just email your name and contact information to nhfccouncil@gmail.com.

This new charter will be a valuable asset for our community. It will determine how we are structured for years to come and can provide security for our spiritual and physical investments in our church. For that reason I believe it to be a very important document and worthy of your consideration.

Attached is the existing New Hope Charter ratified in 2006, the proposed charter from the National Council, and a brief history of the council created by Christoph Wilkening and presented to Dr. Jin Choon Kim.

Joanne Parrish
NHFC Council

New Hope Family Church Charter

January 1, 2007

Preamble

This Charter is a structural expression of the Mission and Vision statements of the New Hope Family Church of Peace and is expected to change and evolve with time. It is necessarily detailed and was designed to prepare in advance for potential questions or issues.

The spirit of the New Hope Family Church is based upon the following principles:

Ownership – responsibility for the church and its future is shared by community members, the Board, the Pastor and the District Leader.

Empowerment – church members have the power to develop the existing church, future local church branches, and Family Hoon Dok Churches (Home Churches).

Spiritual Growth – the church promotes the spiritual growth of individuals, families and communities.

Expansion Growth – the church is able to expand and include others in the larger community.

Embracing and Serving Others – the church is dedicated to embracing and serving others in spirit and practice.

Evolving Process – the church will continue to evolve and change to meet the developing needs of our community and God's greater providence.

Checks and Balances – power and responsibility is distributed among the Pastor, the Board, all community members and the District Leader.

Affiliation

The New Hope Family Church is affiliated with the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (HSA-UWC), a religious non-profit organization with National Headquarters in Washington D.C. and World Headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, founded by Rev. Sun Myung Moon. It is an active member of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) and remains committed to accomplishing the goals set forth by FFWPU and its leadership.

1. Membership

- a. Requirements for Adult Membership:
 - i. Members are to choose New Hope Family Church as their church “home.”
 - ii. Members are to be at least 18 years old or Blessed.
 - iii. New applicants for membership need to provide upon request the names of two existing adult members as sponsors.
 - iv. Members support basic membership expectations to be determined by the Board such as worship, tithing, and an educational path (Hoon Dok Hae, workshops, etc.)
- b. Family Membership
 - i. Children qualify for family membership when one or more adults in their family are members.
- c. Rights of Membership
 - i. Members may participate in all church activities
 - ii. Members have the right to express their concerns and to make new proposals to the Board.
 - iii. Members will receive regular financial reports from the Board.
 - iv. Members have the right to elect the members of the Board.
 - v. Members have the right to vote in Board elections based on the following requirements
 - 1. They must be an adult member in good standing. This is automatic unless revoked by the Board for serious violations of church principles.
 - 2. Other membership status to be determined by the Board

2. Church Board

- a. The Board is elected as the governing body for the church.
- b. Board Members will serve two-year terms. Elections will be held each year for half of the Board seats.
- c. A blessed member may run for a seat on the Board if he/she has been an adult member for one year and resides in the state of Maryland.
- d. The Board may conduct open meetings each month to hear issues and receive feedback from the community. The Board will create a procedure for members to have their issues included on the Board meeting agenda.

- e. The Board has a duty to encourage two-way communication and feedback between the community members, the Pastor and the Board. It will actively foster a culture of asking questions, inquiry, research, discussion and listening through occasional surveys, Q&A forums, open meetings and other feedback mechanisms.
- f. Board Members are required to attend 75% of the scheduled meetings based on a calendar quarter. If any Board Member fails to meet this requirement in one quarter, he/she would begin a probation period of one more quarter. If he/she fails to meet the attendance requirement in a second quarter, the Board Member may be asked to resign based on a majority vote by the other Board Members.

3. Composition

- a. The Board shall be comprised of (7) seven Members.
- b. The Board has a Chairman, Recording Secretary and Treasurer as officers elected by the Board. The Secretary and Treasurer may be the same person.
- c. Officers will serve one-year terms and may be re-elected for consecutive years.
- d. For there to be a quorum, at least four Members must be present at a meeting.
- e. Board decisions will be made by majority vote.
- f. The Pastor will not serve as an officer or as a Board Member, but will attend Board meetings as a spiritual advisor and will cast a vote only when a tie-breaking vote is needed.
- g. If a Board Member resigns or leaves, the Board will receive nominations from the community and the Board will elect a replacement within a reasonable time period.

4. Election of the Board:

- a. Board Members will be elected from the community at-large.
- b. In the case of candidates being tied for any seat, the outcome shall be decided by lottery unless one of the tied candidates chooses to concede the Board seat to the other.
- c. Elections will be supervised by the Election Committee. The Board will determine how future Election Committees will be selected.
- d. The election process will begin with nominations from the community starting in June and voting is to be completed by the end of September.
- e. Rules for any special election shall be decided by vote of the existing Board Members.

