

SCHISM in the Unification Church

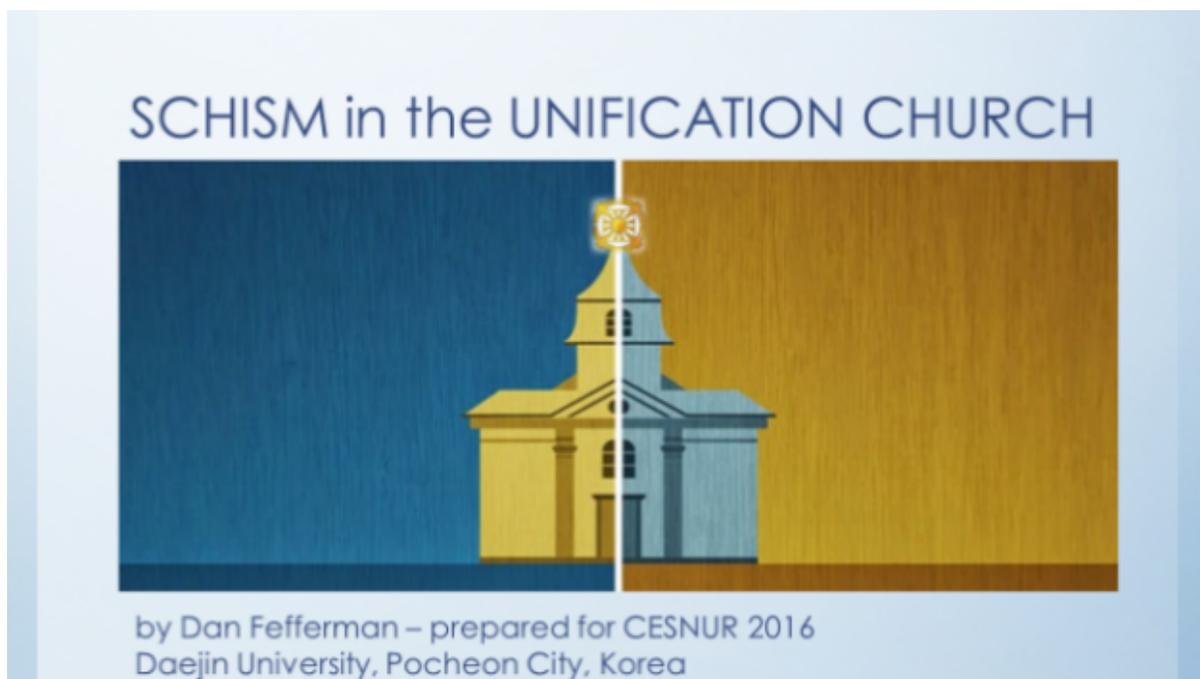
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This will be an update of my earlier paper, presented to the CENSUR conference in 2012.¹ There have been major developments since then, beginning with the death of the UC's founder.

