

**NORTH AMERICAN PACIFIC/ASIAN DISCIPLES (NAPAD)**

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**NAPAD Ministry Team:**

*Geunhee Yu, Executive Pastor*  
*Cynthia Kim, Moderator, NAPAD*  
*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.  
*John D. Roh* (part time & deployed), Consultant for Korean Ministry, Church Extension.

**Educational Ministry:**

*Timothy Lee, Professor & Director of Asian Church Studies Program, Brite Divinity School.*  
*Young Sook Kim, Director of Korean Church Studies, Disciples Seminary Foundation.*

North American Pacific/Asian Disciples (NAPAD) is proud to be an integral part and a fast growing edge of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and remains faithful to the upward call to the ministry of Jesus Christ for the descendants of Asian and Pacific Islanders. The NAPAD ministry has been thriving in serving on the frontline of accomplishment of the *2020 Vision* of the church: *To be a faithful, growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep spirituality and a passion for justice.* This report includes major accomplishments of NAPAD ministries during the year 2007 relating to promotion and implementation of the four priorities of the church's vision: *Becoming a pro-reconciling and anti-racist church; New church establishment; Congregational transformation; Leader development.*

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

North American Pacific/Asian Disciples is composed of vastly diverse people both in culture and language. Within NAPAD, there are twelve significantly different language groups. Nevertheless, we all come together to become one true community of many different people in Christ, which is truly a Disciples ethos: Unity in diversity. The presence of NAPAD is a catalyst to be a pre-reconciling and anti-racist church.

1. The Executive Pastor is on the Reconciliation Commission and Sandhya Jha who serves on the Executive Council of NAPAD is Co-Moderator of the Commission.
2. Unity Prayer Breakfast was held at General Assembly (July 25). It was sponsored in partnership with National Convocation and Hispanic Ministries: 122 attended.
3. NAPAD Dinner was held at General Assembly (July 24): 135 participated (Keynoter: *Newell Williams*, President of Brite Divinity School).
4. In partnership with the Council on Christian Unity (Robert Welsh, President), NAPAD has been working for a Consultation on Being a Multicultural and Inclusive Church (scheduled on March 27-29, 2008).
5. David Kagiwada Memorial Sunday (September 9) and NAPAD Ministry Week (September 10-15) – coordinated to observe them by providing resource materials.

6. A special donation was made to National Convocation and Hispanic Ministries (\$650.00 each, toward scholarship funds) in the spirit of mutual support of racial ethnic ministry. (The money was a tithe from the special income at the 2006 Convocation of NAPAD).
7. Pastoral Letter was issued to all Disciples churches in order to diminish the racial tension, for the massacre at Virginia Tech University by a Korean-American student.

## **II. On New Church Establishment.**

1. A goal for new church establishment of NAPAD ministries is to have 250 healthy congregations by the year 2020. It means that we will have a new church start in a given month. We were successful in exceeding our goal in 2007 in partnership with New Church Ministry of Church Extension and regional new church committees.
  - a. Under the excellent and untiring leadership of our “ministry team” (refer to the team on top of this report), nine new churches started:  
*New Dream Disciples* (Fullerton, CA), *New Spring Christian* (San Jose, CA), *Walking Faith Korean-American* (Palo Alto, CA), *House of Prayer Christian* (Campbell, CA), *Glory Korean Disciples* (Honolulu, HI), *Filipino Christian* (Raleigh, NC), *Silver Lakes Korean Christian* (Helendale, CA), *World Way Christian* (Los Angeles, CA), *Jesus Village Christian* (Las Vegas, NV).
  - b. Six missions (Bible study groups) established toward new church start:  
*A Filipino* group in Chicago, IL; *A multi-cultural* group in Pasadena, CA; *A Vietnamese* group in Houston, TX; *A Korean* group in Chicago, IL; *A Samoan* group in Orange, CA; *a Korean* group in Vancouver, Canada.
2. New church planters recruit and development: five Asian ministers have served as coaches of new church planters in partnership with New Church Ministry: John Roh, Kim Tran, Lian Jiang, Jaikwan Ahn and Jong Kook Hong.

