

No. 0913
North American Pacific/Asian Disciples (NAPAD)

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NAPAD Ministries Team:

Geunhee Yu, Executive Pastor

Jeannie Lee, Administrative Assistant

General Ministry:

Kim Tran (part time & deployed) – Director of Vietnamese Ministry.

Lian Jiang (part time & deployed) – Director of Chinese Ministry.

Jinsuk Chun (part time & deployed) – Director of NAPAD Ministry, Pacific Southwest Region.

Daniel K. Lee (part time & deployed) – Coordinator of NAPAD Ministry,
Northern California-Nevada Region.

John D. Roh (part time & deployed) – Consultant for Korean Ministry, Church Extension.

Educational Ministry:

Timothy S. Lee. Professor and Director of Asian/Korean Church Studies Program, Brite Divinity School, Fort Worth, TX

Young Sook Kim. Director of Korean Church Studies, Disciples Seminary Foundation, Claremont, CA.

Mission Statement of NAPAD.

The North American Pacific/Asian Disciples of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) affirms the cultures and heritages of Pacific/Asian peoples within the historic and living Christian faith. As part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we join with other Disciples in the total mission of the church, to recognize and promote the gifts and presence of North American Pacific/Asian Disciples in the life and work of the Church.

Purpose of NAPAD:

1. To participate in God's mission through the various manifestations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.
2. To enhance the unity of NAPAD within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.
3. To act as a liaison, on behalf of all North American Pacific/Asian Disciples, to the related groups within and beyond the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.
4. To share with the larger Church the cultures and gifts of North American Pacific/Asian Disciples.

The NAPAD ministry has been thriving, during the year 2008, on the frontline of accomplishment of the four mission priorities of the Church: Becoming a Pro-Reconciling and Anti-Racist Church; New Church Establishment; Congregational Transformation; Leadership Development.

I. Becoming a Pro-Reconciling and Anti-Racist Church.

North American Pacific/Asian Disciples is composed of vastly diverse people both in language and culture. Within NAPAD, there are thirteen significantly different language groups. Nevertheless, we all come together to become one true community of faith. The very presence of NAPAD is a catalyst to become a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church.

1. The Executive Pastor for NAPAD has been engaged in variety of initiatives of the church in regard to anti-racism and pro-reconciliation. Especially, he serves on the Reconciliation Ministry Commission and on Anti-Racism Committee of Disciples Home Missions.

2. In partnership with Council on Christian Unity (Robert Welsh, President) and National Convocation Timothy James, Administrative Secretary) and Hispanic Ministries (Huberto Pimentel, National Pastor), NAPAD has sponsored and participated in a Consultation on Becoming a Multicultural and Inclusive Church at Fatima Retreat Center in Indianapolis, March 27-29, 2008. The report of the consultation is published in Call to Unity, 9.9. 2008.
3. The 15th biennial Convocation of NAPAD was held at Stony Points Conference Center, NY on August 6 - 9, 2008. Theme: "Bear Fruit" (Mat.7:20). One hundred forty two persons participated. Some highlights of the Convocation are:
 - a. Pre-convocation event was held for youth leadership development, Aug. 4-6. Twenty six youth leaders participated in the training event.
 - b. Under the theme (Bear Fruit), three keynoters spoke: In personal perspectives – Rita N. Brock (Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, CA); In community perspectives – Chung Hyung Kyung (Union Theological Seminary, NY); In environmental and global perspectives – Cassandra Carmichael (National Council of Churches – Eco-justice).
 - c. New Officers elected to the Executive Council: Lian Jiang – Moderator; Timothy Lee – Moderator–elect.
 - d. The proposal of Mission Alignment Coordinating Council (MACC) was dealt and affirmed at the business sessions (Sharon Watkins, GMP, presented).
4. David Kagiwada Memorial Sunday (September 14) and NAPAD Ministry Week (September 15-20) – coordinated to observe by providing resource materials.