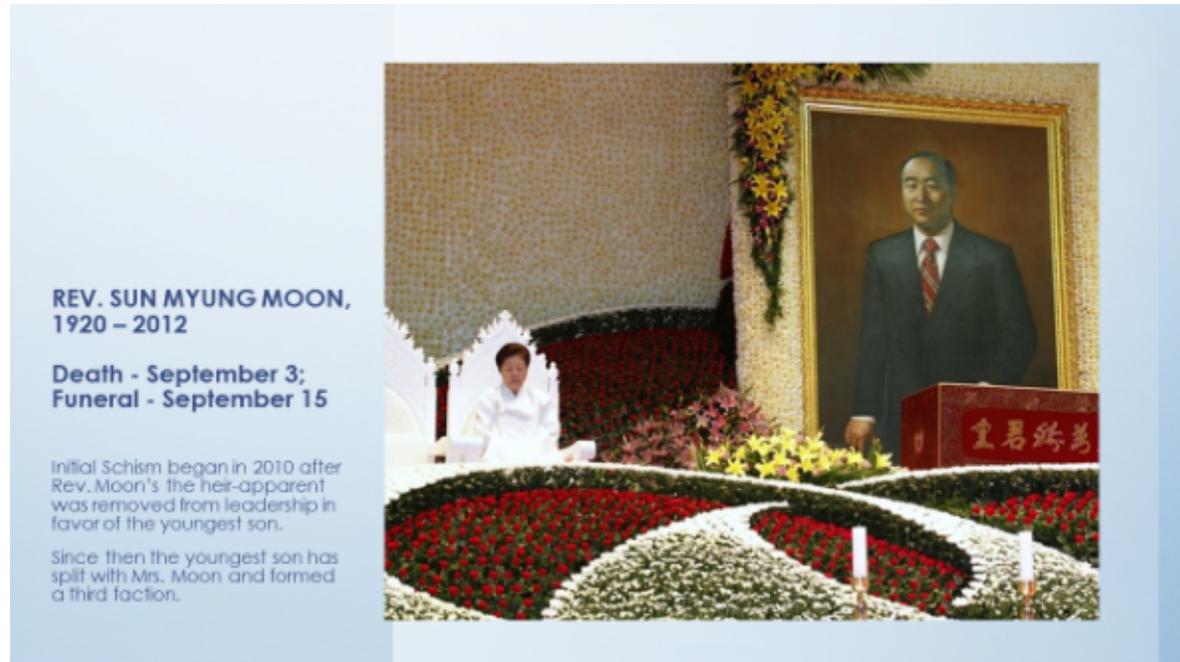
The initial schism in the Unification Movement began in 2008 when Rev. Moon's then heir-apparent, Hyun Jin Moon, split from the main group after he was passed over in favor of the youngest son, Hyung Jin.² After Rev. Moon passed away, Mrs. Moon took on the mantle of leadership, and since then the youngest son has formed a third faction. This paper will compare and

¹ <http://www.cesnur.org/2012/el-fefferman.docx>

² The names of the Moon children are often hard for non-Koreans to follow. Hyun Jin, the older son, is often called Preston. Hyung Jin, the younger of the two, is sometimes called Sean.

describe each of the three groups and conclude with some thoughts about the future.

The Death of Rev. Moon



Rev. Sun Myung Moon, the founder and Messiah of the Unification Church, passed away on September 3, 2012. His funeral took place at the Church's major complex in Cheong Pyeong on September 15 of that year. (The current CESNUR conference will have a field trip to the Cheong Pyeong site two days from now.) He was succeeded by his wife, Hak Ja Han Moon, who together with him shares the title of True Parents. A scandal involving the Moon's daughter In Jin resulted in Mrs. Moon sending Hyung Jin to the U.S. to replace her as president of the U.S. church. After a few months in the U.S. Mrs. Moon recalled Hyung Jin to Korea but he declined to come, choosing instead to lead his own congregation in Pennsylvania. In early 2015 he publicly split from his Mother and formed the Sanctuary Church as an independent organization.³

³ Although he privately criticized Mrs. Moon to supporters previously, his sermon of January 18, 2015 represents Hyung Jin's public declaration that he would no longer be a part of his mother's ministry, which he denounced as heretical and corrupt. <https://vimeo.com/135417831>

Three Groups

- **Family Federation**
 - Hak Ja Han Moon {True Mother}
 - A.k.a. Unification Church
 - H.Q. Seoul, Korea
- **Global Peace Foundation**
 - Hyun Jin Moon {Preston}
 - also UCI and various business
 - H.Q. Seattle, Washington, USA
- **Sanctuary Church**
 - Hyung Jin Moon {Sean}
 - HQ Newfoundland, Pennsylvania



The image contains three photographs stacked vertically. The top photo shows a woman with short dark hair, wearing a patterned jacket, speaking at a podium with a microphone. The middle photo shows a man in a dark suit speaking into a microphone, gesturing with his right hand. The bottom photo shows a man in a brown shirt speaking into a microphone, with a crowd of people in the background.

The three groups are

- **The Family Federation for World Peace**, also known as the Unification Church, led by Rev Moon’s wife, Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon. The headquarters of her movement is located in Seoul and Cheong Pyeong. The Family Federation is also the center of various affiliated educational organizations and businesses.
- The **Global Peace Movement**, centered on the Moons’ eldest surviving son, Hyun Jin, whose western name is Preston. Hyun Jin broke away from the main group after his parents promoted his younger brother to the position of heir-apparent in 2008. The two most important elements of this faction are the Global Peace Foundation (GPF), an educational organization; and UCI, an umbrella corporation which runs various businesses and educational endeavors. Before the schism, UCI was known as Unification Church International but it has since changed its name to simply “UCI” and has removed religious references from its statement of purposes. Hyun Jin Moon has retained control of substantial assets due to his position as chair of UCI.

