

Clifton Family Church Open Council Meeting

4/16/2017

Attendance: Pastor Manoj, Mr. Alex Beebe, Mr. Francisco Chamorrinha, Mr. Mitsuo Ishikawa, Mr. Atsushi Takino, Mr. Nathaniel Nitro, Mrs. Noriko Sprague, George Glass

Special Guest: Dr. Balcomb

Absent: Mrs. Naria McGee

Meeting opened with prayer by Pastor Manoj at 1:30 pm

CIG Motto and Council Mission Statement was read

Reports

A. Pastor's Monthly Talk by Pastor Manoj

- This month, a number of our church staff attended the Famicon event in Las Vegas. We will hear more about this in the reports.

B. Financial Committee Report by Mr. Chamorrinha

- We are currently seeing a financial deficit every month. Our expenses are mostly fixed so this means that we need to work to increase our income.

C. Famicon Report by Mr. Takino

- 4 points for USA focus were presented for our 2020 goals
 - We are happy, healthy, God-centered families
 - Growing membership
 - Growing 2nd gen leadership
 - Generously supporting world missions
- True Mother asked Dr. Kim to raise members to the standard of filial son and take care of families
- Tribal Messiah are called to shout, call, and testify about True Parents as this is the "vehicle" through which we can fulfill the 2020 vision. The two couples who recently fulfilled their 430 blessings goals did so after returning to their hometowns as True Father had asked us to do.
- 2016 recorded 4,048 Blessings in the US with 14,377 core members and 5,396 associate members. In 2016, new churches were established in Texas, Hawaii, and Los Angeles
- 14% of US leadership was 2nd generation in 2016. This is a total of 40 leaders. It was suggested that more 2nd generation should be encouraged to attend UTS in order to develop more 2nd generation leadership.

D. Questions and Answers with Dr. Balcomb

- **Mrs. Glass:** Why don't our local pastors engage in reaching out directly to other ministers and churches? **Dr. Balcomb:** ACLC is definitely an important part of our strategy for achieving Vision 2020. As such this is very important work and every community may engage in it differently. I generally let our pastors determine what is best as they know the local circumstances better than I. However, if you believe that your community could be more active in this respect, I encourage you to discuss this with your local pastor and ministry team.
- What were the requirements for the Blessings given by the 2 successful couples that completed their 430? **Dr. Balcomb:** We acknowledge that there is a lot of education needed in order to bring newly blessed couples to complete understanding of True Parents and the value of the Blessing. However, with every couple, at some point we need to decide to take that step to give them the Blessing. Virtually no couple is done learning even after the Blessing so we need to continue to educate couples after they have gone to the Blessing. **Mr. Glass:** Regarding the \$210 donation for the Blessing, is that a requirement? How do we justify all of the donation waivers that we give out? **Dr. Balcomb:** As we know, receiving the Blessing requires that the couple set a condition to receive it. This is the purpose of the donation. The amount is not as important as the internal preparation and may be subject to the circumstance of the couple.
- Headquarters has recently made good strides in diversifying their staff. Can headquarters at least include one black person? How do you plan to implement the universality of Cheon Il Guk into the leadership of our movement as desired by our True Mother? **Dr. Balcomb:** I am very happy with the great talent we have been able to acquire and develop at headquarters and I do think that diversity of the staff has contributed to this. I would not go so far, however, as mandating that quota and do not think that would do us good. In finding new leaders, True Mother is asking that we bring people with vision for how to implement our teachings. For this reason, we ask prospective leaders the questions "What inspires you?" and "Why did you join?"
- What recognition is to be given the 1975 missionaries from Japan, USA, and Germany? For example, do they receive an honorary degree? **Dr. Balcomb:** Early on, True Mother's awards were only given to the few missionaries that did 40 years in their mission. We have since found this was a mistake and now we consider how to honor each one of these missionaries. However, we do not generally give honorary degrees to these members. UTS can only give out 2 such degrees per year and this past year, for example, True Mother gave these to two people that did extraordinary humanitarian work. In my experience, degrees really are not that valuable unless you actually do the academic work to achieve it.

Old Business

E. New Directory

- The council is planning to create a new directory. This will help our community to reconnect and start talking to each other again. Mr. Nitro would take family portraits for those families that are interested for a \$40 fee. Additionally, church businesses are welcome to make some donation to advertise to our community on the back pages of the directory.
- In a survey of the audience, about 10 out of 40 were interested in buying a new physical directory. A slightly smaller number was also interested in getting family pictures taken.

New Business

Closed in Prayer by Mr. Alex Beebe at 3:00 pm