

Clifton Family Church Open Council Meeting

02/26/2017

In Attendance: Mr. Mitsuo Ishikawa, Mr. George Glass, Mrs. Noriko Sprague, Mr. Atsushi Takino, Mr. Francisco Chamorrinha, Mr. Nathaniel Nitro, Mrs. Naria McGee

Absent: Mr. Alex Beebe, Pastor Manoj

- Opened in prayer at 1:29pm by Mr. Ishikawa
- CIG Motto and Council Mission Statement read

AGENDA

A. Pastor's Monthly Talk

(postponed due to pastor having knee surgery) Rany Jacob shared about his condition.

B. Reports:

1. Financial Committee-Mr.Chamorrinha

- Loss of \$10,000 at the end of Jan. 2016
- The number given at the back of the yearly magazine is not clear
- We have a deficit of \$15,800
- We need to see better results for income, but tithing is voluntary and up to our community, it is the same for witnessing.
- We have to find ways to increase our income and reach out to more people instead of just asking the same people to donate more.
- The positive side is we are in the tax season. If you feel inspired to give more, please do.
- We need suggestions, ideas, and input on how to get income. We have unavoidable expenses that need to be taken care of.

2. YUM/ Young Adult Inreach- Mr. Joe Leonard

- What is consistently done for YUM is a bi-monthly service for young adults. Normally 20-35 young adults attend. There is a volunteer staff of about 5-12 people. We also try to have outings planned by Seungkook and Sunmarie Burns. Sometime young people don't want to hear a sermon, but want to just hang out with other young people and friends. Through speaking one-on-one with some young people of the movement, Mr. Leonard noted that they often have lots of struggles, especially about the Blessing.
- The YAI (Young Adult Committee) was created last July through a proposal from Mrs. Christl Brunkhorst.
- The Project Phoenix workshops were started to bring together younger and elder generations together.
- The Cranes Club also brings together older 2nd generation who are professionals and successfully. They usually don't want to connect to the church, but have a sensitivity for the younger 2nd generation. Miilhan Stephens is leading the Cranes Club and has asked Mr. Leonard to partner with him.
- There is also the DP forum every Thursday where the youth read and discuss back and forth.

- There are plans for a high school age Summer DP oriented workshop. Miwa Ishikawa and Gerry Servito will be central for planning the workshop.

3. **Ocean Church—Mr. Branch Gaarder**

- Ocean Church is fundamentally a project of HSA-UWC.
- The Peace King Cup fishing tournament will be May 6-12. The awards ceremony will be at Clifton Family Church on May 13th. The website is still being developed and will be up soon.
- Ocean Festival will be in Little Ferry, NJ on May 27th.

C. **Discussions**

- Concerns on family tithing. When there was a need for a fund to buy a building the community was told the need and papers were given out for families to decide how much they wanted to offer. It was up to the members to decide whether they wanted to give something. The important thing is to be consistent about the tithing based on what we each individually are able to give based on our situation. Maybe we should also explain the situation to the younger, successful generation. Explain the situation and it is up to them to make a long term pledge and donate a certain amount.
- If families pledge a certain amount for the year, then a clear budget can be made for the year.
- The 2017 budget is still being made by the council.
- Suggestion for the next budget is to make a plan to focus on the Blessing movement and young adult ministry
- What is Tithe to district? It is a separate account where the local district church puts in donations and it goes towards travel expenses for the district leader. Also 10% of the district fund goes to HQ.
- Suggestion to reach out to families on the fringe who don't go to church to be involved and help with specific ministries of the church, such as youth and blessing.
- Suggestion to send Birthday cards to members again.
- What happened to the small cards that people wrote down their questions for the council? Most was about concerns for the youth and getting them involved.
- A member would like to see the pastor get more involved with church outreach. There are some members who are doing these things on their own. Whoever the pastor is here we believe it is his responsibility. We would like to see the pastor doing this.
- Someone might need to stand up and take some of the pastor's responsibilities so he has more time to do outreach.
- On Tithing, the young adult community is doing very well financially, and some want to tithe and offer something, but don't see a clear purpose of the church. They don't see the larger purpose of the movement so can't rationalize why to tithe.
- Based on the biblical history of the Jewish people and how all the people young and old had the understanding of one mission and understanding their identity. It was in their culture and teaching. Our unification movement should have one

understanding of the DP and understanding True Parents are the messiah. Our members don't have a clear common understanding. Teaching the DP has to be done on a National level.

- We tried our best as parents to teach our children DP, but mostly told them what not to do. We have to learn how to “package” the DP teachings for them.
- (2nd gen.) Personally I'm tired of hearing DP lectures since I know the content. I think 2nd gen would rather speak and share what they think and ask questions in a small setting. Maybe it needs to be initiated by the young people, or maybe the church can help develop something. There are different settings that people can learn the DP from.
- JL: My experience from hearing older 2nd gen. in their 30s they have issues about things in TF's life course and they did not get clear, adequate answers about it.
- We have to find our own way to decide what is true and not true and learn for ourselves.
- The KEA church is very close between 1st and 2nd gen, have a good lunch system, and have young people who are successful, involved, and wanting to tithe.
- Do the Crane's Club meet at certain time? Right now there are many meetings with the age 30-50 2nd gen. demographic to find out how many are interested in getting involved.
- The pastor has the complete mailing list of all the members in our community. If there is anyone who is interested in writing letters or notes to reach out to our brothers and sisters please let us know.
- In the next 5 years it is important to make a ministry for 2nd gen who marry outside the church and for them to feel welcomed and connected to our church.
- Many people attended the Project Phoenix, including 2nd gen. I was surprised how many older 2nd gen were reached out to that we normally don't see and to hear them share honestly.
- The purpose of the Project Phoenix event is to strengthen intergenerational trust and connections as a community. We found that creating trust between the 1st and 2nd gen was the main thing that needed to be addressed.
- Conversational education is a lot more effective for the younger generation to connect and understand the elder generation.
- We have many opportunities to get involved to help improved relationships between 1st and 2nd gen. but people are not taking those opportunities.
- Maybe we should have monthly birthday celebrations for the small children of elders 2nd gen families to bring them all together.

D. New Business

1. Community members can write down new questions and issues on the supplied index cards for the council members.

Closed in prayer by Rany Jacob at 3:06pm

Secretary,

-Naria McGee