

## UPF Durham, North Carolina holds African Conference Global Connections

John and Sharon Pace  
April 27, 2019



Durham, NC – On Saturday, April 27, 2019, Universal Peace Federation of North Carolina held the "African Conference Global Connections" at the Triangle Family Church.

Mrs. Sharon Pace, Executive Director of UPF of NC along with our co-sponsors: Nwachukwu "Chuk" Okafor, founder of Ohanaeze Ndigbo of North Carolina; Beverly Yekeson of the Liberia Crisis Center; Pearl Forbes from Mama Africa Festival; and Triangle Family Church made this meaningful conference a great success!



*North Carolina Kenya Dance and Singing Group*

Thirty-five guests gathered for a light breakfast from 9 A.M. courtesy of Biscuitville of Cary. While guests arrived and registered, they also received a program and a new 44-page 'Africa Summit ALC Source Book' edited for this conference by UPF of NC. The moderator, Nwachukwu "Chuk" Okafor, welcomed everyone at around 9:30 A.M. and Mr. Tim Davis of the Triangle Family Church prayed to commence the gathering. A letter of thanks for Peace and Unity signed by Mayor Steve Schewel of Durham, was read by Mrs. Sharon Pace.

The North Carolina Kenya Dance and Singing Group, directed by Lenora Ochieng and coordinated by Carol Kimani, performed a joyful African Dance and led everyone in inspiring group songs.

Mr. John Pace co-director of UPF NC briefly explained the Five Universal Principles of Peace.

The guest speaker, Mr. Immanuel Jarvis, the North Carolina MLK Jr. Commissioner and President of the Durham Republican Party, gave a wonderful speech titled "World Peace: Seeing What Others Don't See". He compared Reverend Moon's and Dr. Martin Luther King Junior's vision for peace. He also quoted from Reverend Moon's poem, "Crown of Glory".

After which a 22-minute video report about Dr. Hak Jan Han Moon's initiatives starting from the African Summit in Senegal including her visit and prayer in Goree Island as well as the blessing event in Zimbabwe and finally the conference in South Africa in partnership with the House of Mandela.



*Appointment of three new Ambassadors for Peace*

Later, Mrs. Sharon Pace appointed three new Ambassadors for Peace including Ms. Mary Jane Aju, CEO of Aju Global Media, who watched the entire conference on her phone thru skype from Atlanta, Georgia due to missing her flight to Durham when the airport staff took her to the wrong gate. She was so happy to have received her Ambassador for Peace certificate live on the telephone. The other two appointees were: Mr. Martins Ogbu, CEO of Blue Rose Media Production and President of Enugu Professionals for Good Governance; and Mr. Toni Ekeh, a human resource professional, career coach and mentor.

Mrs. Beverly Yekeson, of the Liberia Crisis Center and an Ambassador for Peace, read from the African Summit Source Book about building a community of peace. Everyone participated in six round table discussions centered on questions concerning peace and the community. Several people shared from the podium the content of their group discussions.



*Mrs. Sharon Pace gave an African necklace to the founders of Ohanaeze Ndigbo of NC*

To end the morning session, everyone participated in a "Blessing Toast for Strong Marriages and Families" realizing that strong families are the cornerstone for world peace.

Before breaking for a sumptuous lunch prepared by members of the Triangle Family Church, all were enjoined for a group photo to remember this important conference. While having fellowship, songs and dances were being performed.

Dr. LeVonder Brinkley, Author, Counselor and Ambassador for Peace read about "Peace Starts with Me" to begin the final session. After the final round table discussions, everyone made a circle while holding each other's hands and sang "Let There Be Peace on Earth". A prayer was said to close the gathering.