

FFWPU USA National Council Duties and Webinars

Alexa Ward
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In the nearly two years since the passing of our True Father in September 2012 the Unification Movement has been going through many changes, with more responsibility for the governing of our church and our communities passing into the hands of the members.

Elected councils have been created throughout the United States. Each Unificationist community has its own council, as does every one of the 12 districts (formerly known as regions).

There is also a National Council, with each of the district councils sending a representative. It meets twice a year, in April and October. The National Council is an initiative of the FFWPU, USA executive, and primarily fulfills an advisory role at this time.

These are the current National Council representatives:

District 1: Libby Henkin
District 2: Noah Ross
District 3: Alain Tamelissio
District 4: Christine Hempowicz
District 5: Richard Sapp
District 6: Luke Abrahams
District 7: Steven Jares
District 8: Cindy Pfeiffer
District 9: Rick Schnorr
District 10: David Burgess
District 11: Bryan Lancaster
District 12: Walter Frank
President: Alexa Ward

The councils operate according to the National Charter, which provides a structure for the election of pastors and council members and the relationship between various levels of governance. The charter, which was completed by the interim National Council on October 20, 2013, guides the community and district levels. As well, there are provisions for local and national amendments.

“True Mother is advocating for the establishment of this kind of democratic body and process throughout our church worldwide,” wrote Dr. Michael Balcomb, president of FFWPU USA, in a June 2, 2014, memo to the U.S. membership. “[Continental Director] Dr. [Ki Hoon] Kim and I endorse and fully support the National Council and the charter.”

Dr. Michael Balcomb also wrote: “This is a very important step in the development of the American church. The National Council is an elected body of your peers, one from each district, who have the opportunity to represent you and your community, as well as make significant input in the process of developing the church.”

Council members serve for two years, with elections staggered so that half the members each year will have experience from the previous year.

The National Charter outlines eleven duties and responsibilities for the National Council. The main tasks include:

making recommendations to the president and the HSA-UWC Board (arising from concerns from the districts)

awarding grants to the districts for projects designed to promote church growth and development

adopting amendments to the National Charter for local churches and adjudicating appeals from local churches

recommending candidates and providing recommendations for fiscal prudence and accountability to the HSA-UWC Board, and participating with board members on a Financial Review Committee

ensuring the protection of members as specified in the National Whistleblower Policy.

During their most recent meeting, in Las Vegas from April 25 to 27, the National Council members elected their leaders for 2014: Noah Ross as chair, David Burgess as vice chair, and Libby Henkin as secretary. In accordance with the National Charter, the vice president of FFWPU USA, who currently is Alexa Ward, serves as National Council president for the year.

Meeting with the council in Las Vegas, Dr. Balcomb shared his view that the National Council represents a fourth key body of working partners for the FFWPU USA president—in addition to the Headquarters staff, the HSA-UWC Board and the 12 district pastors.

To accomplish its assigned responsibilities, the National Council set up the following committees:

Recommendation Committee: reviews input from the districts and investigates and proposes solutions to recommend to the president.

Grant Committee: sets up the requirements for a Request for Proposal (RFP) by which districts can apply for project funds. President Balcomb has allocated \$200,000 for this year's grants.

Charter Committee: addresses necessary amendments to the charter.

Judicial Committee: adjudicates appeals and oversees whistleblower complaints.

Financial Committee: organizes and participates in a Financial Review Committee.

Executive Committee: composed of the chair, vice chair, secretary and president (the HSA-UWC executive vice president).

These committees will be chaired by National Council representatives but also will include members selected from the membership at large, based on interest and expertise. The committees will meet over the summer with the aim of finalizing their work in time for the council's next meeting in October.

Church members are encouraged to contact their representative with questions or concerns. While directions from Headquarters will continue to flow through the district and local pastors, the National Council will serve as an avenue for communication from the general membership to the church leadership.

Dr. Balcomb, in his June 2 memo to the U.S. members, wrote: "I encourage you to take the time to familiarize yourself with all aspects of the charter." You can read the National Charter below.

National Council stands ready to award grant money

Local Unificationist communities are invited to submit applications to the National Council to receive grants that the council will distribute to support activities designed for local church growth and to meet the goals of Vision 2020. FFWPU USA has allocated \$200,000 for this purpose.

The council anticipates awarding 19 one-year grants at the following levels: 10 grants of up to \$5,000 each; five grants of \$5,001 to \$10,000 each; and four grants of \$10,001 to \$25,000 each. Awards will be made available for a project period of November 1, 2014 to October 31, 2015.

This new funding opportunity requires a local matching commitment of ten percent of the total project cost for each proposed project. Applications for district-level projects will be accepted; however, preference will be given to local church applicants. Alternatively, two or three small church communities may submit an application together.

More information about the grant competition, and application forms, will be made available within a few days.

Webinars to explain council, charter, answer questions

If you're thinking, "Why should I care about the National Charter? How does it affect me?" several members of the National Council, including Noah Ross, Alexa Ward and Christine Hempowicz, may be able to answer those questions during two webinars taking place on July 24 and 26. This is your chance to learn more about the National Council and Charter, learn how to get grant money for your district or community, ask questions and bring up issues for the council.

Both webinars will present the same content. One is on a Thursday evening, the other is on a Saturday afternoon.

The first webinar will be held on Thursday, July 24, starting at 8 p.m.

There are three ways to enter the webinar:

- 1) By telephone: Dial: +1 (415) 762-9988 or +1 (646) 568-7788 Meeting ID: 178 152 515
- 2) By Internet: Please click this URL to start or join. <https://zoom.us/j/178152515>
- 3) Or, go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter meeting ID: 178 152 515

The second webinar will be held on Saturday, July 26, at 1 p.m. Again there are three ways to enter:

- 1) By telephone: Dial: +1 (415) 762-9988 or +1 (646) 568-7788 Meeting ID: 843 517 848
- 2) By Internet: Please click this URL to start or join. <https://zoom.us/j/843517848>
- 3) Or, go to <https://zoom.us/join> and enter meeting ID: 843 517 848

Article written by Renee Corley, based on information provided by David Burgess and Christine Hempowicz

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.