However, the GPF does not own church properties per se, and does not hold public religious services.⁴

- **The Sanctuary Church**, is headed by the Moons' youngest son, Hyung Jin, western name Sean. This movement began more recently, in 2014, when Hyung Jin (Sean), then still the heir-apparent, established an independent church organization and began publicly criticizing his mother in weekly sermons broadcast through Youtube. It and is headquartered in Newfoundland, Pennsylvania.

Supporting Casts



- Mrs. Moon is supported by her daughter Sun Jin, who is now the International President of the Church. Mrs. Moon also retains the support of most of the UC's senior leaders (with some notable exceptions) and several of her other children and grandchildren.



- Preston's most important supporter is Rev. Chun Hwan Kwak. Rev Kwak was Rev. Moon's chief disciple for many years. The Kwak family is also related to Preston by marriage, and forms a core of GPF-movement leadership. The GPF and

UCI also retain the loyalty of many mid-level former UC leaders.

⁴ In 2016 the Global Peace movement began operating what appears to be a religious organization, the Family Peace Association, that ministers to the spiritual needs of its members.



- Hyung Jin’s (Sean’s) key supporter is his elder brother Kook Jin, who provides financial support as well as important spiritual and ideological advice. Sean’s wife Yeon Ah Lee also plays an important public role in his ministry, and a small number of mid-

level former UC leaders have also joined his ranks.

Authority – Quotes from Rev. Moon

Quotes from Rev. Moon

Family Federation

- Who will be my successor?... There is no need to worry because we have Mrs. Moon, our True Mother. And after the we have the True Children. [1990]
- [True Mother] represents the king and therefore must be attended as if attending the king.

GPF

- I lifted up Hyun Jin to lead the second generation. Your children have to connect with Hyun Jin.
- I proclaimed the first Adam, second Adam, third Adam and fourth Adam... Centering on Hyun Jin Nim, all American leaders must be united as one.

Sanctuary

- The representative and heir is Hyung Jin Moon. All others [who claim this] are heretics and destroyers.

Each of the groups uses Rev. Moon’s words to bolster the authority of its leader. Each group also points to the life experience of its leader in attendance to Rev. Moon.

- The Family Federation especially relies on Mrs. Moon’s 52 years of life as Rev. Moon’s wife, qualifying her not only as the Bride of the Messiah in Unification Theology, but as one of the two True Parents of Mankind. Moreover, numerous declarations by Rev. Moon over many years, proclaimed Mrs. Moon’s “complete unity” with him, her

victorious completion of the course of True Daughter, True Wife and True Mother, and her equal authority⁵ with him as co-founder of the Church, co-Messiah and various other titles.⁶

- The GPF can cite various declarations of Preston's authority as the "leader of the second generation in Realm of the Fourth Adam,"⁷ and sometimes as the Fourth Adam himself (Rev. Moon being the Third Adam, while Jesus was the Second Adam.) More important for GPF, however, is the concept of "Father's legacy," the idea that Preston alone carries the true mantle of Rev. Moon's tradition, while corrupt or misguided leaders, including Mrs. Moon, have seized control of the UC/FFWP to perpetuate an outdated religious tradition at odds with Rev. Moon's true vision.
- The Sanctuary Church emphasizes the fact that Rev. Moon declared Hyung Jin [Sean] to be his heir and successor, even crowning Hyung Jin and his wife on three occasions and declaring any other pretenders to the throne of True Parents to be "heretics and destroyers."⁸ For Sanctuary members, Hyung Jin alone is qualified to lead in the current age, while Mrs. Moon, referred to in sermons by Sean as the "Whore of Babylon" has usurped Rev. Moon's authority and is leading the mainstream church literally to hell.