5. Duties:

- a. Consult with and support the Pastor to develop a plan of strategic goals annually for the calendar year.
- b. Approve budgets and proposals for local events, make overall church budget and financial decisions and oversee necessary financial transactions and accounts.
- c. Oversee the collection of funds and coordinate their distribution in communication with the regional headquarters.
- d. Provide quarterly and annual financial reports to the community.
- e. Appoint church staff such as a bookkeeper or other official positions.
- f. The Board will approve local ministry leaders appointed by the Pastor.
- g. Appoint or approve ad hoc committees in communication with the Pastor.
- h. When there is a need for a new Pastor, the Board will search for and recommend a candidate to the District director for approval.
- i. The Board will evaluate its performance semi-annually to set and meet strategic goals and will seek appropriate feedback from the community.

6. Veto and Appeal

- a. The District Leader may veto any Board decision.
- b. The Board may appeal a veto to a higher authority such as the Continental Director or National Church President.

7. Pastor

- a. Appointment and Removal:
 - i. The Pastor is recommended by the Board and approved by the District Leader or a higher entity in church leadership.
 - ii. The Pastor will serve for a two-year term, at which time the Board may reappoint the Pastor for another two-year term. There is no limit to how many times the Board may reappoint the same Pastor.
 - iii. The Pastor may be removed by a majority vote of the Board in consultation with the District Leader.
- b. Pastor's responsibilities
 - i. Convey God's word to the congregation.
 - ii. Oversee the spiritual well being of New Hope Family Church members. This includes education, counseling, worship services, small group ministries, workshops, camps etc. The Pastor will accomplish this by

working in cooperation with the ministry leaders appointed from the church community.

- iii. Church growth including outreach and witnessing.
- iv. Oversee and develop efforts to serve the public and be involved in the local community.
- v. The Pastor shall be the point of contact with the District Leader and the National Headquarters of the Family Federation for World Peace. This involves representing the New Hope Family Church to the District Leader and communicating information from the District Leader to the New Hope Family community members.
- vi. The Pastor is responsible for administration of church activities such as church records and membership lists and may appoint other members in good standing to help with administrative duties.
- vii. The Pastor is invited to the Board meetings with the special position of spiritual advisor. He/she has the privilege of casting a tie-breaking vote.
- viii. The Pastor in conjunction with the Board shall develop a plan of strategic goals, designate ministries for performance of those goals and periodically report on the results.
- ix. There shall be a review of the Pastor's performance every six months to include honest and open communication between the Pastor and Board Members with prayerful reflection and assessment of the Pastor's responsibilities.

8. Ministries

- a. Ministries include Sunday Service, Youth Ministry, Young Adult Ministry, Religious Education, Blessing Education, Outreach, Family Ministry and others that may be approved by the Board.
- b. Each ministry leader has the authority to run their activities and is expected to do so in cooperation with other ministries or activity leaders.
- c. Each ministry is accountable to the Board and the community.
- d. Each ministry must propose an annual budget if requested by the Board.
- e. No ministry may spend beyond its budget without Board approval.

9. New Churches and Activities

- a. Official branches of the New Hope Family Church must be approved by the Board.
- b. Small group ministries may be started by any member of the New Hope Family Church.

- c. All members are encouraged to create their own activities in line with the Statement of Mission and Vision.
- d. For an activity to become an official Church activity it must first be approved by the Board.

10. Amendments

- a. Amendments to the charter may be proposed by the Board and ratified at the general election by a simple majority.
- b. If an emergency change is required, a special election may be called to vote on the amendment.

11. Ratification

This Charter was drafted and approved by the Members of the New Hope Family Church Board on December 18, 2006 and was ratified by at least 70% majority vote of the New Hope Family community on _____.

National Charter

for the

**Family Federation for
World Peace and
Unification of the United
States of America**

October 20, 2013

I. National Charter for Local Family Churches

This document sets forth the structure for Local Churches of the Family Federation for World Peace in the United States of America.

1. Statement of Purpose

A Local Church is established for:

- a. the worship of God,
- b. the proclamation of True Parents, Rev. Sun Myung and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon,
- c. the study, teaching and practical application of the Divine Principle,
- d. the promotion of the Holy Marriage Blessing,
- e. fellowship within and beyond our community,
- f. the expansion of True Parents' leadership in America and the world, and
- g. creating and expanding God's Kingdom of heaven on earth.

2. Affiliation

The Local Church is a branch of the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity (HSA-UWC) / Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), a religious nonprofit organization with national headquarters in New York, NY. and world headquarters in Seoul, South Korea, founded by Rev. Sun Myung Moon. It is also an active member of the FFWPU.

A Local Church will comply with all legal policies of the Corporation.

