North American Pacific/Asian Disciples Ministries 2012

Reported by Jinsuk Chun, Executive Pastor
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NAPAD Board of Directors
Janet Casey-Allen (Moderator), John D. Roh (Moderator-elect), Deanna Scobie (Secretary/Treasurer), Timothy S. Lee (Immediate Past Moderator), JoAnne Kagiwada (Member at large), Paulo Lealaitafea (Member at large), Gideon Yu (Member at large), Einstein Cabalteja (Member at large), Jungyeol Oh (Member at large), Ron Degges (CGM Representative), Susan Gonzales Dewey (CRM Representative), Mayon Marcelino (Representative to General Board), Sharon Watkins (General Minister & President), Jinsuk Chun (Executive Pastor)

NAPAD Ministry Team

National Ministry
Jinsuk Chun, Executive Pastor
Jeannie Lee, Ministerial Associate

Ethnic Ministry
Lian Jiang (deployed) – Chinese Minister
Saitumua Tafaoialii (deployed) – Samoan Minister
Lianchinkhup Taithul (deployed) – Zo Minister

Women Ministry
Soo Yun (deployed) – Women Minister

Youth & Young Adults Ministry
Mayon Marcelino (deployed) – Youth Minister
Cisa Payuyo (deployed) – Youth Adult Minister

Regional Ministry
Younglan Kim (deployed) – NAPAD Representative of Regional Ministry Team of Pacific Southwest Region
Youngjun Yang (deployed) - NAPAD Representative of Regional Ministry Team of Pacific Southwest
Daniel Lee (deployed) – Regional NAPAD Minister, Northern California-Nevada 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

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

The NAPAD ministry in the year 2012 has continued to thrive in accordance with the Disciples identity, “…a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world…” The ministry of NAPAD is faithfully 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

There were only eight NAPAD churches in 1992, but after 20 years of indefatigable work, there are about 100 churches in 2012 which consist mostly 16 different ethnic and linguistic groups: Burmese, Cambodian, Chin, Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Indonesian, Japanese, Karen, Korean, Laotian, Mongolian, Montagnard, Samoan, Vietnamese, Zo. We all come together to become one true community of faith. NAPAD contributes to the Disciples being “a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.” Our 2020 vision is to have 200 pro-reconciling and anti-racist NAPAD congregations. NAPAD is a mission community with evangelical passion, radical inclusiveness, and responsibility to the world.

1. The 17th Biennial NAPAD Convocation

There was the 17th Biennial NAPAD Convocation whose theme was “We are the People of Covenant!” (Isaiah 54:10) at Chapman University in Orange, California from August 1 to 4. We had 226 Registrants: Adults (112) & Youth & Young Adults (114). New Board of Directors was confirmed and elected: Janet Casey-Allen (Moderator), John D. Roh (Moderator Elect), Mayon Marcelino
(Representative to General Board), Ron Degges (Representative from General Ministries), Deanna Scobbie, Jungyeol Oh (Members at Large). The Convocation elected Rev. Jinsuk Chun as new Executive Pastor. The Geunhee Yu Covenant Fund was made to appreciate Dr. Yu’s Disciples ministries and to support new churches and transforming churches. We have graceful and insightful worships, keynote, workshop, and cultural night!

2. The retirement of Dr. Rev. Geunhee Yu from the position of the Executive Pastor of NAPAD

Dr. Rev. Geunhee Yu retired from the position of Executive Pastor of NAPAD on November 21, 2011. Dr. Yu has founded the basic ministries and organizations within NAPAD to promote the movement of Anti-racism and Pro-reconciliation. There was a ceremony to celebrate his 20 years of ministries for NAPAD and the whole church at the 17th biennial NAPAD Convocation, Chapman University, Orange CA from August 1-4, 2012. Almost 200 NAPAD friends attended and shared their memories with him and gratitude to him.

3. The election of Rev. Jinsuk Chun as the new Executive Pastor

The Search Committee for Executive Pastor appointed on November 22, 2011 by NAPAD Board of Directors announced the schedule and process to find and nominate the Executive Pastor. After having interviews with three final candidates on August, 2011, they decided on Rev. Jinsuk Chun, co-pastor of Sallims Christian Church, Newport Beach, CA and the Director of NAPAD ministry of Pacific Southwest Region as nominee for the Executive Pastor of NAPAD. On September 17, 2011, the Board of Directors unanimously confirmed Rev. Chun as the nominee for the post of the Executive Pastor of the North American Pacific/Asian Disciples. The 17th biennial NAPAD Convocation elected him as the new Executive Pastor. Rev. Chun will serve a renewable six-year term, and provide pastoral leadership for the growing NAPAD community as well as provide leadership for the whole church as the representative of a general ministry, which the Office of the NAPAD Executive Pastor has become as of January 1, 2010. Rev. Chun pledges and promises to sincerely follow and develop the NAPAD policies for Pro-reconciliation and Anti-racism. He publishes his own vision statement on NAPAD with “Transforming Community with evangelical passion, radical inclusiveness, and the responsibility to the world.”

