

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: Song Yong cheon New Head of FFWPU Korea

Knut Holdhus
August 30, 2025



Song Yong-cheon President of the Korean branch of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), speaking August 27, 2025

Dr. Song Yong-cheon takes office as head of Family Federation's South Korean branch



On 27th August, the South Korean daily newspaper [Segye Ilbo](#) published a report under the headline: "[Song Yong-cheon \(송용천\) Inaugurated as the 21st President of the Korean Branch of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#)". Other media outlets as well covered the event.

From 2023 to 2025, Song served as International President of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (widely known as the "[Family Federation](#)"). He has now formally taken office as president of the [organization](#)'s Korean branch.

In his inaugural address, Dr. Song reflected on the difficult circumstances facing the [movement](#) and emphasized the profound weight of his new responsibilities. He remarked:

"In the midst of an unprecedented ordeal where the foundation of faith and life is shaken to its roots, I feel an infinite sense of responsibility in taking on this grave mission."



The news agency News 1 reports that he went on to say,

"At this very moment - the golden age of the [providence](#) - it is our mission to widely proclaim the stature and value of [True Mother Han](#) and to realize the vision of one family under [God](#) and a peaceful world. Let us open the way to the future together as one - with pastors nationwide, [providential](#) institutions, public officials,

and blessed families."

According to the [Segye Ilbo](#), President Song also outlined three primary directions that he intends to pursue in order to address current challenges and guide the [Family Federation](#) toward renewal and growth:

Establishing crisis response,

Healing the wounds within the community of heart,

Improving organizational culture.

Song Yong-cheon brings with him decades of experience in both domestic and international leadership. A graduate of Kookmin University, he later received an honorary doctorate in theology from the Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) in the United States. His career began as a missionary abroad, after which he went on to hold major posts as continental director of the [Family Federation](#) in Oceania, Europe (2003-2013), and Japan (2013-2018). He also previously served as chairman of the Sunhak Educational Foundation (2018-2023), where he played a significant role in advancing educational initiatives aligned with the movement's mission.

Now, stepping into his role as president of the Korean branch, Song faces the task of guiding the [Family Federation](#) through a period of testing and transition. With his experience and vision, he expressed his commitment to lead the [organization](#) into a new chapter of resilience, unity, and forward progress.



From the inauguration of Song Yong-cheon (송용천) as President of the Korean branch of the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#), August 27, 2025

The [Segye Ilbo](#) writes that the inauguration ceremony was held at the [Family Federation](#)'s headquarters auditorium in Yongsan-gu, Seoul, and gathered an audience of more than 300 people. Among the distinguished attendees were Moon Yeon-ah (문연아), Chairwoman of the Sunhak Educational Foundation; Moon Hoon-sook (문훈숙), Chairwoman of the Hyojeong Cultural Foundation; [Doo Seung-yeon](#) (두승연), Director of the World Mission Headquarters; Do Hyun-seob (도현섭), Director of the Future Leaders Training Institute; Lee Gi-seong (이기성), Director of Cheonshimwon; and Jo Manwoong (조만웅), Chairman of the Senior Pastors' Association. In addition, pastors representing [Family Federation](#) congregations from across the country participated in the event.

Text: Knut Holdhus, editor

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Inauguration Speech On Inner, Relational Renewal

- August 24, 2025
- Knut Holdhus

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South Korean media cover inauguration: In his speech, Doo Seung-yeon heralds new era for Family Federation as leadership transition marks organizational renewal

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Director-general Doo Seung-yeon with Umberto Angelucci, Vice-President of the [Family Federation in Europe and the Middle East](#), Gapyeong 24th August 2025.

On 24th August 2025, several South Korean newspapers, including the [Segye Ilbo](#), [Seoul Economic Daily](#), [Pinpoint News](#), [News Works](#), [Bridge Economy](#), reported on a significant development within the [Family Federation for World Peace and Unification](#) (commonly known as the [Family Federation](#)), marking both organizational renewal and a fresh commitment to global peacebuilding.

At a grand inauguration ceremony held at the *HJ Cheonju Cheonbo Training Center* in Gapyeong, Gyeonggi Province, Doo Seung-yeon (두승연) was formally appointed as Director-General of the *World Mission Headquarters*. The event gathered over 3,000 participants, including leaders from Korea and abroad, underscoring the weight of the appointment and the importance of this moment in the [Federation's](#) continuing history.

Doo's inaugural address set a clear and inspiring tone for his tenure. Unlike a simple call for expansion, his message emphasized internal development, moral transformation, and a qualitative deepening of the community's life and mission. By framing himself as a "bridge of harmony and love", Doo articulated **a vision not only for organizational leadership** but for a wider role in healing divisions and fostering peace across cultures and nations.

