



Unification Church of America  
District 3: Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania  
District Council Meeting Minutes

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**DATE:** Wednesday, February 27, 2013, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM EST

**LOCATION:** Clifton Church

**PRESENT:**

Mr. John Hessell (Chair)	Mr. Robert Beebe
Mr. Atsushi Takino	Mr. Hiroshi Inose
Mrs. Carol Pobanz	Mr. Hero Hernández (Secretary & National Rep)
Mr. Takashi Yashiro	Dr. Ann I.
	Pablo I.

**ABSENT:**

**STAFF:**

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I. CALL TO ORDER & CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Mr. Hessell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and confirmed a quorum of the Council was present.

II. OPENING PRAYER

Mr. I. offered the opening prayer.

III. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motioned by Mr. Hernández  
Seconded by Mr. Hessell

CARRIED 8:0 UNANIMOUSLY

- A. Camp Sunrise
- B. Including Dr. Ann in all Discussions
- C. Town Hall meeting
- D. Sunday Service planning

IV. COUNCIL BUSINESS

A. Discussion on Camp Sunrise

Dr. Ann – I heard that HQ will be hosting a national camp after all at UTS which will end with BCSE. Therefore, we will have a challenge hosting a

Mr. Hessell – The cold hard reality is that there will be a national camp. Mr. Ross, who was working on this, recently found out that there will actually be a national camp. HQ originally committed to not hosting a national camp, which was a large part of our decision making in support of Camp Sunrise's lease renewal.



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Dr. Ann – I still think there is a potential that we could break even if we hire a property manager. I can't guarantee for sure the financials of the camp. I was going to ask Mr. Ross to write up a job description for the project manager role.

Mrs. Pobanz – Why would Dr. Balcomb turn around and have a meeting with the District Directors about a national camp when he promised that there wouldn't be one?

Dr. Ann – It seems like Camp Aurora will still go ahead on its own in New England.

Mr. Hessell – I don't know if it has to do with the facilities, perhaps that's why UTS is more attractive, more useful?

Dr. Ann – Every single year, Mrs. Debbie Grodner would take on a lot of responsibility with property management. We could create the job description and see if Mrs. Grodner would be interested.

Mr. Yashiro – Can we ask Mr. Balcomb to change his mind and keep his promise?

Mr. Beebe – Or HQ has to provide some subsidy to Camp Sunrise, as they did in the past?

Dr. Ann – HQ did a survey with all the District Pastors and it seemed that there was a desire for a national camp. However, HQ emphasized that it's not a mandatory national camp.

Mr. Hessell – Well you probably voiced your opinion that we don't want a national camp, correct?

Dr. Ann – No, I said that I was OK with a national camp and I believe Rev. Compton of New York agreed as well.

Mrs. Pobanz – I think we still need to address the fact that a promise was made and then broken.

Mr. Yashiro – Those District Directors that supported a national camp didn't know our situation and the agreement we had with Dr. Balcomb.

Mrs. Tallakson – If NJ and NY said that they want the national camp, so then nothing can be done right?

Mr. Takino – So we will try to have a middle school camp at Camp Sunrise? From the beginning, our point is how we can use the property wisely and efficiently.

Mr. Hessell – Regardless of how small or large of a camp we host there, we still need all the infrastructure and staff in place. And we now know that it's quite a large project to undertake.

Mr. Hernández – Why are we going after Dr. Balcomb about why he didn't keep his promise? Dr. Ann said that she and Rev. Compton both voted for a national camp, correct? Then shouldn't we be pressing you, Dr. Ann, as to why you voted for a national camp, when the whole premise of investing in Camp Sunrise was because there would not be a competing national camp at UTS?



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Dr. Ann – I know how much it takes to organize and host a full scale high school program. Therefore, I was supportive of the idea of HQ hosting a national camp at UTS.