⁵ "I am the first founder of the Unification Church and Mother is the second founder... Mother, all by herself, represents and is the founder of the church." <http://www.tparents.org/Moon-Talks/sunmyungmoon90/SM900327.htm>

⁶ For example in his final public speaking tour, Rev. Moon declared, "The True Parents have achieved ultimate unity and offered and proclaimed the era of God's full transcendence, full immanence, full authority and omnipotence upon the standard of perfection, completion and conclusion." <http://www.tparents.org/Moon-Talks/SunMyungMoon12/SunMyungMoon-120108b.htm>

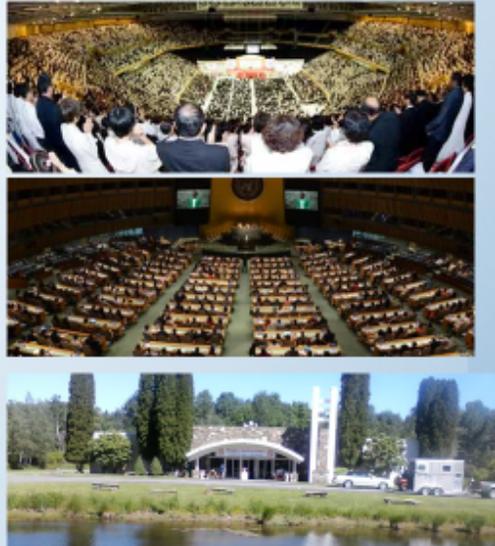
⁷ "I proclaimed the first Adam, second Adam, third Adam and fourth Adam...Centering on Hyun Jin Nim, all American leaders must be united as one." <http://www.tparents.org/moon-talks/sunmyungmoon07/sunmyungmoon-071108.htm>

⁸ <http://www.tparents.org/Moon-Talks/SunMyungMoon10/SunMyungMoon-100605b.htm>

Membership and Financial Strengths

Membership and Financial Strength

- Family Federation**
 - Largest membership
 - Many churches and properties
- GPF**
 - Many employees, but small general membership
 - Strong financial foundation
- Sanctuary**
 - Small but dedicated membership
 - Only one known property



Membership numbers for the UC have long been a subject of debate, but the following statement can be made with some confidence:

- The “main group” – that is the FFWP-- is currently much larger than either of the other two in terms of numbers, easily twenty times as large if not more, in terms of membership. It has churches and/or educational foundations in virtually every nation except some areas of the Islamic world. It has established a major spiritual and educational center in Cheong Pyeong. It is able to fill the 25-thousand-seat arena at Cheong Pyeong several times a year. It also operates two hospitals, a university, at least two seminaries, and a number of related businesses, including for example the New Yorker Hotel and the *Washington Times*, which have become increasingly successful during the last 10 years. It also supports its own Universal Peace Federation with centers and chapters in more than 100 countries throughout the world.⁹

⁹ <http://www.upf.org/>

- The GPF movement also controls significant assets, estimated very roughly at 2 billion dollars or more, and is able to organize impressive international conferences of several hundred participants, mostly of non-UC members. Its web site states that it is active in 14 countries.¹⁰ It defines itself not as a religious organization but an educational one. As mentioned previously, GPF and UCI retain the loyalty of many mid-level former UC leaders, most of whom work in UCI-related businesses and educational organizations. GPF also has succeeded in gaining the upper hand in the struggle for members' loyalty in several countries such as Chile, Mongolia and some others. However, except in a few countries, its membership base remains quite small.
- The Sanctuary Church, while numerically small, is composed of very enthusiastic followers, few of whom are employed by the church. It also has a leader of significant charisma in Hyung Jin. It also has a significant financial supporter in Kook Jin, who owns a successful gun business, Kahr Arms,¹¹ in the USA and provides contributions to the SC through a charitable foundation he operates, the Young Jin Moon Foundation, named for a deceased brother. Sanctuary Church members usually meet in each other's living rooms or small halls to watch streamed messages from Hyung Jin. The church in Newfoundland Pennsylvania¹² is largely comprised of former members of the UC who either happen to live in the area, work for Kook Jin's gun factory nearby, or have moved there in recent months in order to join this community.

