

Miilhan Stephens: President of YSP and Vice President of FFWPU North America

Naokimi Ushiroda
November 25, 2020



We welcome Pastor Miilhan Stephens, 33, as the new President of the Youth and Students for Peace (YSP) North America, and Vice President of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) North America.

His appointment follows closely behind the recent announcement of the Rev. Naokimi Ushiroda's rise to President of Family Federation USA.

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Pastor Miilhan Stephens was raised in the Unificationist tradition and was educated at the University of Maryland in College Park where he graduated cum laude with a bachelor's degree in Food Science. He is currently pursuing a master's in Religious Studies from the Unification Theological Seminary.

Miilhan discovered the heart of God at an early age. He is known for being an idealist, but always works things from a practical perspective. Cheerfully sharing his faith and listening to others throughout his life, he decided to step up his service to God by pastoring the Maryland Unificationist community he so loves. He pastored the New Hope community in Maryland for 2 years, from 2012. In December 2014, he was appointed as Vice President of Family Federation USA, and in December 2018 he was appointed Secretary General for Subregion 1. He later became the Director of TribeNet, the Heavenly Tribal Messiahship department in America, where he has been supporting the American Tribal Messiahs in their mission.

Pastor Miilhan's commitment to service goes above and beyond the norm. He has been a staple behind the scenes of big rallies and other major events, committing his expertise and time to causes outside of his normal duties.

On January 31, 2009, Pastor Stephens received the Marriage Blessing with Sayaka of Osaka, Japan. They have two children.

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New Leadership 'An Era of Growth'



Photo credit FFWPU-USA

Reverend Naokimi Ushiroda, a native of Japan born to Unificationist parents, is the first of a younger generation of Unificationists to be appointed U.S. national president of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) by co-founder and [Mother of Peace](#) Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, affectionately referred to as True Parents along with her late husband and FFWPU co-founder Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon.

Rev. Ushiroda has joined a wave of new FFWPU-USA leadership welcomed during the [National Family Service](#) on November 15.

"This is going to be an era of growth and I am truly humbled and honored to serve in this role," said Rev. Ushiroda. "I just recently found out I was being appointed to this presidency role in a race I didn't know I was running. It really shows a tremendous amount of trust and expectation and hope that True Mother has for our next generation and for America."

The announcement was made on the 61st anniversary of True Children's Day, an important holy day established by Rev. and Dr. Moon in 1959.

"True Children's Day is indeed the most blessed day for humankind," said Rev. Moon at the time. "On this day, we honor all of God's children. This day is not only for Unificationists; it is a day for all people of the world to mark and celebrate forever."

Rev. Ushiroda, who fills the position vacated by Rev. Demian Dunkley, said he feels the responsibility and significance of representing younger people, and the desire and responsibility to harmonize generations together moving forward.

"I think our previous leadership really did a great job of elevating younger generations to different levels of leadership at FFWPU-USA headquarters and even in the field," said Rev. Ushiroda. "I will do my best to inherit from our elders, and believe I can help with the harmonizing between different elements. I really want to reach out to all of our youth and young adults wherever they are; this is a new era and a new time to reconnect and bring our national family back together." Rev. Ushiroda also aims to unite Eastern and Western cultures.

A U.S. resident of nearly 40 years, Rev. Ushiroda said his Asian heritage allows him to embrace his Eastern roots while still appreciating Western culture. Additionally, his work as a professional life coach has also given him greater skills in connecting with and helping other people in their daily lives.

"Coaching is a great way to empower individuals, families, and tribes to be able to manifest a culture of heart," said Rev. Ushiroda. "It's been a challenge to express our depth of heart and our values so that society can really appreciate it, but I hope to leverage technology in more useful ways, and share our understanding of God and the teachings of True Parents in a manner that people can truly and easily digest and receive. The next seven years is really the next growth phase for our movement."

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In early November, Dr. Chung Sik Yong was [appointed](#) regional president of FFWPU-North America, succeeding Dr. Ki Hoon Kim. Both leaders shared their delight about Rev. Ushiroda's new role.

"True Mother's recognition and appointment of world leaders as part of the recent restructuring of our worldwide movement are some of the biggest and boldest changes we have ever seen," said Dr. Yong. "Let us think about the meaning of these new appointments from her point of view as we enter the second seven-year course in the era of Cheon Il Guk (Kingdom of Heaven on Earth). This is truly a special time in history and I look forward to working with Rev. Ushiroda."

"We are a generation of righteousness centered on God—our Heavenly Parent—and True Parents," added Dr. Kim, Cheon Eui Won chairman of North America. "When we unite together and with our new leaders we can bring America back to God."

Leading the Unification movement in America is an incredible undertaking, but Rev. Ushiroda is up to the task with faith and confidence hand in hand.

"I think these next seven years are going to be really exciting," said Rev. Ushiroda. "I will give my very best and ask for America's support to really attend God and True Parents, and to serve and inspire the rest of the world."

Revs. Kevin Thompson and Kazuo Takami were also appointed FFWPU-USA Northwest and Midwest regional directors, respectively. They are filling the positions of Revs. Larry Krishnek and David Rendel.

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GUNNARD Z. JOHNSTON

November 21, 2020 at 1:35 pm | #

May our Heavenly Parent and True Parents in Heaven and on earth be comforted and inspired by these new appointments. May these young leaders of faith and action turn this world from chaos and confusion into a clear pathway toward peace and prosperity for all. Where there is a will there is a way, especially if it is the will of God.

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BIRIAN

November 18, 2020 at 3:23 pm | #

Congratulations Rev. Naokim! May God guide you to build unity and bring peace to all God's people in the USA. And I pray for you to inherit TP's heart in your mission to bring only God's ways in all cultures.

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THEODORE SHIMMYO

November 17, 2020 at 1:56 pm | #

Hi Naokimi, congratulations! When you were asked to be the director of mobilization for True Mother's 12/28 rally at Prudential Center last year, you obediently and humbly united with that request. At that time I saw a great spiritual quality within you and made a prediction about your future. God's blessings!

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