3. Establishment

- a. A Local Church is established based on a petition from a local community, with the authorization of the National President. Local Churches established prior to this document will be considered as authorized.
- b. A Local Church may be closed for cause by the National President with approval of the National Council, or by a 2/3 vote of the local church membership.

4. Membership

- a. Requirements for Membership:
 - i. Members are those who choose the Local Church as their church "home" as defined by the Church Council.
 - ii. Members shall have completed the basic membership criteria determined by the National Headquarters.

- iii. Members support basic membership expectations to be determined by the Church Council, such as worship, tithing, and an educational path.
- b. Rights of Membership
 - i. Members may participate in Local Church activities
 - ii. Members have the right to express their heart and concerns to the Pastor and/or the Church Council, make new proposals and to report abuses, or perceived abuses, without fear of reprisals
 - iii. Members will receive regular financial reports from the Church Council.
 - iv. Members have the right to elect the members of the Church Council.
 - v. Members have the right to vote in Church Council elections based on the following requirements:
 - 1. They must be a member in good standing. This is automatic unless revoked by the Church Council for serious violations of church principles as determined by the Pastor and two-thirds of the Church Council. Any revocation may be appealed to the District Leader or National Council.
 - 2. Other membership status may be determined by the Church Council.

5. Church Council

- a. The Church Council is elected as the governing body for the Local Church.
- b. Church Council members will serve two-year terms. The Church Council may choose to stagger the elections such that one half of the Church Council will be elected each year.
- c. A member may run for office if they have been a member of the Local Church or resided in the area for one year.
- d. The Church Council will conduct at least one open meeting every other month. At that meeting, the Church Council will hear issues and get feedback from the community. The Church Council will create a procedure for members to have their issues included on the agenda.
- e. Composition
 - i. The Church Council is comprised of five, seven or nine members, including the Pastor.
 - ii. The Church Council has a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer as elected officers. The Secretary and Treasurer may be the same person. Officers will be elected by the Church Council.
 - iii. Officers will serve 1-year terms and the Chairperson may not serve for more than 2 consecutive years.
 - iv. For there to be a quorum, not more than two Church Council members may be absent from that meeting.
 - v. Church Council decisions will be made by simple majority vote.

- vi. The Pastor will have a special role. He/she will not serve as an officer, but as a spiritual advisor and will cast a vote only when a tie-breaking vote is needed.
 - vii. If a council member resigns or leaves, the Church Council will select candidates to fill out the term.
- f. Election of the Church Council
- i. At-large election. Church Council members will be elected from the community at-large.
 - ii. In accordance with the international model, for every three open seats, the two candidates with the most votes are elected and the third seat will be appointed by the Pastor from among the next three candidates with the most votes. If the number of open seats is two or four, the Pastor will select one; if five or seven, two; if eight 3. If there is no Pastor, the selection will be made by lottery. In the case of candidates being tied for any seat, the outcome shall be decided by lottery.
 - iii. Elections will be supervised by an election committee. For the first election, an election committee will be approved by the National Office or District Leader. The Church Council will determine how future election committees will be selected.
 - iv. No Church Council member shall serve for more than two successive terms.
 - v. Elections will be held annually as the Church Council may decide.
- g. Duties
- i. Approval of the Local Church plans and budgets.
 - ii. Give quarterly financial reports and an annual report to the community.
 - iii. Approve paid Local Church staff and key personnel
 - iv. Appoint or remove department leaders with Pastor's approval. (Approval is not needed if the Pastor position is vacant).
 - v. Appoint standing or ad hoc committees as needed.
 - vi. Hear concerns of church members.
 - vii. When there is a need for a new Pastor, the Church Council will search for and recommend a candidate to the President or his authorized representative for approval.
- h. Veto and Appeal
- i. Any Church Council decision may be vetoed by a higher church authority, such as a District Leader. If the District Leader is also the local pastor, a veto must be exercised by a higher level, such as the President.
 - ii. The Church Council may appeal a veto to a higher authority, such as the Continental Director, President or National Council.

6. Pastor

- a. Appointment and Removal
 - i. The Pastor is selected by the council and approved by the President or higher authority.
 - ii. The Pastor will serve for a three-year term, at which time the Council may reappoint the Pastor for another three-year term or select a new Pastor. There is no limit to how many times the Church Council may reappoint the same Pastor.
 - iii. The Pastor can be removed at other times by a two thirds majority Church Council vote and the approval of the President.
- b. Pastor's Responsibilities
 - i. Convey God's word to the congregation
 - ii. Oversee the spiritual well-being of Local Church members. This may include education, counseling, worship services, small group ministries, camps, etc.
 - iii. Promote church growth – includes outreach and witnessing
 - iv. Encourage service to the local community – to oversee and develop efforts to serve and be involved in the local community.
 - v. Act as the point of contact with the National Headquarters of the FFWPU. This involves representing the Local Church to National Headquarters or other associations.
 - vi. Prepares Local Church plans to be approved by the Church Council.
 - vii. Administration – The Pastor is responsible for the Local Church office and staff, church records, membership lists, etc.
 - viii. Participate as a member of the Church Council with the special position of spiritual advisor. The Pastor has the privilege of casting the final tie-breaking vote when necessary.
 - ix. Operate within the budget approved by the Church Council.
 - x. Administer pastoral functions such as those related to birth, membership, Il Shim education, engagement, marriage blessing and death.