4. The 3rd NAPAD Youth Winter Retreat

Through the enormous support by Reconciliation Ministry of Christian Church, Pacific Southwest Region, and local NAPAD congregations, NAPAD had the third NAPAD Youth Retreat for training their leadership. The subject of the 2012 retreat was “The two greatest commandments: Loving God and your neighbor as yourself ” (Matthew 22:36-40). The retreat was held at Loch Leven Christian
II. New Church Establishment

1. Goal of NAPAD ministries is to have 200 healthy congregations by the year 2020. In partnership with New Church Ministry of Church Extension and Regional Committees of New Church Development, we have initiated and/or established new NAPAD congregations.

2. Under the excellent leadership of our ministry team, especially of Lian Jiang, Kim Tran, Daniel Lee, and Saitumua Tafaialli, Liantaithul, Younglan Kim, and Youngjun Yang, 11 new congregations and a dozen missions (Bible study groups for new church start), and in addition, 20 new ministers have been embraced by ordination or transferred from other faith communions.

3. We want to celebrate the first Zo congregation in North Carolina Region. We are also pleased that Korean and Samoan congregations have been affiliated in California area. Zo communities are continually growing due to the personal commitment of Rev. Lianchinkhup Taithul, Senior Pastor of First Zo Christian Church of Atlanta, Georgia. NAPAD called him as NAPAD Minister for Zo Ministry. Four new Korean congregations are still being affiliated with Disciples. We will soon celebrate the first NAPAD church planting in the area of Arizona thanks to the multi-ethnic ministries of Foothill Christian Church of Phoenix.

4. Recruit and training of new church planters: Twelve church planters participated in “Leadership Academy” training program. We could recruit three new church planters through the meeting with Korean pastors in the areas of Los Angeles and New York. Five pastoral leaders of NAPAD are ready to go start a new church.

III Congregational Transformation and Pastoral Care

1. For the purpose of pastoral care and nurture, the Executive Pastor with the Ministry Team made about a hundred visits with ministers and seventy visits with congregations, plus about 700 contacts made by means of emails and telephone.

2. Korean Disciples Convocation (KDC) held its 14th annual conference and retreat on January 18-21 at the First Christian Church of Las Vegas, NV. Forty five pastors and lay leaders participated in this special event. They had seminars and conferences on personal faith and church spirituality.
They also selected Rev. Jongkook Hong, senior pastor of Mannam Christian Church, Seattle as the new president of the Convocation.

3. NAPAD coordinated and sponsored regional gatherings of NAPAD ministers and lay leaders on congregational transformation and growth.

4. NAPAD sponsored Fellowship of Korean Disciples Ministers of Mid-America (Dongchoon Lee, Moderator) to hold their quarterly gatherings in Chicago. Participants were pastoral leaders of Korean Disciples churches in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Missouri, and Minnesota. Workshops on church growth and transformation were offered.

5. Ghent Christian Church, Ohio continued to develop the united congregation of Anglo and Korean Disciples through multi-racial and cultural ministries.

IV Leadership Development

1. Young Adults Winter Retreat

1) The very first NAPAD Young Adult Retreat was held from January 18th – 20th, 2013 at the Mission Center of South Bay Korean Christian Church Mission in Lucerne Valley, California. The retreat’s theme was “NAPAD Young Adult Identity among Disciples of Christ,” and Cisa Payuyo (Associate Director of Church Relations at Chapman University) was the speaker. Participants traveled from as far as Vancouver, British Columbia and Charlotte, North Carolina, as close as Glendale, Los Angeles, and Torrance, California.

2) The Justice Primer was used as the text for Bible study. The participants also experienced a small portion of the Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism workshop that has been offered at the Pacific Southwest Regional Assembly. They closely reviewed the facts stated on the Disciples History Timeline, pointed out events that affect the church, and shared with each other where their family or church fit into the timeline. The information shared gave the participants a clearer understanding of Disciples’ deep passion for justice and why it was important for them to carry the work forward. Rev. Chun spoke to the young adults shared with them his exciting and radical vision for NAPAD. He asked us to have evangelical passion, radical inclusiveness and responsibility to the world.

2. New ministers

We had 20 new ministers in 2012. All of them received training to be

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1 The report of NAPAD Young Adults Winter Retreat in January 2013 is included in this report of NAPAD Ministries 2012, because the event was postponed from December 2012 and was sponsored by 2012 NAPAD budget.
Presbyterian, Methodist or Baptist ministers, but we have embraced and helped them to be “transformed” into our fold. We prepare for two courses of study on Disciples History, Polity and Sacraments for Korean speaking ministers and Zo speaking ministers at Indianapolis this year.