II. New Church Establishment.

1. The goal of NAPAD ministries is to have 250 healthy congregations by the year 2020. In partnership with New Church Ministry of Church Extension and Regions, we have established six new congregations and eight missions as follows.
 - a. Under the excellent leadership of our ministry team, specifically of Lian Jiang, Kim Tran, Jinsuk Chun, John D. Roh and Daniel Lee, the following new congregations were established: Saegil Christian Church, Pasadena, CA; Sinapi Seed Christian Church, Palo Alto, CA; Chin Christian Church, Syracuse, NY; Lord's Church of Torrance, CA; Grace Chapel, Pasadena, CA; Good Shepherd Christian Church, Los Angeles, CA.
 - b. Eight missions (Bible study groups) were formed toward new church start: Three Korean groups in Los Angeles; two Samoan groups – one in Orange, CA & another in Las Vegas; two Korean groups in Chicago, and a Korean group in Flushing, NY.
2. Recruit and development of new church planters: Five Asian ministers have served as coaches of new church planters in partnership with New Church Ministry – John D. Roh, Lian Jiang, Kim Tran, Jongkook Hong, and Jinsuk Chun. Nine ministers of NAPAD are ready to go for new church start.

III. Congregational Transformation and Pastoral Care.

1. Pastoral care of NAPAD ministers and congregations.
For the purpose of pastoral care and nurture, the Executive Pastor made sixty-two visits with ministers and twenty-one visits with congregations, plus 654 contacts made by the means of technology.
2. Korean Disciples Convocation (KDC) held its 9th annual conference and retreat on January 21– 24, 2008 at Sequoia National Park, Three Rivers, CA. Theme: Christian Ministry in Modern Culture. Sixty-nine ministers participated. Lectures and workshops were offers on congregational growth and transformation.

IV. Leadership Development

1. Two Asian ministers were ordained: Paul S. Tche, Newport Beach, CA; Yizong Xie, Fort Worth, TX.
2. Korean-speaking ministers were trained on Disciples History and Polity and Sacraments, July 28-Aug. 2. Under auspices of Disciples Seminary Foundation and Pacific Southwest Region, the course of study was conducted and nine Korean ministers completed. They are transfers from other communions of faith.
3. Seven pastors established their ministerial standing in Disciples of Christ by transferring of their credentials from other denominations.

4. New ministerial staff: In partnership with NAPAD ministries, the Northern California-Nevada Region has hired Daniel Kyungmin Lee as Coordinator of NAPAD ministry, effective October 1, 2008.
5. Two consultation conferences on pastoral leadership development for Korean Disciples churches were held: one in conjunction with annual conference of Asian/Korean Church Studies of Brite Divinity School, March 17-19. twelve ministers attended; another one in Chicago, April 28-30. Twenty-four pastoral leaders participated. Out of these two conferences, an urgent recommendation has emerged for establishment of a Korean seminary in Southern California. It is further recommended to have a branch of a Disciples-related seminary (preferably Brite Divinity School) at Disciples Seminary Foundation in Claremont, CA.
6. NAPAD ministries has had an on-going dialogue with Brite Divinity School and Disciples Seminary Foundation for establishment of a seminary for Korean Disciples churches in Southern California. Funding for the program is the issue.

V. Concerns

1. Pastoral leadership development.
Due to significant differences in language and culture, leadership development for pastoral ministry in English speaking seminaries is problematic. It is urgent to establish a seminary that will concentrate on pastoral leadership development for Korean Disciples churches. The demand for pastoral leadership is great, but the supply is meager.
2. Funding and support for new church establishment.
The demand and need for new church start in Pacific/Asian communities is very high, but support and funding is scanty. Resources, human and material, for new church ministry are to be secured.
3. Facility for ministry.
Most (85%) of NAPAD churches are without their own physical facility for ministry. They are “nested” in someone else’s buildings. It imposes enormous hindrances on their effort to grow and establish in ministry.

(Note: Financial statement/audit is included in the report of Disciples Home Missions)

The General Board reviewed report No. 0913
of the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples (NAPAD).
The report is submitted to the General Assembly for consideration and discussion.
No action is required. (Discussion time is 12 minutes)