7. Church Plants, New Worship Communities and Activities

- a. In accordance with its missionary roots, the Family Federation encourages and endorses the planting of new worship communities and new “Planted Churches”, as well as individual ministries. At the same time, we honor the ideal of unification by encouraging all churches and worship communities to remain in close and regular communion with each other.
- b. A Planted Church is new church established under the auspices of an existing Local Church that is not yet large enough to have its own Church Council.

- c. A Ministry Team is the governing body of a Planted Church, consisting of a Pastor and at least three Elders. An Elder is a church member in good standing who will share in the leadership of the Planted Church with the Pastor of the Planted Church.
- d. The Ministry Team will approve a budget and key church decisions by a majority vote.
- e. Members wishing to plant a new church shall petition the Church Council for approval. The ministry team of the Planted Church shall also be approved by the Church Council, and shall be mentored and supervised by the Pastor of the Local Church. The Church Council may also close a Planted Church for cause, subject to an appeal by the Planted Church to the National Council.
- f. Members of the Planted Church will be considered members of the Local Church and will be entitled to vote in Local Church elections. Once the Planted Church can meet all requirements in Sec 3a and Sec 5, it may petition to become an independent Local Church.
- g. The Planted Church is expected to follow the basic tenants of FFWPU, as provided by National Headquarters.
- h. Small Group ministries may be started by any member of the Local Church, and does not require Local Church approval.

8. Tithing

- a. The Local Church will contribute 10% of its income to the District and/or National Headquarters, as decided by the Church Council

9. Amendments

- a. This charter may be amended by the National Council with the approval of the President
- b. With approval of the Local Church Council and a two-thirds vote of the Local Church membership, a Local Church may amend this document for its own purposes as follows:
 - i. Requirements for Local Church membership and voting
 - ii. Election rules
 - iii. Composition of the Church Council
 - iv. Frequency and rules for Church Council meetings
 - v. Participation requirements for Church Council members

II. National Charter for Districts

This document sets forth the purposes and policies for the Districts of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) in the United States of America.

1. District

- a. The District is a geographical area of church governance determined by the President.
- b. District Leader
 - i. The District Leader may or may not be a local pastor.
 - ii. The District Leader is selected by the District Council with the approval of the President for a term of 2 years.
 - iii. Duties:
 1. Represents the President to Local Churches
 2. Reports to the President on behalf of the Local Churches
 3. Resolves issues between Local Churches
 4. Facilitates communication within the District
- c. District Council
 - i. The District Council is comprised of the Pastor and one additional representative chosen by each Local Council of all Local Churches.
 - ii. The District Council will meet only as needed at their own discretion. Meetings may be conducted by conference call.
 - iii. Duties:
 1. Elect the District Leader
 2. Elect a representative to the National Council
 3. Approve the District Budget, including any salary or stipend to the District Leader

III. National Charter for the National Council

This document sets forth the purposes and policies for the National Council of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) in the United States of America.

1. Purpose

- a. The National Council is a representative body that serves to advise and consult with the appointed national leadership of FFWPU and its headquarters, and mediates between the national and local levels of the organization.

2. Constitution

- a. The National Council will consist of 13 members comprised of one representative from each of the 12 Districts and a Vice President of the Church selected by the Church President.
- b. The President of the National Council shall be a Vice President of the Church. He or she will only vote in case of a tie.
- c. Each of the elected National Council members shall serve for two years. The terms shall be staggered such that six members will be elected each year. For the first election, representatives of six districts will be chosen by lottery from the Interim National Council to serve for an additional year. No National Council member may serve for more than two successive terms.
- d. The National Council shall elect its own Chair, Vice-Chair and Secretary. Each shall serve for one year and may be elected to at most one additional term.
- e. National Council decisions will be made by simple majority except where otherwise specified.
- f. For a quorum, at least 9 elected members must be present.
- g. A National Council member may be removed for cause by a 3/4 majority vote.
- h. If a National Council member resigns or is removed, the Districts shall select another representative to serve the remainder of the term.
- i. Any National Council decision is subject to a veto by the Church President, Board of Directors or higher office.