¹⁰ <https://www.globalpeace.org/>

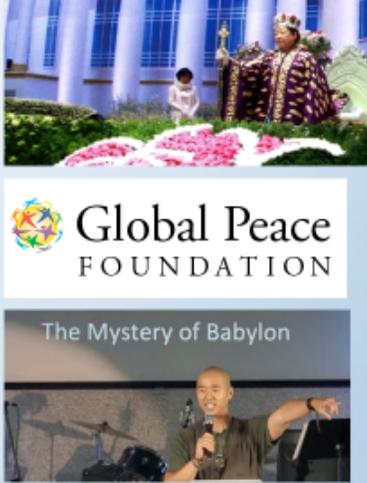
¹¹ <http://www.kahr.com/>

¹² <http://sanctuary-pa.org/>

Theological Orientations

Theological Orientation

- Family Federation**
 - Feminist: God as Parent
 - 'Only Begotten Daughter'
- GPF**
 - God is Father, but...
 - Age of Religion is past
- Sanctuary**
 - God is basically Male
 - Mrs. Moon has "fallen"



The collage on the right contains three images. The top image shows a religious figure in a purple robe and crown, possibly a prophet or leader, standing in front of a building. The middle image is the logo for the Global Peace Foundation, featuring a colorful globe icon and the text 'Global Peace FOUNDATION'. The bottom image shows a man in a dark shirt speaking at a podium with a microphone, with the text 'The Mystery of Babylon' above him.

- Mrs. Moon's leadership style is quite different from her husband's, as one would expect. Her messages to the world movement since 2012 have emphasized continuity, but have also shifted the previous theological outlook in an important way. Namely, several feminist reforms have been instituted.
 - *God as Parent.* Shortly after Rev. Moon's death Mrs. Moon signaled this shift by calling on members to address God as Parent, rather than Father, from now on.

“During the Old Testament period, we called God ‘Yahweh’ and during New Testament period we called God ‘Heavenly Father,’ but True Father completed providence history... We need to change the name/title of God. We shouldn't call out to ‘God,’ we should call out to ‘Heavenly Parent/s.’ [*Pumonim*]”.¹³

Henceforth, in Unification Churches today, God is routinely addressed in formal prayer as “Heavenly Parent.”
 - *Sun Jin Nim as International President.* Mrs. Moon also appointed her daughter Sun Jin as International President of the church, the first time a woman has held this position.

¹³ <http://www.tparents.org/Moon-Talks/HakJaHanMoon-13/HakJaHan-130108.pdf>

- *Only Begotten Daughter theology.* Mrs. Moon has also spoken frequently of her position as “Only Begotten Daughter.” The term was coined by Rev. Moon to describe the human bride that he believes should have been the partner of the Messiah.¹⁴ The application of the title formally to Mrs. Moon, however is something new. She has also emphasized her special lineage and implied that she was born without Original Sin, something hinted at but not stated directly by Rev. Moon.
- *Publication of new CSG.* Mrs. Moon has also published a new edition of the compendium of Rev. Moon’s words known as *Cheon Seong Gyeong*, together with two other collections. These new publications have become the subject of controversy [see below].
- *Cheon Il Guk Constitution.* Under Mrs. Moon’s direction a Cheon Il Guk Constitution has been promulgated. The constitution apparently provides for succession after Mrs. Moon to be determined by a Supreme Council composed by church elders.¹⁵
- The GPF Movement

The theological attitude of the GPF movement needs to be divided between its public and private stances. Publically, GPF and UCI are not religious organization and take no public positions on religious controversies. However, privately, GPF members clearly differentiate themselves from FFWP.

 - GPF leaders have strongly criticized the alleged feminist revisionism practiced by Mrs. Moon, specifically her insistence that God be called Parent instead of Father, as well as her “Only Begotten Daughter” theology.

