

ACLCLC hosts Chicago, IL's 23rd True Family Values Awards Banquet

Luonne Rouse
February 2, 2019



On February 2, the day following the [American Clergy Leadership Conference \(ACLCLC\) Summit](#) in Chicago, the 23rd True Family Values Awards Banquet was held at the Hilton Chicago Oak Lawn Hotel. Nearly 500 guests attended the celebration, including clergy from the Chicago area, Ambassadors for Peace, Women's Federation for World Peace, Universal Peace Federation, first and second generation Unificationists and 100 ACLCLC leaders from around the country who attended the ACLCLC Summit the day before.

Chicago has held the annual True Family Values Awards Banquet since 1996 under the leadership of Regional Chairman of Family Federation North America and newly appointed National Co-Chairman of ACLCLC Dr. Ki Hoon Kim. In the spirit of Dr. Kim's values of unity and consistency, the banquet has been bringing religious leaders together year after year as a celebration of their work for God and an opportunity to honor special awardees who embody True Family Values in their work and ministries.

Once the new National Co-Chairmen of ACLCLC were inaugurated, Dr. Kim took the opportunity to say a few words. He thanked everyone for their hard work over the years and talked about the importance of taking the next step and moving toward national restoration. He acknowledged True Parents and thanked True Mother for her guidance in leading America to national restoration.

Dr. Luonne Rouse, who was also inaugurated as National Co-Chairman of ACLCLC, gave the keynote address. He focused his message on the concept of the New Era and emphasized the importance of making devotional commitments through prayer, unity and Tribal Messiah activities to restore America by reviving Christianity through ACLCLC.

During the lunch break, a special tribute was paid to True Parents' birthday with an inspiring video from the Nassau Coliseum victory, a large birthday cake, and cutting the cake with 30 guests together on stage. A performance by the Soul Children of Chicago, a world-renowned children's choir founded and directed by Mr. Walt Whitman, had the guests on their feet, which solidified the family spirit of the banquet.

The True Family Values Awards presentation awarded five recipients in honor of their efforts in serving their communities. The awardees included Mr. Torrence Cooks, an anti-violence activist, Bishop Arthur and Mrs. Donnie Barnes who are public servants, Ms. Deb Dawson, an author and adoptive mother of international children, Pastor Gloria Howard, a dynamic community activist, and Mr. Steven Rauschenburger, President of a nonprofit organization that provides training and management services to employees in precision manufacturing industries.

The True Family Values Awards Banquet was the perfect conclusion to the 2019 ACLCLC Summit, which were both appropriately hosted in Chicago, the heart of the Midwest and the home place of some of the greatest work the Unification Movement has done with Christianity.

Awardee Biographies



Reflections

"The Chicago community had such a great and significant event. I really felt we need to be grateful for having these events in Chicago. We mobilized clergy and guests for the True Family Values Awards Banquet, and the staff worked together harmoniously to set it up. The True Family Values Awards Banquet was filled with Heavenly Parent's spirit and people were moved by the atmosphere and Dr. Rouse's speech. The Chicago Family Church has been doing Prayer Breakfast every month, and through this condition Heavenly Parent has blessed this 23rd True Family Values Awards Banquet and held the inauguration of the new ACLC National Co-Chairmen." –Kumiko Sutker

"It was such a blessing to join the True Family Values Awards Banquet with the ACLC Co-Chairmen and coordinators from all over the country. The banquet welcomed more than 400 people in the Grand Ballroom of the hotel. It was really a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the new mission of Dr. Kim and Dr. Rouse as Co-Chairmen of ACLC. I felt the atmosphere of unity and excitement in the room more than before." –Kunihiro Sagisaka

"I was also blessed with the True Family Values Awards Banquet. The children's choir was awesome, the atmosphere was inviting and full of power. I can rejoice because True Mother has my heart and my heart has True Mother. Because of her, we can move forward into the Providence by coming together with ACLC in this new era." –Dr. Tanya Edwards, NYC Family Church Pastor



AWARD RECIPIENTS



Mr. Torrence Cooks

Mr. Torrence Cooks is an anti-violence activist and community organizer dedicated to helping communities create safe environments through structured recreational activities for all ages. He is Commissioner and Outreach Coordinator of West Haven Summer Health League basketball program since 1995, serving hundreds of youth on Chicago's west side. He is also Program Director of the Sankofa Youth Program which provides referee training within the Chicago Public High Schools.

Terrence and his wife, Katina are proud parents of two sons.

Bishop Arthur and Mrs. Donnie Barnes

Bishop Arthur and Mrs. Donnie Barnes are devoted public servants with missions in ministry, social service and family values. Arthur has been preaching since he was 15 years old and is pastor of International Beginnings Ministries Church in eastern Michigan.

Donna is a social worker at Madonna University and has been named Social Worker of the Year.

After 36 years of marriage, and raising of four children, the Barnes have rededicated their marriage to helping others experience the value of the God-centered family.



Ms. Deb Dawson

Ms. Deb Dawson is a writer, photographer, filmmaker, businesswoman, teacher, humanitarian, and philanthropist. She holds a B. S. Ed. in Education and English, and an MFA in Creative Writing. Her role as mother to biological, step, and internationally-adopted children led her to write *When Love is Not Enough*, a memoir about the way mothers and daughters forge relationships in the face of tremendous obstacles.

In 2007, Deb traveled to Africa with a Lost Boy of Sudan and made a documentary about his desire to help orphans in the village he escaped 20 years earlier. Now, as president of the nonprofit she founded, she spends nearly three months a year working with the staff and students at the ASAH School for Orphaned Girls in Duk Payuel, Jonglei State, Republic of South Sudan.

AWARD RECIPIENTS



Pastor Gloria Howard

Pastor Gloria Howard is a dynamic community activist who applies her faith in serving parenting, education and literacy needs. She is President of the North Minneapolis Rotary Club and Co-Chairman of the Peace and Conflict Resolution Initiative. As a volunteer, she serves as a member of the Minneapolis Department of Health Community Action Network Team, Board member for First Step of Hope, Inc., Executive Director of Ebenezer Charity Foundation, and Board member of Jesus Is the Way Ministries International.

Currently, Gloria is also Clinic Coordinator for Abria Pregnancy Resources in North Minneapolis.

Mr. Steven Rauschenburger

Mr. Steven Rauschenburger is the President of the Technology and Manufacturing Association, a nonprofit organization providing training and management services to over 30,000 employees in precision manufacturing industries. Steve has a long business career as well as fifteen years of service as an Illinois State Senator. He has been a strong advocate for working families in areas of economic growth and pro-life values.

Steve has also been active in international business affairs in Europe and Africa, including service as faculty instructor to the Algerian Parliament for the U.S. State Department Middle East Partnership Initiative.