3. Duties

- a. The National Council shall have the following duties.
 - i. Review and approve grant requests from Local Churches and districts with from the budget provided by the Church President
 - ii. Strive to ensure protection of membership at all levels, including as specified in the HSA-UWC National Whistleblower Policy.

- iii. Adopt Amendments to the National Charter for Local Churches, with approval of the Church President
- iv. The Church President shall submit to the National Council, no less than 10-days before a regularly scheduled meeting, documents concerning matters on which s/he seeks the National Council's advice and consultation
- v. The National Council will prepare recommendations to the Church President and the HSA-UWC Board.
- vi. Adjudicate Appeals from Local Churches
- vii. Provide recommendations for fiscal prudence and accountability, and participate with HSA Board members on a Financial Review Committee
- viii. Recommend candidates for the HSA Board. Candidates will be approved by 2/3 majority vote
- ix. Prepare petitions to the HSA Board of Directors, to be approved by 2/3 majority of the National Council.
- x. Consider other duties as requested by the Church President
- xi. Publish theologically grounded public statements that represents the position of the National Council

4. Meeting

- a. The President of the National Council will convene all National Council Meetings, and the elected Chairperson will chair them. The President of the National Council shall convene a meeting at his or her discretion or upon the request of three or more National Council members.
- b. The National Council shall meet in person twice annually, in April and October. The April meeting will constitute the beginning of a term.
- c. The National Council shall conduct additional meetings, including by telephone, electronic or other means.
- d. The National Council may authorize standing or ad-hoc committees as required. Committees may include members outside of the National Council.
- e. National Council members who are absent from more than 2 council meetings annually shall be subject to review and possible removal.

5. Funding

- a. National Council members, with the exception of the National Vice President, serve without pay.
- b. The National Council shall submit a reasonable annual operational budget for approval to the Church President for council activities.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE NEW HOPE FAMILY CHURCH COUNCIL

Dear Dr. Kim,

Having been the longest-serving member (for eight years) of the New Hope Family Church (NHFCH) Board, since the LLM (Loving Live Ministries) era also referred to as the Council, I would like to offer a short overview of the council's history and activities. I cannot claim that it is comprehensive, I just want to point out the significance of the council in the development of the Maryland Unificationist community up until today. It has taken many years to reach the current level of activities and community participation, even though, from God's point of view, it is by no means sufficient yet. Nevertheless, a momentum is in place that comes from the ground up.

*I am deeply grateful to all **former council members**, who were important to keep the council system alive throughout the years. **Kyoko Betancourt** advised us with her financial clear-mindedness (and she is still now NHFCH's bookkeeper). **Jim Boothby** served only less than a year, but his initiative helped reactivate the council in November of 2012. **Keiko Burton** is a tireless worker for the community with the outreach team as well as the hospitality team. **Brian Chase** helped the community with his audio-tech and Web skills until he and his wife Christine were blessed with their first son. **Dinshaw Dadachanji** counseled us with his tremendous professional wisdom. **Dan Fefferman** led the council with patience and wisdom through two years. **Libby Henkin** passionately cares for our community. **Daniel Hess** is an energetic crusader for a principled lifestyle. **Arthur Herstein** untiringly tackled complicated financial matters. **Ron Musiol** counseled us with his common-sense. **Michael Roschuni** was the first second-gen council chairman. **Eric Roschuni** is a high-spirited activist who helps everybody without hesitation. **Gary Rowe** helped the council through a rough transition. **Bob Selle** counseled us with his intricate community knowledge.*

*Special mention deserve **the current council members**: **Beverly Berndt** is an untiring activist, was many years responsible for the Sunday school, her home being also "youth central." **Doug Burton** counsels us with wit and intellectual insight. **Debra Gertz** supports the community with a motherly heart. **Miken Jenkins** is an energetic, thoroughly committed, and quick-thinking second-gen. **Joanne Parrish** leads us as the first chairwoman. **Shio Roschuni** counsels us as the first second-gen councilwoman, especially in financial matters. **Christoph Wilkening** just finished four consecutive terms (eight years) as councilman (four years), chairman (two years), and secretary (two years). **Jim Stephens** has taken his place.*

History of the New Hope Family Church Council

In 1988, the first **Sunday service meetings** of blessed families in the mid-eastern Maryland section of the Washington Metro area were member-organized and took place in the apartments of blessed families like Robert and Debby Preece, and David and Cathy Hill in Laurel, Maryland. Mel and Holly Haft organized the next services in a multipurpose pavilion of an apartment complex near Greenbelt. Services continued at New Hope Academy under the pastorship of Geoffrey Hinkle and his wife Claire. Following that, Rev. Woo centralized all three church services of Northern Virginia, Metro Maryland and Washington, D.C., at the Columbia Rd. church, also known as the National Cathedral.