¹⁴ In a 1972 speech, for example: “Jesus said that he was the only begotten son of God. When the only begotten son comes, it would be a disaster if he were to live alone. There has to be an only begotten daughter. The only begotten daughter must be found and, centering on God, the only begotten son and daughter should marry each other when their mutual attraction matures.” <http://www.tparents.org/moon-books/csg-d/CSG02-01-05.htm>

¹⁵ “The Cheon Guk Supreme Council shall vicariously exercise True Parents' authority... in the event of True Parents' death.” <http://www.tparents.org/Library/Unification/Talks/Yang-14/Yang-140228a.pdf>

- As mentioned, Hyun Jin teaches that there is no longer a need for Unification Church. This idea was in line with Rev. Moon's own teaching beginning with his changing the name of the UC to the Family Federation. [However, Hyun Jin's proposal, that the time for the end of religion is already at hand, was not accepted by Rev. Moon and was certainly one of the factors in the decision to promote the youngest son to leadership.]¹⁶
- Sanctuary Church – Unification Fundamentalism. The Sanctuary church, on the other hand, is extremely religious in its orientation, so much so that it can rightly be thought of as Unification Fundamentalism.
 - Although its attitude toward the Bible is not literalist, the style of Hyung Jin's sermons is much more biblically oriented than those of other UC preachers, and he frequently refers to fundamentalist ideas such as God's wrath, hell, and the Book of Revelation as a guide to current events.
 - He also uses the Bible as a basis for a strong critique of the feminist reforms in the FFWP group. He cites Eph. 5 to emphasize woman's duty of obedience to their husbands and emphasizes that only Rev. Moon was the messiah, not Mrs. Moon. He argues that with the death of Rev. Moon, Mrs. Moon's position is that of a dowager, not a reigning monarch, and that he (Hyung Jin), not his mother, is the rightful ruler of the Church.
 - This leads to the proposition that the Sanctuary Church is the true Church. Hyung Jin even goes so far as to insist that the FFWP sacraments are no longer valid but belong now to Satan, and that UC members need to be "re-blessed" by Hyung Jin.¹⁷

¹⁶ Hyun Jin's vision to reorganize the Unification movement along post-religious lines is outlined in his remarkable "Report To Parents" in 2008 (<http://www.tparents.org/moon-talks/hyunjinmoon/HyunJinMoon-080323.htm>)

¹⁷ S.C. members often write letters of resignation from FFWP. They also affirm that "I believe that True Father Sun Myung Moon is the Messiah and that Hyung Jin Moon is his representative and successor in the physical world who has inherited the True Parents' authority and preserves the words and practices established by True Father." <https://www.facebook.com/notes/newfoundland-sanctuary-church/outline-of-april-21-2015-blessing-requirements-and-processes/687718674671483>

Sacramental Theology

Sacraments

- Family Federation**
 - Expansion of 'Blessings'
 - Ancestor Liberation, etc
- GPF**
 - Sacraments not specified
 - FFWP Blessings are O.K.
- Sanctuary**
 - FFWP Blessings are Satanic
 - Members must be blessed again by H2



'[True] Parents did not come to start a new Religion' – Preston Moon



- FFWP's emphasizes a continuation and expansion of the Marriage Blessing, the central sacramental tradition of the Unification Church. However, Mrs. Moon has also instituted new sacramental traditions such as "Foundation Day Holy Wine" and "Cheon Il Guk Holy Items."
- GPF downplays sacramental theology and concentrates on ecumenism. Until recently it has allowed its members to participate in FFWP blessings. Whether this will continue under the ministry of the Family Peace Association remains to be seen.
- The Sanctuary Church also emphasizes the Marriage Blessing, but stresses the sacramental authority of Hyung Jin as the New King who alone carries the true blood lineage of the Messiah.¹⁸ It denounces Mrs. Moon's sacraments and condemns those who participate in her Blessings as having fallen under Satan's dominion.

Scriptures

All three groups accept what Rev. Moon called his "8 Great Textbooks." However:

¹⁸ <http://sanctuary-pa.org/index.php/2016/06/27/august-19-2016-holy-marriage-blessing-to-return-to-true-fathers-authority/>

Scriptures – The Eight Great Textbooks

Family Federation

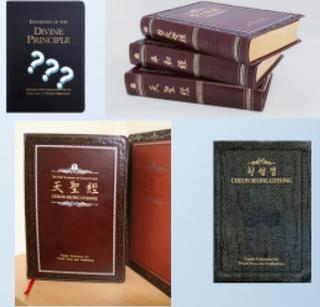
- '8 Great Textbooks'
- Three Core Scriptures
- New Cheon Seong Gyeong
- Divine Principle not among the 3

GPF

- Original CSG (Privately)
- Emphasis on 'Peace Messages'

Sanctuary

- Original CSG
- Emphasis on the Bible



- FFWP now stresses three “core scriptures” each of which is a compendium of excerpts of speeches from Rev. Moon, with some excerpts from Mrs. Moon’s talks also included. Notably, *Divine Principle* is not currently considered one of the core texts by FFWP,

although this could change. Only one of the core scriptures (*Cheon Seong Gyeong*) was part of the original eight, and the FFWP version of this text is a new edition, not accepted by either GPF or SC.