3. NAPAD Women Ministry
   1) Major accomplishments in 2012;
      a) Facilities the first Leadership Apprentice Program ("LAP") training for NAPAD women in January 2012 - 15 women (Chinese, Korean, Filipinos, and Mongolian) in every generation (20s to 60s) from 6 different NAPAD congregations being represented at this LAP training
         a. Girls' Generations - women in their twenties
         b. Connectors - women in their thirties and forties
         c. Golden Girls - women in their fifties and sixties
         d. The Girls' generations created a Facebook page for NAPAD women's ministry
         e. Had a great time connecting and fellowship
      b) Attended UCC sponsored Consultation on Sex Trafficking in April 2012
         a. As a Disciples of Christ ("DOC") International Disciples Women Ministry ("IDWM") Women's representative
         b. Immersion Program at Centro Romero between San Diego and Tijuana Mexico
         c. Human Trafficking is the Social Justice Action emphasis for IDWM
      c) Attended NAPAD Biennial Convocation 2012 at Chapman
         a. NAPAD Ministry Team to plan for the Convocation
         b. Hosted Sisters’ Gathering during the convocation
            i. IDWM & ODW staff and Executive Committee ("EC") members attended to introduce Disciple Women's ministry including Blessing Boxes, Just Women Magazine, Quadrennial Assembly 2014, www.discipleswomen.org page, Woman-to-Woman Worldwide experience, Leadership Apprentice Program, etc.
            ii. About 15 women besides the staff and EC members attended and shared interest in being connected with Disciples Women
      c. Preparing two workshops for IDWM team
         i. Break the Human Trafficking - a Social Justice Emphasis that the Disciples Women have been promoting and holding workshops to raise awareness
         ii. Leadership Apprentice Program for NAPAD Women - Sheila Spencer and I prepared a "mini" LAP for the
participants to raise interest for the next official LAP trainings in the near future
d) WIRED (Women's Information, Resources, Education for Discipleship) Training in August 24-26, Little Rock, Arkansas  
a. Yewha Lee & Lynette Li participated as "NAPAD" voice  
b. Very positive feedback has been received from the team for the addition of our NAPAD sisters' voices
a. IDWM in partnership with Global Ministry  
b. IDWM's study for next quarter would be China  
i. Women of China, religions in China, etc.  
1. Cities visited -> Shanghai, Nanjing, Xi'an, Zhengzhou, Zhoukou, Beijing  
ii. What we Learned -> Minnie Vautrin (Disciples woman missionary in China during WW2) has been lifted up as "Angel of Nanjing" who saved and protected 9,000 Chinese civilians including women and children but it is unknown to DOC community; this will be the new focus in our study to lift her up  
iii. Next Step -> visit churches in NAPAD community and hold presentations about WWW2012 China and discuss the ministry project once it's determined

2) Significant concerns and issues in your ministry;  
a) Too much diversity within our NAPAD community - language barriers (Korean, Chinese, Vietnamese, Mongolian, Samoan, Hmong, Tagalog, English, etc.)  
b) Lack of cooperation from pastors (despite numerous e-mail correspondences, not much cooperation from senior pastors for women's ministry issues) -> this leads to lack of participation to regional and larger church mission/events  
c) Small churches scattered all over the regions - difficult to be united around one community ' needs to be broken into at least 5-6 different regions  
d) Concept of women's ministry -> since most of NAPAD churches are small, their concept of women's ministry is simply supporting their own local churches and cannot really think about becoming a voice for NAPAD or for a general church for ministry  
f) Lack of financial resources within individual congregation ' expectation for financial support in participating any regional/larger church events

4. Scholarship and Internship for theological students  
1) Scholarships awarded for leadership development: Allison Enari (Vanderbilt Divinity School), Russell Cortez (Claremont School of Theology)
2) Scholarship for Continuing Education: Sangcheon Lee (World Mission Seminary), Charles Gnanamuthu (Brite Divinity School)
3) Internship grant for NAPAD women students: Jungja Joy Yu (Claremont School of Theology)

V. Ministerial Concerns

1. Pastoral leader development
   Due to significant differences in language, ethnicity, and culture, leadership (lay & clergy) development for ministry in NAPAD churches at English-only seminaries is limited, ineffective, and even problematic. It is urgent to establish a seminary, or M.Div. courses that will concentrate on pastoral leadership of multiracial churches. The demand for pastoral leadership is great, but the supply is meager.

2. Funding for new church establishment
   The demand and need for new churches in Pacific/Asian communities is very high, but support and funding is scarce. Resources, both human and material, for new church ministry are to be secured.

3. Health Care of Pastors
   Over 65% of NAPAD ministers do not have health care plans and insurance. This rate is much higher than the nationwide rate of uninsured families. We have to pay close attention to this concern and find a solution adequately.

4. Facility for ministry
   Most (75%) of NAPAD churches are without their own physical facility for ministry. They are “nested” in someone else’s building. It imposes enormous hindrances on their effort to establish and grow in ministry.

5. Refugee Congregations
   NAPAD has 7 congregations which were composed with refugees. Their existential sufferings still continue in the process of their settlement in America. The family reunion is the most critical issue for them. They often need political supports to appeal and/or protest to “persecuting” governments that do not allow the freedom of travel to their families.

The General Board has reviewed Report No. 1316 from North American Pacific/Asian Disciples Ministries. The report is submitted to the General Assembly for consideration and discussion. No action is required. (Discussion time 12 minutes)