Under the new leadership of Rev. In He Lee, the three local congregations were allowed to hold their own local services again. Towards the end of 2006, a group of elders in the Maryland church under the guidance of Rev. In He Lee wrote NHFCH's charter and set up a board of elected community members. The board's purpose was to provide stability, balance, continuity and good governance, as well as to shift responsibility to the local community and to enable new inspiration and new initiatives. On December 16, 2006, the board approved the current charter, and NHFCH's members subsequently ratified it during a community meeting.

Susan Fefferman volunteered to take on the NHFCH pastorship, holding services again at New Hope Academy. Afterwards, Pastor Angelika Selle continued practicing the Cheon Il Guk spirit of healing and reconciliation. After Angelika became president of WFWP in the spring of 2010, the council selected and appointed Pastor

Matthew Goldberg, first part-time, and then full-time beginning of 2011.

The board proved to be crucial when leaders and directions changed repeatedly. The board's purpose is to feel the community's pulse, care for it, as well as to elicit participation in the community, encourage new activities and ministries, and provide organizational and spiritual stability. Every year in September and October, the community elects half of the board members for a two-year term, and the board members elect a chairman. The board meets every two weeks, and the pastor, chosen by the board and approved by the district pastor, reports to the board about the state of the community. The board reported to the district director, who for many years was Randall Francis who attended many board meetings.

In recent years, community participation and ministry activities have steadily increased, especially by the second generation (2nd gen). Many activities have taken place at the New Hope Academy location. In 2011, the council searched for and appointed new ministry leaders for the young adults (Teresa Ferrete), outreach (Doug Burton), education (Annemarie Weinmann), and hospitality (Keiko Burton).

The Council's Financial Oversight

A key responsibility of the council is to develop and oversee NHFCH's budget. At the beginning of every year, the finance committee, the council chairman and the pastor plan the annual budget. They present it to the council, which votes on and approves it. The council can initiate new ministries and also approve new ministries developed by members. It approves each ministry's budget. In 2011, the leader of the finance committee was Dan Bankus and the accountant was (and still is today) Kyoko Betancourt. The financial committee and the accountant monitor and report monthly on the budget. The council's goal is to keep expenses within the monthly income through tithing.

The council election 2011 took place on two Sundays, Oct. 23 and 30, 2011. The nomination process was easy: According to the NHFCH Charter, any Unificationist adult in good standing can be nominated, who "has been an adult member for one year and resides in the state of Maryland." Candidates are required to write an introduction of themselves, about 300 words, and send them or hand them to the election committee.

Forced Deactivation of the Council And its Reactivation in 2012

Unfortunately, in Jan. 2012, the previous national Loving Life Ministry leaders decided that the council should cease its operation. Nevertheless, after the end of LLM in autumn of that year, with the change to the new elected District Council and the District Pastors Henry and Loretta Schauffler, the council resumed its activities again nine months later. Pastors Henry and Loretta Schauffler, after their installation in November 2012, in their first meeting with the council, apologized for the nine-month forced interruption of the council's function and encouraged the council's activities.

A New Pastoral System in 2013

In the beginning of 2013, the council turned its attention to a change of the pastor system for the New Hope Family Church. In 2011, it had selected and, with the approval of the District Leader at that time, Randall Francis, appointed Matthew Goldberg as new pastor. Already by the end of 2011, though, the council had come to the conclusion that just one pastor, even full-time, was not enough to meet the manifold needs of the large NHFCH community, counting about 300 families with more than 900 members in the metro-Maryland area.

Therefore, in the spring of 2013, with the approval of the new district pastors at that time, the council designed a multi-pastor system, consisting of a main pastor, and two assistant pastors, one for outreach and the other for community development and care. It announced to the community a time for nominations for these positions, interviewed seven candidates and selected three pastors: Miilhan Stephens, a second-generation

Unificationist, as main pastor, Jim Boothby as outreach pastor, and Greg and Kyoho Jones as community pastors.

Another major effort of the council in the beginning months of 2013 was the financial oversight of the church budget. Arthur Herstein spent a lot of effort to unravel the active budget. Using his analysis, the council weighed in on the community-wide discussion about acquiring or renting a new location for worship and church activities. At the end of this process, the council with the pastor team came to the conclusion that it was best at the moment to continue using New Hope Academy and build up a fund for a change of venue in the future. By the end of the 2013, the budget is balanced, and the council has compiled a full report for the community.

Council Election 2013

After the pastor team was in place and the annual budget was stabilized, the council called for the election of four new council members whose term either had ended (Dinshaw Dadachanji, Jim Boothby, who resigned because he became outreach pastor) or who had resigned for personal reasons from the council (Arthur Herstein, and Gary Rowe). The election took place in April 2013, and four new council members started their term in May: **Miken Jenkins**, **Shio Roschuni**, and **Joanne Parrish**, who the council elected as the new chairwoman. **Debra Gertz** joined as well, instead of James Stewart who was determined to be ineligible for a NHFCH council seat, because he resides in Baltimore, and also has taken on the role of pastor for the community there.

