GA-2314

2022 General Board Report

NORTH AMERICAN PACIFIC/ASIAN DISCIPLES MINISTRIES
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NAPAD Board of Directors

Yunkyoung Lee Hill (Moderator),
Neomai Uesi (Moderator-Elect),
Miseon Choi (Secretary),
John Ahn (Representative to the General Board)

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Jeffrey Illagan
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KJ Kim
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Representative
Pending (College of Regional Ministers Representative)
Angele Saunders Johnson (Council of General Ministries Representative)

Ex-Officios
Teresa Hord Owens (General Minister & President)
Chung Seong Kim (Executive Pastor).

NAPAD Ministry Team

National Ministry
Chung Seong Kim, Executive Pastor

Ethnic Ministry
Lian Jiang – Chinese Ministry
Saitumua Tafaoialii – Samoan Ministry
Nerleb Likisap – Chuukese Ministry
Regional Ministry
Kyungmok Lee – NAPAD Ministry Team, Pacific Southwest Region.
Daniel Lee – NAPAD Ministry Team, N. California-Nevada Region.
Hyoung Chel Yang – NAPAD Ministry Team, Illinois Wisconsin Region.

Mission 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

To participate in God’s mission through the various expressions of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.
To contribute to the wholeness and unity of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.
To advocate for Pacific/Asian Disciples within and outside the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.
To share the gifts and traditions of Pacific/Asian Disciples with the wider church.

NAPAD ministry continued to thrive in accordance with the Disciples identity in becoming “a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world”. NAPAD is faithfully on the frontline of accomplishing the four mission priorities of the Church: Becoming a Pro-Reconciling and Anti-Racist Church; New Church Establishment; Congregational Transformation; and Leadership Development.

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

There are about 121 churches (19 among them are new churches or newly joined less than four years) in 2022 which consist mostly of 18 different ethnic and linguistic groups: Burmese, Cambodian, Chin, Chinese, Chuukese, Filipino, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Karen, Korean, Laotian, Mongolian, Montagnard, Samoan, Tongan, Vietnamese, and Zo. We gather to form one community – the NAPAD community. NAPAD contributes to the Disciples being “a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.”

We have offered culturally adapted anti-racist training (in Korean) in Pacific Southwest Region in consultation with the Reconciliation Ministry. Several ethnic group leaders are being trained to offer language and culture adapted training in several languages. We are working with Reconciliation Ministry to develop new
way of educating public in NAPAD. We are continuously seeking to educate new leaders who can have anti-racism training in each ethnic language. Our new focus has been on Chuukese and Samoan community since 2020. Since the Covid 19 pandemic, there has been a significant increase in physical and verbal threats and violence against the Asian community. We have been working closely with other ministries and our ecumenical partners to speak out against this racism and provide our communities with the tools to resist it. We are working with Reconciliation Ministry to award grants to support programs and education for anti-racism in the NAPAD community.

II. New Church Establishment

NAPAD ministries have been working diligently to plant new churches. In partnership with the New Church Ministry and Regional Committees of New Church Development, we have initiated and established 19 new NAPAD congregations since the last convocation in 2020.

Training of new church planters is an ongoing process that requires the collaboration of congregational, regional, and general ministries. Our ethnic leaders have been participating in leadership academy hosted by the New Church Ministry. NAPAD has been working with Chuukese Church leaders to plant new congregations. Especially, with great leadership of Rev. Nerleb Likisap, the Chuukese community has been the fastest growing group in NAPAD. With help of the Oreon Scott grant and the generous support of Oregon Southwest Idaho region, we were able to support the Chuukese Easter and Youth Rally which had the first face-to-face meeting in two years. We are diligently working to develop new church leadership and seek to educate them, which includes the translation of educational materials into the Chuukese language. NAPAD is in process of establishing new Disciples Congregations in Tucson, AZ, Louisville, KY, El Paso, TX, Atlanta, GA, and Tulsa, OK, Virginia Beach, VA.

III. Congregational Transformation and Pastoral Care

In December 2014, in honor of the late Rev. Harold Johnson, who was pivotal to the establishment and development of the ministries of NAPAD, the Harold Johnson Legacy Fund was established.
This fund serves to support the NAPAD congregation as they develop and strengthen their children, youth, and women ministries. First Tongan Christian Church, WOW ministry, Fort Wayne Jo Christian Church and Chuukese new church ministry has been beneficiary of these grants in recent years. NAPAD keep supporting several congregations in their efforts to revitalize their ministries through diverse outreach programs.

IV. Leadership Development

NAPAD supported seminarians by providing funds for their study in seminaries and internships in congregational and general ministries. This was done with the hopes that they will apply themselves in developing their ministerial skills and leadership capabilities.

NAPAD has two scholarships, Kagiwada scholarship was awarded to Geonyul Byeon in (CST) Soonguk Choi Scholarship to Taulau Tupua (CST) in the 2020-2021 School year.

V. Establishing Sound Financial Foundation and Management for the Future.

The NAPAD office has been working closely with the Board of Directors to establish a sound financial foundation and management policy for the future of our ministry. The financial condition of the ministry has been greatly improved in terms of careful planning and transparent administration practice. We have been setting up a balanced budget for the last 7 years and achieved no deficit financial results every year since 2017. For last two years, we were able to reduce our expenses mainly by saving from face-to-face meetings and travel expenses. But also increasing individual contribution to the ministry. We were able to increase our NAPAD Vision Fund, which was established in 2019. By 50.000 To 150.000. I encourage you to visit our website and use the online donation link for the Napad. A summary of financial report is available on our website. We plan to continuously improve our financial condition through sound management and development effort.

VI. Cancelling The 2020 Experience “It’s Real”.

The ministries of National Convocation, Obra Hispana, and NAPAD have prayerfully decided to cancel “It’s Real: The 2022 Experience.”
We continue to be encouraged and challenged by Revelation 7:9 and look forward to continuing to work together to safely listen, learn, and worship together online in the future. The good work that the holy spirit began among and between us will take a different form. Stay tuned for the vision that is yet to emerge.

VII. Covid 19 related

The last several years are marked by an unprecedented event of the Covid-19 pandemic. There have been great challenges for our congregations and their members. We lost some of our members to the covid. From the early 2000 to the end of 2021, the NAPAD ministry has been focusing on supporting congregations and individuals who are affected by Covid-19. These experiences fundamentally changed how we do our ministry and what is our priority. Especially for the small congregations who do not have enough resources to cope with new difficulties. We are working closely with other general ministries, such as NBA Week of compassion and Church Extension to support our congregations and church members in this emergency. We are slowly out of Covid 19 but the condition and landscape of our ministry are fundamentally changed. But we also see this new environment is challenging us to focus on the crucial part of the NAPAD ministry.

VIII. For the future.

I am pleased to report that the NAPAD ministry is strong even in these difficult conditions. New challenges which we are confronting now, not only include finding new financial resources in decreasing DMF funding. But more importantly, finding and developing, and supporting new leadership in this ever-changing ministry environment is a more urgent task. We are planning a youth and young adult ministry leader retreats in near future.

Many young leaders in the NAPAD community are recognized throughout wider churches and play important roles. We are fulfilling our promise to share the gifts and traditions of Pacific/Asian Disciples with the wider church.”

I want to express my deep gratitude to God and our beloved community. The NAPAD community is growing as one of the most vital parts of the Disciples. Your support and prayers help us to work for our mission faithfully. We are a community of faith with Evangelical Passion, Radical Inclusiveness, and Responsibility to the World.

The General Board receives this report and forwards it to the 2023 General Assembly for consideration and discussion.