

Rhode Island Family Church welcomes young Japanese Unificationists to USA

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What does a 21st-century pilgrim look like? This summer, the Rhode Island Family Church found out when they welcomed a group of young, Japanese Unificationists into their community. These young people came to the United States as pilgrims eager to see holy sites where True Parents had spoken, worked, and lived during their time in America.

From July through October, the group trekked to various places that hold a special meaning to Unificationists. In New York City, they visited the national offices of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) USA and the Manhattan Center Studio, as well as Lincoln Center and Madison Square Garden, where True Father once drew large crowds of people eager to hear his speeches. When they were not busy touring holy sites, the group also had the chance to do some sightseeing in New York, Washington, D.C., and historic Plymouth, Massachusetts, where the original Pilgrims settled in 1620. After some busy days, they took a break from the hustle and bustle to check out a few national parks, as well as Niagara Falls and Lake Ontario.

During their three-month stay, these modern pilgrims attended the 40-year anniversary celebrations of the Washington Monument rally, a workshop in Las Vegas at the International Peace Education Center (IPEC), and the Blessed Culture and Sports Festival (BCSF) at the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS). They were grateful to meet other young Unificationists and to see for themselves some of the same places where True Parents once stood.