New Pastor Miilhan Stephens gives a special focus to outreach and witnessing. The council meets every two weeks with him and occasional guests. The national and local church organization is undergoing restructuring toward local church governance. Because the council is experienced in local governance, it has played and will play a significant role in in this process. Therefore, the council is crucial to guide and complement this process.

The NHFCH Community

The history of the NHFCH Council is part of the larger history of the NHFCH itself. It would go beyond the scope of my overview to describe this history in detail, but I want to recognize some many outstanding organizations and individuals, who deserve our highest gratitude and praise for their countless efforts and contributions. They are too many to list them all – among them are (in no particular order): **Unificationist Boy Scout troop 1212** lead by **Jim Boothby**, scout master. In existence since 1999, troop 1212 has graduated more than 30 Eagle Scouts! More than ten Eagle Scouts attended Generation Peace Academy (GPA) or NextGen Academy (NGA). The **Girl Scouts** are lead by **Debbie Robbins**. **New Hope Academy's** principal **Joy Morrow** as well as many of its teachers and staff graciously support our community by providing a sanctuary for worship and more. **Kaleigh Moffitt** leads the super-dynamic **youth group** (middle school and high school age).

The **events team** lead by **Keiko** and **Doug Burton**, has spearheaded, three years in a row, our participation in the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival with a book table. In 2011, **Beverly Berndt**, organized a “Virgin Mocktail” booth; Japanese women organized a booth featuring Japanese origami and Chinese calligraphy. Both booths combined won the first prize for best in appearance and were awarded a blue ribbon and a check of \$100. **Ballroom dance teachers Rex and Emiko Butler** have lead many ballroom dance lessons and organized dance events.

Tomiko Duggan leads the local **Universal Peace Federation** chapter. **Dan Fefferman** heads up the **The International Coalition for Religious Freedom**. **Mary Holden** and **Concha Marchiatelli** organize an activity group for young children, the **Kid's Club**. **Bill Selig** helps with everything involving **Seungwha** celebrations **Angelika Selle** nationally leads the **Women's Federation for World Peace**, and **Kim Dadachanji** leads it locally. **Kate Tsubata** leads the **WAIT** organization. **Doug and Cheryl Wetzstein** help **blessed families** and **Lan Tsubata** helps families with her **Great Family Living** ministry.

Community Building and Outreach 2011 - 2013

During the last four years, there have been many community events that fostered unity and volunteerism and reached out to the public. The council members were instrumental in the planning, budgeting and execution of all these events. For example, the annual **Thanksgiving Extravaganza** features a sumptuous community potluck lunch with live entertainment, with each council members donating a cooked turkey, as well as helping with cooking and serving. The annual **Christmas Celebration** features a delicious Christmas desert party.

From Nov. 20, 2010 to Jan 31, 2011, members participated in a 3 x 21-day condition to read and distribute of **True Father's autobiography**. The **Easter Sunday Celebration 2011** featured a community potluck lunch and music entertainment. Many enthusiastic volunteers helped all these events. The Boy Scouts and their family members deserve special thanks because of their consistent and never-tiring help. The **Japan Aid Festival and Concert** on May 1, 2011, raised funds for the victims of Japan's earthquake and tsunami and received widespread support (see the video on <http://vimeo.com/23645282>). To illustrate the **level of volunteerism** that such an event requires, the following groups together made this festival a great success: **New Hope Academy** not only provided its building, rooms and grounds to hold the festival, but also publicized and invited parents and students to come. The **young adult group** with Teresa Ferrete helped. The **outreach team** with Keiko and Doug Burton supported. The **youth group** with Kaleigh Moffitt set up and staffed the ticket booth, the face painting and more. The **Boy Scouts** helped set up and sold grilled chicken; the **Girl Scouts** helped set up. The Japanese women prepared sushi. The local **True World Group** donated the sushi material. The **WFWP** with Kim Dadachanji hosted well-known floral designer Mme Yuki Sakata, who travelled from Japan to teach floral design for this event. The **WAIT** team performed during the concert. The band **The Rumble** with George Burton, Matt Holden and other musicians, as well as the Mizanis, Ahmad and Emiko Nadimi, Laurence Baer, and Shin Taylor entertained during the concert.

NHFCH youth were members of District 1's soccer, Frisbee, and volley ball teams at the **Blessed Culture and Sports Festivals (BCFS)**, in 2011, 2012, and 2013, held at the UTS in Barrytown, NY. In 2011, the soccer team won 3rd place. In 2012, the men's Frisbee team won first place. In 2013, both men and women Frisbee teams won first place.

