



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

DATE: Wednesday, September 18, 2013, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM EST

LOCATION: Clifton Church

PRESENT: Mr. John Hessel (Chair) Mr. Robert Beebe
Mr. Atsushi Takino Mrs. Carol Pobanz
Mrs. Meadow Tallakson Mr. Hero Hernández (Secretary & National Rep)
Dr. Ann I. Mr. Hiroshi Inose
Mr. Pablo I.

ABSENT: Mr. Joshua Yashiro

I. CALL TO ORDER & CONFIRMATION OF QUORUM

Mr. Hessel called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM and confirmed a quorum of the Council was present.

II. OPENING PRAYER

Mr. Inose offered the opening prayer.

III. AGENDA

- A. District Pastor's Meeting Report
- B. Discussion on the Updated Ballot and Election Process
- C. Tithing Report

IV. COUNCIL BUSINESS

- A. District Pastor's Meeting Report

Dr. Ann – Dr. Balcomb confirmed that the District system will end. This would mean that the financial support from National HQ to the District Pastors would cease. He is still trying to decide the future structure of the Church. True Mother wanted there to be some body of 12 advisors, but in what manner or structure, it is unclear. Also, Dr. Balcomb provided direction on Councils. Each Local Council would have four people elected by the people, two people elected by the Pastor, and the Pastor himself. He is going to recommend this structure based on True Mother's guidance and aligned with the International Constitution being currently written in Korea. Another point that was emphasized again was the goals of witnessing and as well as reaching out to young people for leadership roles. I was able to present to Dr. Balcomb a map of the population geography of our members in the District. We could see that there were significant groups of members in certain areas.

Mr. Hessel – Is that a directive or a suggestion, the Council structure proposed by Dr. Balcomb? The two roles selected by the Pastor would come from the Ministry Team? It's a little different from what I expected.

Dr. Ann – Maybe we can see our Council as a New Jersey State Council.

Mrs. Pobanz – Maybe there can be Local Councils spread across New Jersey and one representative from each of those Councils can sit on the State Council. Then we have representation for many people.

Mr. Beebe – Was there any explanation of the responsibilities of the Council?



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Dr. Ann – Not yet..that still needs clarification.

B. Discussion on the Updated Ballot and Election Process

Mr. Beebe – We didn't get many ballots but I think most people are waiting for the revised ballot.

Mr. Hessell – I'm not sure where to move our discussion next with this new suggestion from Dr. Balcomb.

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Mr. Hessell – We first need to provide the foundation for the election process. We need to decide job description, salary, terms, expected hours. We need to clarify this before we can present to the members. What do we need for our state? A good friend of mine has a church where the roles are divided between the Pastor and an Operations Pastor. The spiritual and external is separated into two different roles. Especially for the size of our church.

Mr. Beebe – Job description is very important. I think the next stage should be to put together some job descriptions that are publicly available. We have more time now, so there isn't a rush. We can be a little more deliberative.

Dr. Ann – “Why is church important?” is a question we've never had to ask before. But now, with Father gone, we have to decide how the future will look. In the next version of the Ministry Team, is it a central team of people working with volunteers. Or could there be four different blocks in New Jersey and hire four Local Pastors?

Mr. Hessell – Can we organize a structure that will allow for young people to return to the church? The interest and needs of the young people need to be considered. We don't want to separate them out.

Dr. Ann – I see four consistent areas of ministry: 1) Evangelism, 2) Family care, 3) Youth programs and 4) Sports/Arts/Community service (which is primarily for youth programs but is intergenerational as well.)

Mr. Takino – When new members come, they are inspired and very attracted by the intercultural, intergenerational nature of our community. When I see new members, I think of how proud I am that we have the intergenerational church of families. This is something that we can share with the world. We are distinct in this matter. It is very challenging for me to connect to the young people. I want to do something to connect with them, perhaps sports. But I don't know how to connect or talk with them.

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Mr. Inose – I think it's important to make a decision soon. Making the members wait too long in a time of transition can have negative effects on the community. Of course there are many opinions, but I think we as Council can make the decisions based on the feedback.

Mr. Hessell – Thank you Mr. Inose. I agree.

Mrs. Tallakson – I agree, I think we can give the members the notes.

Mr. Hessell – According to Dr. Ann, we are a few days away from receiving an official letter from Dr. Balcomb about the future, so should we wait?