## **III. On Congregational Transformation and Pastoral Care.**

1. Korean Disciples Convocation (KDC) held its 8<sup>th</sup> annual conference and retreat of Korean Disciples ministers (and spouses) on January 22-25, 2007 at Sedona, Arizona. Fifty-six ministers participated under the theme of “*The Race set before us*” (Hebrew 12:1-2). Lectures and workshops were held on congregational transformation and growth.
2. NAPAD Executive Council (Cynthia Kim, Moderator) met in Flushing, NY (October 25-27). It was basically for preparation of the next Convocation on August 6-9, 2008 at Stony Point Conference Center, NY. Theme: “*Bear Fruit*” (Matthew 7:20).  
 Two ad hoc committees appointed:
  - a. Task Force for Revision of NAPAD Constitution and Bylaws.
  - b. Task Force for Restructure and Relocation of the office of NAPAD ministries.
3. Pastoral care of NAPAD ministers and congregations. For the purpose of pastoral care and nurture of ministers (clergy and lay) and congregations, the Executive Pastor made ninety-six visits in person (with counseling, sermon, lecture & other care) and 720 contacts through other means of communication.
4. NAPAD Day in Northern California. On November 17, all five (plus two in formation) NAPAD churches in Northern California–Nevada Region (Ben Bohren, Regional Minister) gathered in celebration of Asian heritage and spirituality. Lectures on the history of NAPAD in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and ministry of the Church Extension –New Church Ministry, given by Geunhee Yu and John Roh. Enjoyed in worship and lecture and fellowship with Asian delicacies.

## **IV. On Leader Development.**

1. Five Asian ministers were ordained: *Paul G. Hwang* (Orange, CA. July 1), *April Lewton* (Yakima, WA. July 7), *Daniel K. Lee* (San Jose, CA. July 8), *Vy Nguyen* (Dallas, TX. July 22), *David H. Kim* (Fullerton, CA. July 26).
2. Korean ministers training on Disciples History and Polity and Sacraments held on August 13-18, 2007 at Christian Theological Seminary, Indianapolis. Lecturers: Timothy Lee and Geunhee Yu. Seventeen Korean speaking ministers attended and acquired certificates of completion of the courses of study. (They came to Disciples from other faith communions with their ministerial credentials). The training was sponsored and funded by *Disciples Home Missions* and the *Oreon Scott Foundation*.
3. Asian Church Studies Program at Brite Divinity School of Texas Christian University. On April 10, 2007 Brite Divinity School held a series of inaugural activities to celebrate the installment of Timothy S. Lee as Assistant Professor of the History of Christianity and to launch an Asian (Korean) Church Studies Program. The service was led by the Brite faculty and NAPAD leaders and other guests. The Studies Program was originated at Brite for development of Korean pastoral leadership by four bodies of ministry in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ): *General Board*, *Higher Education and Leadership Ministry*, *Disciples Seminary Foundation*, and *NAPAD (DHM)*.
4. *My Ministerial Code of Ethics* for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was translated into Korean language (by John Roh), and distributed to Korean ministers at their annual retreat.

#### **V. Challenges and Concerns.**

1. *Leader Development.* Due to significant differences in language and culture, recruiting and enrolling of NAPAD students at Disciples affiliated seminaries are very difficult. Requirement of fluency in English language, i.e. TOEFL (Test of English as Foreign language), hinders the foreign-born students from getting theological education at (ATS accredited) Disciples seminaries.
2. *Facilities for ministry.* Nearly 85% of NAPAD congregations practice their ministries in someone else's facilities. It imposes enormous hindrances on their effort to grow and establish in ministry.
3. *Ministerial standing.* There are about 12 ministers (Asian and Pacific Islanders) that wish to join the Disciples Church each year with their ministerial credentials from other denominations. Due to lack of unified requirements and procedures of transferring and establishing ministerial standing across all regions, it is cumbersome that is often interpreted as unwelcome of new comers, specifically with foreign languages.

(Note: *Financial statement is included in DHM's report*)