His focus on "[true love](#)" and "true families" as foundational values reflects the [Family Federation's](#) long-standing spiritual philosophy, while also directing members' attention to the practical task of embodying these ideals within their communities. In doing so, he conveyed that **global peace begins with personal and communal renewal**, and that the [Federation's](#) example can ripple outward into broader society.

According to the [Segye Ilbo](#), Doo stated,

"We must move from the external growth of the past toward internal development, which signifies qualitative transformation. In this new era, I will faithfully serve as a 'bridge' of harmony and love, bringing peace to the world."

세계일보

The logo of the Segye Ilbo

In Doo's speech, two particular words stand out as indicators of the kind of qualitative change he envisions – "peace" and "harmony." Notably, he did not use the common Korean term for peace, *pyeonghwa*. Instead, he chose *hwapyeong*, a word that conveys a deeper, more spiritual and religious sense of peace. Similarly, for "harmony," he avoided the usual term *hwahap* and instead used *hwamok*, which emphasizes harmony within relationships, especially the unity found in families. He added,

"We will restore faith and love for one another, experience the values of [true love](#) and true families within our own community first, and through that, create a shared vision that can be demonstrated to society."

Doo Seung-yeon's emphasis on *hwapyeong* (spiritual peace) and *hwamok* (relational harmony) may be understood as directly resonating with [Hak Ja Han's](#) call for the world to embrace [God's motherly aspects](#). By highlighting peace that is inward and transformative, and harmony



Calling for the world to embrace [God's motherly aspects](#): [Hak Ja Han](#), Holy Mother Han, here in Munich, Germany 19th May 2024. Screenshot from *HJ Global News* 25th May 2024 / [FFWPU](#)

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rooted in family and community relationships, Doo's language reflects **a nurturing, reconciliatory vision of leadership**.

This aligns with **Hak Ja Han's** teaching that lasting peace emerges not merely from external agreements or structures, but from embodying **God's maternal qualities** of care, love, and healing within human relationships. In this sense, Doo's speech may be seen as an extension of her **providential** guidance, situating his leadership within the broader vision of building a world of harmony through the motherly heart of **God**.

The ceremony itself highlighted the international scope and cooperative spirit of the **Family Federation**. Leaders from Asia, North America, and Japan expressed congratulations and unity, recognizing the need for shared direction under Doo's leadership.



Masaichi Hori at the inauguration in Gyeongju 24th Aug. 2025. Photo: **FFWPU**

Chairman Masaichi Hori of the Asia-Pacific region praised Doo's integrity and character, qualities that will be indispensable in guiding the **organization** through a pivotal period of change. The inclusion of symbolic acts – prayers, bouquet presentations, benedictions, and traditional cheers – underscored both the celebratory and spiritual significance of the occasion. This blend of ritual, fellowship, and mission-setting reaffirmed the **Family Federation's** commitment to building not just an institution, but a movement grounded in shared values and transcendent purpose.

Equally important was the broader restructuring announced alongside Doo's appointment. The **Segye Ilbo** writes,

"In addition to the World Mission Headquarters, the **Family Federation** also restructured its organizational system for the victory of 'Vision 2027', appointing Kim Eun-sang (김은상) as Director of the Central Administration and Do Hyeon-seop (도현섭) as Director of the Future Talent Training Center."



Dr. Do Hyeon-seop, newly appointed Director of the Future Talent Training Center, former president of Sunhak UP Graduate University, Asan, South Korea. Photo: Sunhak University.

This reflects a forward-looking strategy that balances governance, community building, and the cultivation of new generations of leaders. By investing in administrative efficiency and future leadership, the Federation is laying the groundwork for sustainable growth and continued relevance in an increasingly interconnected yet divided world.

Doo Seung-yeon's background – spanning theology, administration, and international mission work – equips him uniquely for this role. His experience in North America and his prior leadership positions within the **Family Federation** suggest a global perspective enriched by diverse contexts. This aligns with the **Federation's** aspiration to be more than a Korean-based religious organization: it envisions itself as a global peace movement, capable of building bridges across national, cultural, and religious boundaries.

In sum, the inauguration of Doo Seung-yeon as Director-General represents not just a personnel change, but a symbolic step into a new chapter for the **Family Federation**. By emphasizing inner renewal, true love, and harmony, Doo has set a direction that resonates with both the **Federation's** founding ideals and the pressing global need for peace. The restructuring toward Vision 2027 demonstrates a serious commitment to long-term goals, ensuring that this movement remains vibrant, united, and impactful. For members and observers alike, this moment signals hope that faith, love, and leadership can indeed serve as bridges to a more peaceful world.

See also **Streams in the Desert: Dawn of a New History**

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Text: Knut Holdhus, editor, written based on English translation of South Korean media reports.

Featured image above: Doo Seung-yeon (두승연) speaking in Gyeongju, South Korea 24th August 2025. Photo: **FFWPU**

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