- GPF accepts the Eight Great Textbooks but emphasizes one in particular, namely Rev. Moon’s *Peace Messages*, which were given relatively late in his ministry and are best suited for a non-UC audience. It rejects the new edition of *Cheon Seong Gyeong* as well as the other two “core scriptures” of FFWP.
- Sanctuary Church also rejects the new *Cheon Seong Gyeong* and the other FFWP “core scriptures,” which it considers part of Mrs. Moon’s attempt to justify her “Only Begotten Daughter” theology. It also emphasizes the authority of the Bible to a greater degree than either of the other two groups.

Political Theology

Political Theology

Family Federation

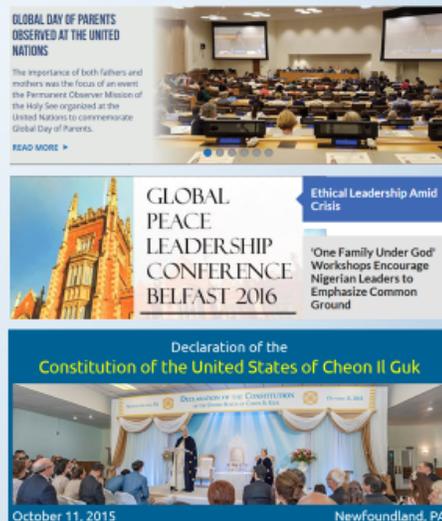
- Family Values, 'Head Wing'
- Diversification, Peace

GPF

- Ecumenism
- Various Peace Initiatives

Sanctuary

- Libertarianism, Freedom Society
- 'Strong Korea,' Guns are Good
- United States of Cheon Il Guk



- The FFWP teaches “Head wing” ideology, sometimes known as “Godism. Its strong opposition to communism has given way since the early 1990s to

building bridges of reconciliation among people of former enemy nations. It continues to emphasize “family values” which promote hetero-sexual marriage under God’s blessing as the foundation for a healthy society. Its Cheon Il Guk Constitution is ambiguous as to whether it is intended to govern the church or a future state, or perhaps both.

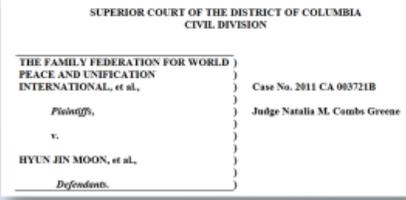
- GPF – Under the theme “One Family Under God,” GPF promotes various World Peace conferences and has also launched an initiative for N/S Korean unity. It has not produced a Constitution as the other two groups have done.
- Sanctuary Church teaches a strongly Libertarian message through its “Freedom Society” ideology, developed by Kook Jin Moon.¹⁹ It also emphasizes the importance of gun-ownership as a safeguard of liberty. Its “Constitution of the United States of Cheon Il Guk” contains a Bill of Rights borrowed directly from the U.S. Constitution, but also calls for a hereditary monarchy centered on Hyung Jin and his male heirs. It also empowers the king to overturn decisions of the Supreme Court. Unlike the FFWP constitution, which allows for amendments by the Supreme Council, the Sanctuary version states that it can never be amended.²⁰

Legal Issues

Legal Issues

GPF/UCI: Lawsuits

- Yoido case
- Who truly owns UCI



Sanctuary: Trademark



FFWP has engaged in several lawsuits against GPF/UCI and is also involved in a trademark dispute with the Sanctuary Church.