Mr. Hernández – Then why did we even embark on planning for Camp Sunrise if from the beginning we weren't planning to have a high school workshop there, which you explained was, historically, the best way to generate a return on the investment. Family day camps and Sunday services here and there at Camp Sunrise do not generate enough revenue to break even.

B. Including Dr. Ann in all discussions?

Mr. Hessell – Mr. Hernández originally introduced the topic of whether it was possible to have some meetings without Dr. Ann. His motive was providing an environment where Council Members could discuss more freely topics concerning Dr. Ann's proposals. Sometimes it is difficult to be completely frank and we want to be sensitive to Dr. Ann's proposals. However, after more reflection, it seems that it is best to work through this by keeping her included in all meetings. We need to figure out the best way to go through our discussions. We originally thought that we could have separate meetings with just the Council by itself and others with her. But perhaps the best way is to have her included in the discussions.

Dr. Ann – I see the Council helping me in my role. The wonderful diversity provides a range of feedback. I don't think I know all the questions to ask. For the record, my husband and I are officially part of the Council, so it would make sense that we are present at all meetings. I would like to also suggest that our names be changed from "Staff" to "Present," to clearly point out that we are Council Members, in the section at the beginning of the minutes. I understand that at times it may be difficult to have full discussions with me present, but I believe that we should work through that. I am very comfortable with the difficult questions.

*No vote was taken.*

C. Town Hall

Mr. Beebe – I've been asked by a member whether we will have a town hall meeting soon. I think people want a face to face opportunity.

Mr. Takino – Many people still don't know what we are doing. I think it's a great idea and we can expose the community to how we work.

Mr. Hessell – Once someone has the microphone, it can become very random. So perhaps we can keep the meetings focused on a certain theme in order to be more efficient. How about Sunday at 1pm?

Mrs. Tallakson – Can we replace a Sunday service with a town hall?

Mr. Hessell – I think it's a great idea to plan one for the future, but let's table it for now as we discuss Sunday service.

D. Sunday Service

Mr. Beebe – Pastor Manoj and Mrs. Pobanz and I met to discuss Sunday service. I volunteered to be the person to take care of guests after the first service at 9:00 AM. There will be a table set up. We also talked about the ushers / greeters and organizing them better to greet guests.



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Mrs. Pobanz – Generally speaking, before anyone gives a service, they review their content and presentation with Pastor Manoj. On a side note, we will have the Creative Synergy Studio event this weekend.

Mr. Hessell – Could we try to encourage our young people to attend the service somehow. I know I mentioned it once but I was impressed by the New York service, but of course, they have GPA there.

Mrs. Tallakson – Is there a Sunday service committee?

Mrs. Pobanz – Pastor Manoj is in charge and I support him. And we've had about four weeks of Cup and Cake Café for the young adults under the guidance of Mr. Oliver Noll.

Dr. Ann – There's also a plan to have discussion circles after the Sunday service. But that would require a good facilitator.

Mr. Takino – Why can't announce publicly to engage the membership and allow others to join the Sunday service committee? This would be a great way to help people feel involved. We need as many people to welcome new guests. I would imagine that some people have great suggestions on the program or the church atmosphere and décor. The pastor, from an Asian perspective perhaps, is the spiritual central figure. We want to feel a personal connection with the pastor. Sunday service is a great venue for that to happen, but it's difficult to feel close to the pastor. Kodan leaders shared that they do not feel a personal connection to the pastor.

Mrs. Tallakson – We have been talking a lot about Sunday service but are just going in circles. Perhaps we can utilize the town hall meeting for a discussion on improving Sunday service. People need a venue to be able to verbalize their concerns. People don't even know what we talk about. Who's passionate about guest care, about ushering, about lecturing, etc.? We are giving them an opportunity to take ownership.

Mr. Takino – So if the members give their suggestions, and a consensus is built, then will the church ministry staff be open to those suggestions?

