

Clifton Council Meeting

2nd Elected Council

1/17/14

Attendance: Pastor Manoj Jacob; Misayo Bien; Kyoko Anderson; Alain Tamelessio; Kathaleen Sato; Masako Feddema; Tamayo Oppenheimer; Robert Beebe and Zeth Bell. **Guest:** Rev. Shota Iwazaki (Pastor, Philadelphia Family Church),

- The meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm by Rev. Sato.
- Council Chair Sato led the Opening Prayer and welcomed the additional members of the Council – Mr. Robert Beebe and Zeth Bell as well as Rev. Iwazaki, who came to observe the Council Meeting.

Old Business:

- A) A report on the previous Church Council was given by Mr. Beebe. He shared that the first Council pioneered the way as a Council. It was a District Council but basically served the Clifton area. There were no representatives from Delaware, Pennsylvania or Elizabeth (NJ). It was a time of transition, challenges and changes. Mr. Hero Hernandez was selected to represent New Jersey at the National Council.

The council held 3 Town Hall Meetings, dealt with the issue of Camp Sunrise and balancing the budget. Set-up the process of electing the Pastor and Council through a survey sent out to members. Involved the 2nd Generation and helped develop the Sunday School Programs; Sunday Brunch Club and YUM).

- B) A report on the Clifton Church Goals for 2014-2020, was presented by Pastor Manoj. There were two main components: Witnessing and the Education Track. The Education Track will be linked together rather than individual stand alone programs. (Please request a copy of the power point for an in- depth explanation.) Pastor Manoj plans to visit each community and share the vision.
- B) It was decided to hold a Town Hall Meeting in March, on Friday 21st, to give more time to prepare. It was also voted to hold Council Meetings on the first and third Friday of each month and keep the meeting within a two hour limit. All decisions were unanimous.

Zeth Bell was nominated and accepted to record the minutes for the Council Meetings. Tamayo Kumagai-Oppenheimer volunteered to be the timekeeper for the meetings.

New Business:

- C) **Use of Parsonage** – Pastor Manoj shared that he had receive an e-mail from Dr. Ann about continuing to use the parsonage as her family's residence and pay rent. Dr. Ann requested two months notification prior to moving out.

The previous council had agreed to allow Dr. Ann and her family to stay in the Church Parsonage until the end of December, as it was a time of transition. An additional month was given until 1/31/14. Based on the arrangement of the previous Council, the church had planned to use the Parsonage (from February) for witnessing and church related activities: to house the GPA team in April; hold workshops; and possibility use some rooms for additional Sunday School classes. These activities would help achieve True Mother goal of increasing membership.

In addition, Pastor Manoj plans to research specialized schools in the Clifton Area (for his youngest daughter), to enable his family to move into the parsonage (hopefully by the beginning of the next school year.) This will greatly facilitate his work at the church and allow his family to be close by. The matter was put to a vote and unanimously agreed upon. Dr. Ann will be allowed to use the Church Parsonage for two more months until 3/31/14, before having to find a new residence.

- D) **Hiring a Church Employee** - Pastor Manoj requested to re-hire Rev. Onishi part-time to lead Witnessing and Outreach. Rev. Onishi is already doing a lot of this work as a volunteer. The request was tabled for the next meeting as there was a concern regarding the financial feasibility of hiring additional staff.

There was also a suggestion to hire a Youth Pastor. Pastor Manoj said he hasn't found the right person yet and the church may not have sufficient funds to pay for a Youth Pastor, at this time.

Mrs. Endo will be asked to attend our next meeting and give a financial report regarding hiring additional employees.

- E) It was decided that the agenda for the next meeting would focus primarily on designing a Town Hall Meeting and a financial report related to hiring additional employees.
- F) **Announcements** – **The 47th True Heavenly Parent Day** (formerly God's Day) is January 31st (January 30th in America); **Foundation Day** is February 12th (February 11th in America). **The next Council Meeting** will be Friday, February 7th at 7:30pm.

The meeting was concluded with prayer by Mr. Robert Beebe at 9:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Kathaleen Sato
Council Chair