¹⁹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3iNTMkAF5JI>

²⁰ <http://sanctuary-pa.org/index.php/constitution/>

FFWP-UCI. Legal disputes between FFWP and the GPF movement have largely focused on UCI, which controls assets roughly estimated at around 2 billion US dollars or more. FFWP has lost several such disputes in Korea and South America. However, a key case remains outstanding in the United States, which will determine whether UCI rightfully owns the assets in question, or whether it must return the control of its board of directors to the UC in accordance with the wishes of the founders (Rev. and Mrs. Moon) and donors (largely members of the Unification Church of Japan).²¹

SC... Trademark. Sanctuary Church has used the “12 Gates” symbol trademarked by the UC. SC claims the UC now longer uses the symbol, but UC insists that SC’s use of the mark constitutes a violation of trademark laws. UC points out that the symbol still flies over the church’s International Headquarters and continues to be used for blessing rings, publications, etc.

The Role of Cheong Pyeong

Attitude Toward Cheong Pyeong

- Family Federation**
 - Primary place of pilgrimage
 - Center for ancestor liberation, healing and education
 - Museum, HQ and Residence
 - Future UC 'Vatican City'
- GPF**
 - CP tradition is corrupt but redeemable
- Sanctuary**
 - CP is a center of "idolatry" and "goddess worship"
 - Only the True Heir can liberate ancestors



- FFWP promotes its Cheong Pyeong center--with its impressive Palace-Museum, prayer hall, seminary, training center, arena, and other buildings--as the central locus of Unificationist spiritual tradition, education and culture. Mrs. Moon states that the center will

²¹ <http://www.tparents.org/moon-talks/HyunJinMoon-11/HyunJinMoon-110511.pdf>

play a role for Unificationists similar to that of Vatican City for Catholics.

- GPF – In accordance with its post-religious philosophy, GPF members generally see the Cheong Pyeong center as both unnecessary and corrupt.
- Sanctuary Church -- Its members agree with GPF that Cheong Pyeong is corrupt but go further in their critique by calling it a center of “pagan goddess worship” and “idolatry.”

Impact on Membership

Many UC members have been substantially disillusioned by the schism, since it challenges their faith in the True Family as a model family and a foundation of world peace. However, most Unificationists had already faced similar challenges through earlier events such as those mentioned by Dr. Barker in her paper today. On the other hand the FFWP, centered on Mrs. Moon, remains strong in its faith. Under her leadership it is moving forward toward a new milestone in 2020, representing the 100th anniversary of Rev. Moon’s birth and the 60th anniversary of the marriage of the True Parents, which Unificationists accept as the fulfillment of the Marriage of the Lamb mentioned in the Book of Revelation.

Meanwhile, GPF members in recent months have rallied even more strongly around their leader, Preston Moon, as the “true heir”.²² Sanctuary Church members as well have formed a strong, if still relatively small, circle around Hyung Jin Moon as their “New King,” together with his wife, who now occupies for them the position formerly held by Mrs. Moon.

Prospects for the Future

To conclude, it is likely that the current schisms in the Unification movement will continue indefinitely.²³

- With Mrs. Moon at the helm, far more members, and a strong material foundation, the FFWP is likely to predominate.

²² See the response of Youngjin Moon presented in the current conference.

²³ A possible exception would exist if the UC prevails in its current lawsuit against UCI/GPF in Washington DC. In that case, the GPF would be left with few resources and only a very small number of supporters.

The Future

- Schisms will continue indefinitely.
- The main group [FFWP] is likely to predominate
 - GPF has no evangelical thrust
 - Sanctuary's growth is almost entirely based on "sheep-stealing"
- Additional schisms are likely to arise, especially after Mrs. Moon passes away.
- Unificationism is likely to survive as a basically oriental religion



- Although GPF has a strong financial base, its decision to divorce itself from the movement's religious foundation could prove fatal, as it currently lacks any evangelical thrust.
- The Sanctuary Church, meanwhile,

thus far has succeeded in bringing new members mainly through "sheep-stealing" from the UC. Its primary message remains essentially reactionary. It will need to grow out of this phase if it is to evolve into a lasting movement.

It should be added that there also exist other, smaller schisms in the Unification movement, and these are likely to proliferate and perhaps intensify after Mrs. Moon, who is now in her 70s, herself passes away.

In summary, the UC has built a solid foundation in Korea and Japan and is likely to survive and prosper there for the foreseeable future, despite the current succession struggle. However, in the West, its membership base is still relatively small. Whether it can transcend its basically oriental character to assume the status of a World Religion remains a major question.

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