

## Luncheon Meeting with Las Vegas UPF, CARP and a Nevada Assemblyman

Leslie Rigney  
September 26, 2018



On Wednesday, September 26, 2018, a luncheon was held at True Parents' Home in Las Vegas. Attending the luncheon was Jim and Leslie Rigney from UPF, Akira and Makiko Watanabe, Las Vegas CARP leaders, and Nevada Assemblyman Chris Edwards.

The purpose of the meeting was for UPF to introduce Mr. Edwards to the Watanabe couple who have in mind a special project centered on the University and students. The goal of the project is to help change the culture for students to one that is more supportive of traditional marriage and positive civil discourse. The plan is to gather civic leaders and professors in an advisory board for a series of forums, outreach to local schools, and a large rally of students for traditional marriage and civic responsibility.

We met in the dining room at True Parents' Home, which is very comfortable and elegant. Mrs. Yasuko Oberg assisted in the lunch preparation, which was a family style of salad and make your own sandwich and fruit trays.

Assemblyman Edwards spoke to us of his interest in helping prisoners who are also veterans, his support of school choice as a way to improve the school system, his experience and travels as a Naval Commander, his experience in teaching civics at the college level, his work mentoring veterans who are interested in working in politics, and his desire to help bring more unity among the Republican Leadership in Carson City. We found many areas of common ground and gained even more respect for Mr. Edwards as an important leader in our community.

Akira and Makiko Watanabe spoke of their work with students and desire to help change the culture of free sex and the post-modern value system that is so prevalent, today. They spoke of their plan to develop an 'Advisory Board' of civic leaders and educators for the purpose of developing forums and eventually a large rally to support the values advocated by CARP of God-Centered Traditional Marriage and civic responsibility.

Makiko Watanabe was well prepared with a list of political leaders in Nevada. Mr. Edwards was very helpful in suggesting which ones may be helpful and which ones would not, as well as giving suggestions of people to contact. He was also helpful in setting a good date for the first Advisory Board meeting, when people were likely to be available.

Leslie gave Mr. Edwards a program from the recent ILC, which he was unable to attend as well as the Power Point from the ILC recently sent out by Tom McDevitt. He expressed interest in attending the ILC next summer (in February, he is in session with the Assembly).

We left with a strong feeling of friendship and common ground, and a desire to work together.