

## Unificationists Christen New Boat and Launch Ocean Church

Andrew Love  
September 6, 2015



Thanks to the efforts of local Unificationists and a grant from the FFWPU National Council, a beautiful new 28-foot One Hope boat now resides in a marina on the Chesapeake bay in Maryland. On September 6, 2015, the community officially dedicated the new boat with a special ribbon cutting and prayer ceremony.



*Maryland Family Church Pastor Andrew Love leads a prayer*

For years, the community has envisioned an Ocean Church program in the region, one that would allow for programs that encourage outreach and service to the community. Through the persistence and inspired vision of local Unificationists and the help of the National Council, this is now a reality.

This is not just the celebration of a new boat, but the beginning of a brand new Ocean Church Ministry. Jim Parrish, Randy Francis, and Jim Boothby saw the potential in connecting people with the water. With a passion for the ocean and boating and the vision of how to bring people to God and True Parents, they pioneered the efforts in the local community using small donated boats. The local Boy Scout troop began to use them, helping to fix them up and explore. They were always eager for donations, but knew they could do more with a better vessel. “Reestablishing a marine based Ocean Church type program has long been something I have wished for,” said Randy Francis, “It’s about extending the heart and vision of True Parents into Maryland and all of the Chesapeake Region through outreach in so many potential and

substantial ways.”



Jim Boothby expressed his hope that this is only the beginning of further growth. “Now many of us can see the potential for even three or four boats and hundreds, even thousands of students, guests, ministers, politicians and trained new captains on the boats in years to come.”



*Mr. Kensaku Takahashi and Mr. Jim Boothby*

Ocean Church USA Director Kensaku Takahashi recently joined the new Maryland chapter for one of their first meetings. Participants watched a video about True Father tuna fishing, and went over all the logistics of registering and learning how to operate and captain the boat. “I was inspired by the Maryland community’s happy and excited spirit,” he said.



*Mr. Parrish and Mr. Takahashi aboard the boat*

The Unificationist communities in Maryland and Virginia are excited for their new boat and eager to put it to good use. As Jim Boothy put it, “True Father would be happy.”

