

## GB-2114

### NORTH AMERICAN PACIFIC/ASIAN DISCIPLES MINISTRIES

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### 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

Younglan Kim & YoungJun Yang – NAPAD Ministry Team, Pacific Southwest Region.  
Daniel Lee – NAPAD Ministry Team, N. California-Nevada Region.  
Hyoung Chel Yang – NAPAD Ministry Team, Illinois Wisconsin Region.

## 2021 General Board Report

### 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 123 churches (24 among them are new church or newly joined less than three years) in 2020 which consist mostly 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 from the Reconciliation Ministry. Several ethnic group leaders are being trained to offer language and culture adapted training in several languages. Besides existing trainers, Rev. Tom Yang will be trained as Anti-Racism trainer in this fall with a support of Reconciliation Ministry and Illinois Wisconsin Region.

We are continuously seeking to educate new leaders who can have anti-racism training in each ethnic language. Our new focus will be Chuukese and Samoan community.

Together with the Council on Christian Unity, NAPAD sponsored Resolution GA 1522, “A Call for Peace, Justice, and Reunification in the Korean Peninsula” in GA 2015, we are continuously working with DOM and other ecumenical partners with ministry to promote permanent peace for Korean Peninsula. EP has been invited by WCC and NCC Korea to participate ecumenical dialog regarding this issue and Global Ministry has been supporting this meeting financially.

There have been significant challenges among immigrants’ community due to US government anti-immigrant policy in recent years. We are working with DHM Refugee and immigration ministry to develop a specific educational resource to support NAPAD community affected by it. Advocating immigrant community and cooperating with many other NGO became important ministry of NAPAD and whole Disciples are working together for this important issue.

During the Covid 19 pandemics, there has been significant increase of threat and violence against Asian community. We are 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 grant to support program and education for anti-racism.

## **II. New Church Establishment**

NAPAD ministries has been working diligently to plant new churches. In partnership with New Church Ministry and Regional Committees of New Church Development, we have initiated and established 13 new NAPAD congregations since the last convocation.

Training of new church planters is an ongoing process that requires the collaboration of congregational, regional, and general ministry. Our ethnic leaders are participating in leadership academy hosted by New Church Ministry. The Geunhee Yu Covenant Fund was established in 2012 to provide funding for new church ministry. First Tongan Christian Church was recipient of this grant 2019-2020.

NAPAD supported Chuukese leadership and ministry development through Chuukese Easter Rally held on April 18-21 in Denver, CO 2019. Due to Covid 19 2020 Easter Rally is cancelled but we are planning to provide online opportunity for the Chuukese church leaders with generous support Oregon South West Idaho region and Oregon Scott grant. NAPAD continues to support and advocate for the Chuukese Disciples as they work on church growth and sustainability. We had educational sessions for 32 Chuukese lay leaders and pastors for various requirements for commissioned minister and issued certificates, which was accepted by several regions as fulfillment for their requirement.

NAPAD is in process of establishing new Disciples Congregations in Noel, OK, Charlotte, NC, Louisville, KY, El Paso, TX, Atlanta, GA, and Tulsa, OK. In last summer, we celebrated two-year anniversary of Chuukese CC in Bismarck, SD, first ever Disciples congregation in South Dakota. And we celebrated New Light Christian Church, Buffalo, NY, our first Karen congregation in NAPAD community.

## **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 NAPAD congregation as they develop and strengthen their children, youth, and women ministries. Walking on the Water Mission in PSWR is 2019 recipient of this grant. WOW church used this fund for ministry project specialized in youth of autism and their family.

NAPAD keep supporting several congregations in their efforts to revitalize their ministries through diverse outreach programs.

#### **IV. Leadership Development**

NAPAD supported five seminarians through providing funds for their 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.

In August 2019, two NAPAD Seminarian, Jessi Kim and John Ahn participated in Pilgrimage for Justice and Peace hosted by Ecumenical Youth Council of Korea. NAPAD and Global ministry worked together to support this great educational opportunity.

The Korean Disciples Convocation had leadership training workshop in KDC convocation held in Seattle, WA on Jan. 13-16th, 2029. Over 50 pastors and seminarian and their spouses participated in it. There are several educational session, worship and fellowship.

Kagiwada scholarship was awarded to John Ahn (Vanderbilt Divinity School) Taulau Tupua (CST) in 2019-20 School year.

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

NAPAD office has been working closely with Board of Directors to establish sound financial foundation and management policy for the future of our ministry. Financial condition of the ministry has been greatly improved in term of careful planning and transparent administration practice. Even under the condition of scarce resources, NAPAD ministry is on right track to achieve our mission. For 2020 year, we have increased our budget for the first time in four years. Even though it is small amount, it is significant proof that we are on right track. We plan to continuously improve our financial condition by sound management and development effort.

#### **VI. Postponing The 2020 Experience "Its Real" to 2022.**

Obra Hispana, and National Convocation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) were planning for the meeting together for their biennial gatherings In 2020 (July 22-25), NAPAD, centered on the theme "It's Real!" (Rev. 7:9-17) in Fort Worth, Texas. Due to the Covid 19 pandemics we postponed the meeting to 2022, the place and theme will be same.

#### **VII. Covid 19 related**

COVID 19 negatively affected our ministry in many ways. We will be conducting our ministry on the assumption that the condition will not be changed in the foreseeable future.

- A. we expect DMF offering will be decreased due to the financial difficulty of the local congregations. Since our ministry budget greatly depends on the DMF offering, we need to adjust our expense conservatively so that we can maintain our sound financial condition.

- B. there are so many congregations and members who are directly affected by the condition, our ministry will focus on supporting them in this emergency. I am working with other general ministry partners, such as Week of Compassion, NBA and Pension fund, and was able to provide some emergency support for many congregations and individuals.
- C. NAPAD office continuously monitors the situation and working with our partner to cope with racism, especially against the Asian American community.
- D. We are working with many other ministries to provide resources for the congregations in the new environments.

### **VIII. Challenges for the future.**

Even though the status of our ministry greatly improved, we are still facing some issues which ask us to respond to them boldly and faithfully. Declining DMF (Disciples Mission Fund), which is our main sources of income, asks us to find new financial resources and to think creatively how to do our ministry. Redefining the role of ministry teams in ever-changing ministry environment is great challenge, especially when we have to support them with reduced financial resources. Finding and developing new leadership for the future is one of most important duty of NAPAD ministry. Hopefully sign is that we have seen steady increase of donation and investment income. More and more young leaders in NAPAD community are recognized throughout the churches and playing important roles. Many leadership changes throughout the Disciples community give us new opportunity to renew our covenant with many ministry partners in rapidly changing condition. This also provides more opportunity for new leaders in NAPAD to work not only within NAPAD community but also in wider churches.

I am so grateful that NAPAD community is growing as one of the most vital part of the Disciples and working faithfully to respond to the call of God in the new era.

#### **NAPAD Board of Directors**

Eula Nicola Pagdilao (Moderator),  
 Yunkyong Lee Hill (Moderator-Elect),  
 Jennie Huang (Secretary/Treasurer),

Pending (Representative to the General Board)

#### Members at Large

Gethsemane Tagalao  
 Nerleb Likisap  
 Miseon Choi  
 Larry Sotam  
 John Ahn  
 Neomai Uesi

#### Representative

Pending (College of Regional Ministers)  
 Pending (Council of General Ministries)

#### Ex-Officio

Teresa Hord Owens (General Minister & President)  
 Jae Young Rhee (Immediate Past Moderator)  
 Chung Seong Kim (Executive Pastor).