Examples of increasing community participation and outreach efforts were the booths and book table at the **Greenbelt Labor Day Festival** in Greenbelt, MD, in **2011, 2012, and 2013**, and the **9/11 Memorial Festival** at the Unification Church in Washington, D.C., in 2011.

From Friday afternoon, Sept. 2, to Monday, 5 p.m., 2011, a group of volunteers set up two booths at the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival. Under the banner of Lovin' Life Ministries, one offered its visitors to write their names or any phrase of their choosing with beautiful Chinese calligraphy, lovingly designed by Japanese women, as well as to teach how to fold origami creatures; the other sold so-called "Virgin Mocktails," alcohol-free smoothies that were a favorite for many youth and children. Both booths combined received an award, including a \$100 check, by the Greenbelt organizers for the best booth with special recognition for the use of environmentally-friendly, corn-based plastic cups. The public's response was overwhelmingly positive. About two dozen members witnessed around the booths as well as on Sunday at the book table, featuring True Father's autobiography and other literature. As a result, more than two dozen new friends wanted to be involved with one of NHFCH's groups and members.

A week later, warm sunshine engulfed the **9/11 Memorial Festival 2011**, held at the Columbia Rd. National Cathedral after Sunday service. The sounds of Jamii African drummers, the Washington Peace Choir, Ottmar Weinmann on the keyboard, as well as the hourly prayer for peace and reconciliation by Pastor Matt Goldberg staged on the patio behind the church building drew many visitors. Over 30 new friends visited throughout the day. A free memorial luncheon and a promotional video entertained the guests.

Lan Tsubata sponsored a very significant education seminar held on Sept. 9, 2011, at Hew Hope Academy and

on Sept. 10 at Kazuo and Kate Tsubata's home, called "Empowering Families." The presenters were John Lowen, a certified Forensic and Family Social Worker, Life Plan Counselor, and Sandra Lowen, PhD, a certified Marriage and Families Counselor, Trauma Therapist. They are an exceptional couple who have helped many people of all ages and backgrounds. They "dealt with the 'red flags' in our relationships with our spouses, parents or children, what to do and what *not* to do in turning our issues around and where we can proceed from this point to pick ourselves up and build the world God—and we—want to live in through healing ourselves and our families." The seminar did not deliver "quick fixes," but provided thought-provoking new insights and for many a new start into their couple and family relationship. Afterwards, Pastor Matt, the outreach team and the council planned and organized the following events: A sushi party on Oct. 22; a Fall Harvest Dance Social on Oct. 29; and a Thanksgiving Extravaganza on Nov. 20, all in 2011.

Transition in 2012 and 2013

2012 proved to be a year of many changes and challenges. True Father's ascension brought a time of deep reflection and new determination for the NHFCH community. It coincided with the demise of the LLM structure and gave rise to a reborn NHFCH council in December 2012, and a new pastoral team in April 2013. In spite of the rigid, centralized organizational model of the Loving Life Ministries and its nation-wide broadcasted Sunday services, the local ministries continued to develop, especially the youth ministry under the dedicated leadership of Kaleigh Moffitt.



The youth group in 2012 under the leadership of Kaleigh Moffitt (bottom row, 2nd from left).

Since 2013, the next phase of community life and growth is in full swing. We are aware that we are facing many challenges. Young adults need our special focus. Pastoral care for blessed families of all ages is another priority. On the council's initiative, Pastor Miilhan has now a new assistant, Rusan Weinmann, whose responsibility is to help him especially with communication and administration.

The NHFCH Council and Community in 2014

2014 brings new challenges and changes. Gregg and Kyoho Jones, former inreach pastors in 2013, are pioneering a new local, home-based outreach ministry called New Earth Family Ministry. Pastor Miilhan has assembled a circle of volunteers to care for each family in our community. Each council members is focusing to help with a specific area of need in the community: Joanne Parrish focuses on oversight of the community's

financial matters. Beverly Berndt and Christoph Wilkening helped form the circle of volunteers involved in family care. Miken Jenkins helped Pastor Miilhan with finding an appropriate Learning Center location and related issues. Shio Roschuni keeps track of the budget and financial matters, supporting Kyoko Betancourt.

Pastor Miilhan, supported by the council, is in the process of establishing a new Learning Center in Bowie, MD. Its official name will be selected through input of the community. It will serve as a focal point for youth activities and outreach.

In all activities, an increased Web presence will be crucial to reach an increasing audience. To be an open and growing community means that our purpose is outside of our Unificationist community—understanding and meeting the needs of the communities surrounding us.

All in all, I am optimistic that the council will continue to be an integral part of the development of the Unification community in the Maryland-Metro area.

Christoph Wilkening

May 21, 2014