

UTS Alumni and Leaders attend Values Voter Summit in D.C.

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The annual [Values Voter Summit](#) conference was held from September 9-11 at the OmniShoreham Hotel in Washington D.C. last weekend. Among the over 2500 participants from all over the nation, several UTS alumni attended, including Anthony Ferrantello and Dr. Donna Ferrantello, as well as 1975 Unification (former) overseas missionary to Africa, Mary Johnson, and former State Dept. official and Universal Peace Federation representative, Teresa Ledesma.

Values Voter Summit is organized mainly by the [Family Research Council Action](#) organization whose major efforts are for family, faith and freedom. This year's conference highlighted the themes of "Religious Liberty" and "National Security" given the ever growing threats of terrorism as well as the increasing violations of religious liberty in America. In the early days of UTS, our founder, Rev. Moon, told us that he was "like a fireman coming to put out a fire" in America. He also referred to America as being "like a patient dying from a disease." UTS seminarians were instructed by him to be the "white blood cells" that fight the disease and revive America. Many early graduates were trained with [CAUSA](#) education to confront the nature of communism and totalitarian governments and to stand up for freedom and moral family values.

The opening session on Friday, Sept.9th was the "United in Purpose" breakfast session entitled "America Needs to Make a U-Turn." Researcher

and Founder of the [American Culture and Faith Institute](#), George Barna and American historian and President of [Wallbuilders.com](#), David Barton, presented detailed information on the state of religion in society today as well as the history of influence from pastors and churches in early America on civic engagement and the political process.

In the Friday morning plenary session, many speakers addressed the fully seated Regency Ballroom, such as Sen. Tim Scott (SC), Sen. James Lankford(OK), Lt.Gov.Dan Forest (NC), Rep.Louie Gohmert (TX), Gary Bauer, Founder, American Values, Kirk Cameron, actor and producer of films (Monumental, Fireproof, Unstoppable) and Kelly Schackelford, President of First Liberty Institute legal team that defends people of faith. Former Congresswoman, Michelle Bachman, concluded the plenary with a spirit that lit up the room with a fiery, articulate speech about freedom and America's destiny.

Actor Jon Voigt, whose presence was a real treat for the audience, gave a warm welcome and respect to Presidential Republican Nominee, Donald Trump. Trump gave a sincere, clear and substantive speech, particularly noting his concern for religious freedom and the rights of pastors and churches to influence civic engagement. He pledged to support pastors' rights to speak up about the issues which impact society and to engage in the political process as well as their election to public office. His speech and most all of the speeches of the day were given standing ovations.

The Saturday morning plenary session included a panel on "Jihad in America: The Existential Threat." Lt.Gen. William Boykin, USA (Ret.) and Vice-President of the Family Research Council moderated the panel of three experts: Dr. Sebastian Gorka, Major General Matthew Horner, Distinguished Chair of Military Theory, Marine Corps University and Chairman of Threat Knowledge Group; Philip Haney, Former Employee of the Dept. of Homeland Security and author of See Something, Say Nothing (2016) and Dr. Zuhdi Jasser, Founder of [American Islamic Forum for Democracy](#) and author of A Battle For The Soul of Islam/An American Muslim Patriot's Fight to Save His Faith (2012).

All three of these experts in National Security and Radical Islamic Terrorism gave serious warnings to Americans and the world. Mr. Haney reported that over 110 arrests of ISIS militants occurred in the U.S. during the last year, separate from the known terrorist incidents, unbeknownst to most Americans. Moreover, as Dr. Gorka shared, the acculturation of moderate-appearing Muslims into our institutions and communities is very often accompanied by covert orthodox Sharia Law advocacy and an agenda to disrupt our cultural norms and Constitutional republic. Dr. Zuhdi Jasser posed possible solutions for reforming this radical Islamic agenda and advocated that a Reform Muslim movement pledge to obey the U.S. Constitution and the rule of law.

Concluding the Saturday plenary speeches was [Concerned Women for America](#) CEO, Penny Nance, who gave an impressive introduction for Republican Vice-Presidential nominee and former Governor of Indiana, Mike Pence. Introducing his wife and family, he gave a warm, insightful and humorous speech, always showing honor and respect for America, and the life of faith and family. He said: "I am a Christian, Conservative and Republican, in that order." He pledged that he and Donald Trump would repeal the "[Johnson Amendment](#)" of 1962 that directed the IRS to put a muzzle on preachers and that their administration would "let the voice of faith be heard." He also pledged to uphold the "[Hyde Amendment](#)" and to honor the sanctity of life. If you have never heard Mike Pence before, he is an honorable man of integrity and knows how to relate well with his audiences. Hear him out!

The full speeches from 2016 Values Voter Summit are archived on the website, valuesvotersummit.org/archive-2016. I highly recommend viewing some of these videos from the many leaders, statesmen and women who offered their sincere concern and dedication for the destiny of America.