Dr. Ann – Our current services were based off the suggestions of parents and we have tried it out for six months. Perhaps it is a time to review.

Mr. Yashiro – The central figure must make the decision, sometimes the decision might not be popular, but we should have great give and take with the pastor and support. In any organization, there are goals and directions clearly shared from the top.

Motioned by Mr. Hessell

Seconded by Mr. Beebe

That the Council hosts a town hall meeting on the topic of improving Sunday service for March 12 Tuesday from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

8:0 UNANIMOUSLY

E. Dr. Ann's report on her trip to Korea



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Dr. Ann – True Mother, last minute, requested the District Directors to come to Korea for Foundation Day. It wasn't planned for me to go there; I originally wanted to stay locally for the celebration. I was very impressed with the team who organized everything with me in Korea. Every District Director felt that we were representing America. Prior to going to Korea, we traveled around the district organizing the Holy Wine Ceremony. It was such a beautiful experience. Many families were worried about being able to get their older children to attend the ceremony. It was a galvanizing moment spiritually to see so many people that you usually don't see. I heard that 447 families participated in the Holy Wine ceremony and we got 600 families registered for Foundation Day.

After Foundation Day celebration in Korea, we went to the victory celebration luncheon. I was asked to receive, as a representative, the True Parents award for America. It was a very special to represent the country.

Many people commented how somber and sad True Mother looked in the beginning of the ceremonies. But during the luncheon there was entertainment from many 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation from around the world. The last act was over 100 young Japanese 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation that sang a choreographed performance "How Great is our God." Then the camera went to True Mother and it revealed how moved she was and her whole demeanor changed to one of comfort.

The next day was the World Summit meeting with many sitting presidents and world leaders. True Mother spoke only for five minutes but it was very loving. She asked the audience to reflect on the significance of the moment and to be grateful for it. True Mother's three priorities: 1) teaching Divine Principle, 2) increasing membership, 3) inspire and empower the young people.

After, we had the privilege to pay respects to True Father at his Won Jeon.

Dr. Balcomb hopes that he'll have a better idea of a national focus when he returns from his extended leaders' meeting.

I also heard that International HQ is writing a constitution for Cheon Il Guk. True Mother also assigned a national song and flower and other symbols of nationalism.

F. Other business

Mr. Hessel – I apologize that I didn't plan adequately to have a representative from Delaware or Pennsylvania.

Mr. Hernández – What is the situation with Mr. Dave Hunter?

Dr. Ann – He has been focusing on GO and DP Slam. He is now been appointed as the National Youth Pastor but will stay on for a little longer. We talked about the importance of mentoring our younger generation. We also have to consider the needs of our congregation as we develop a new style with local congregations.

Mr. Hernández – Could the District Council have a say in the selection process?

Dr. Ann – I would absolutely want that. But we may have to reexamine what exactly we need. It may not be as specific as finding a replacement because the structure may be different. Going forward, a smaller district support team is more appropriate because the church structure will be more



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decentralized. Because the structure will be more organic, we may not necessarily need an official District Youth Pastor. We want to empower the local communities.

Mr. Takino – I understand that the central figure is the spiritual bridge to God. But we each are children of God, so it's not just about following the central figure blindly but being contributors to the larger vision.

Dr. Ann – I don't have any problem with a small group family church. The main shift now is about inspiring and empowering young people.

V. SUMMARY OF QUESTIONS THAT REQUIRE FURTHER DISCUSSION

None

VI. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday, March 13, 2013 at 7:00 PM at the Clifton Church.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Mr. Hessel

Seconded by Mr. Takino

That the Council adjourns the meeting at 9:00 PM.

CARRIED 8:0 UNANIMOUSLY

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Minutes Approved by the Council on Tuesday, March 18, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of John Hessel in black ink.

Mr. John Hessel  
Chairperson

Handwritten signature of Hero Hernandez in black ink.

Mr. Hero Hernández  
Secretary & National Representative