Mrs. Tallakson – I feel that we can wait, but can we get the notes out to the members?

Mr. Beebe – What about making another ballot?

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Dr. Ann – Here is a map of the population geography of the members in New Jersey.

Mr. Beebe – These Local Councils could represent the needs of their geographic blocks on the State Council.

Mrs. Tallakson – This would improve the communication.

Mr. Hessell – We have an incredibly large group to care for.

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Mrs. Pobanz – What else do we need to add to the ballot?

Mr. Beebe – Nomination process? Term limits?

Mr. Takino – Can we simplify the ballot to have just the voting criteria and not all the other descriptive questions?

Mrs. Tallakson – Should we translate the ballots into Japanese?

Mr. Inose – Maybe we can call a meeting after Sunday service and go through the ballot together with the Japanese members?

Mr. Takino – We need to also decide how the Council will be nominated? Geographic representatives? Ethnic or generational representatives? Representatives by specialization or skills?

MOTION TO VOTE: To decide who will be elected first: the Pastor or the Council.

Motioned by Hero Hernández

Seconded by Mrs. Pobanz

Council first – 4 votes

Pastor first – 2 votes

Abstain – 1 vote

PASSED: The Council will be elected first and then the Pastor election will take place after.

Mr. Hessel – Is the ballot appropriate as is? We will remove the descriptive questions, but leave the voting questions.

Mrs. Pobanz – We need to discuss further how the Council will be representative of the members. Geographically?

Dr. Ann – Unless we design in more layers of representation, it's very hard to have everyone feeling represented. We might need to implement Local Councils.

Mrs. Tallakson – This addresses the constant emphasis of localization. Setting up these Local Councils can be a step towards.

Mr. Beebe – Can we get back to the ballot?

Mrs. Pobanz – I think we can vote as a Council to decide the nomination process.

Mr. Hernández – I agree. If we implement a higher number of signatures, perhaps, we can narrow the number of nominees and influence the quality of the nominees. The lower the signatures required, the higher the number of nominees we'll get.

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Mr. Beebe – When people vote for their Local Councils, the highest nominees can naturally become the Chairperson of that Local Council.

Mr. Hessel – Are we really ready to create a block system (of 4 regions) to allow for the creation of the Local Councils? Then those lower level Local Councils' Chairpersons will be part of the State Council. This grouping for now would not be for worship, but perhaps down the level.

Mr. Hernández – I'm not against the Local Council idea, but we need to clarify what they will actually do. What will be their responsibilities? They have no budget, they don't worship together, and it crosses many different groups of members who don't naturally spend time together. It seems like the only purpose right now would be for communication and the State Council voting process.

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Mr. Beebe – I think we should include a question on the ballot about term limits. And whether it should be a staggered term.



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Mr. Hessell – I know that the WestRock church has a staggered system. And they serve as advisors to the Pastor. However, they are able to replace the Pastor if he or she is troublesome.

Mr. I. – If you don't have a long term, you can attract a qualified candidate. You need a longer term to express the desire for stability for the Pastor candidate.

Mr. Hessell – I think that term limits allow for consistent review periods. But there should be the option of continuing on without a re-election.

Mr. Inose – So will we decide now?

Mr. Hessell – I think the two year staggered method would be best. But with the new suggested structure of four elected Council members, who would really be staggered?

Mr. Beebe – So we are going to send out the cover letter, revised ballot, and the population map?

Mr. Hessell – Are we adding the geographical representation?

Mrs. Tallakson – People have this nostalgia for communities, so we are trying address an important need by proposing the block system.

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Mr. Hessell – One idea could be to provide a stipend for the Council Chairperson since it's such an involved role. I'm not talking for myself but for the new Council Chair.

V. DATE OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING

Tentatively, October 9, 2013, Wednesday, after we get the results of the revised ballot.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

Motioned by Mr. Hessell

Seconded by Mrs. Pobanz

That the Council adjourns the meeting at 9:30 PM.

CARRIED 7:0 UNANIMOUSLY

Mr. Hessell closes in prayer.

Minutes Approved by the Council on September 23, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,

Handwritten signature of John Hessell in black ink.

Mr. John Hessell
Chairperson

Handwritten signature of Hero Hernandez in black ink.

Mr. Hero Hernández
Secretary & National Representative