

Chicago American Leadership Conference and True Family Values Banquet

Bruce Sutchar
December 13-14, 2013
Chicago, IL



Professor Ted Williams states the four points of challenge in America.



Pastor T.L. Barrett, Jr and Dr Thomas Walsh shows that although they look different, they are exactly the same.



Rev. Dr. Shirley Coleman, 16 year Chicago alderman.



John Prevost new Illinois State UPF director.



Dr. Thomas Walsh, Secretary-General, UPF, International.



Mrs. Tomiko Duggan, Acting Secretary-General, UPF-USA.



Professor Olfat El Mallakh, Blessed Egyptian Coptic Christian and MEPI and ILC veteran.



Rev. Bruce Sutchar Midwest Director, UPF-USA.

The 4th National Level American Leadership Conference was held in Chicago on December 13-14, 2013. Guests arrived from many east coast cities and an exciting program was put together by Dr. Thomas Walsh and Mrs. Tomiko Duggan Universal Peace Federation (UPF) Secretary General's from the International and USA Branches of UPF, respectively. Under the banner: "The USA at a Turning Point: Building a Nation and a World of Peace," topics discussed included "Nation Building, Good Governance and the United Nations;" "The Need for Inter-faith and Intercultural Dialogue, Mutual

respect and Cooperation” and “The Significance of Marriage and Family for a Stable and Prosperous Society and the Vision for Youth.”



Jim & Gudrun Gavin receiving recognition for leading UPFUSA for the past 3 1/2 years.

Presenters included Dr. Walsh and Mrs. Duggan, Professor Olfat El Malakh (Egyptian Coptic Christian), 16 year Chicago Alderman and Minister Rev. Dr. Shirley Coleman, Pastor T.L. Barrett, Jr. (Life Center COGIC), Minister and Attorney Dr. Ellis May III, Rev. Clyde Brooks (Martin Luther King Foundation), Professor Ted Williams III (Kennedy-King College), Professor Karen Freeman (Chicago State University) and Mr. Naokimi Ushiroda (Collegiate Association for the Research of Principles) and American Clergy Leadership Conference) Executive Director, Rev. Tom Cutts from Atlanta.



In the evening we were treated to the melodious story telling of Dr. Betty Siegel. Dr. Siegel is the 79-year-old President Emeritus of Kennisaw State University in Georgia. She entertained her audience with story after story about the critical importance of love, brotherhood and unity in our modern world.

The conference concluded with an explanation of the Ambassadors for Peace ministry and the awarding of Ambassador for Peace plaques to three participants.

The energy from the two-day conference continued as the group of 80 participants joined the 18th annual True Family Values Banquet for the concluding event. Here they were joined by over 400 additional guests (ministers, educators, businessmen and women and politicians) for an exciting afternoon of fellowship, faith and festivities.

Rev. Wendell Eubanks led the pre-program musical ensemble. Then Rev. Cornelius Clark grabbed the

podium and led us through three hours that reached to the depths of joy and gratitude. Many of Chicago's most prestigious leaders joined the celebration. Proclamations and letters of praise arrived from the Governor, the State Senate, the Mayor and the City Council.



Beautiful music permeated the banquet hall and then the inimitable Archbishop George Augustus Stallings III emerged to introduce Mr. Tom McDevitt, the Chairman of the *Washington Times*. Mr. McDevitt delivered a straightforward keynote address speaking about America on the precipice with the American Family hanging in the balance.



His remarks were followed by those of Dr. Michael Jenkins, past president of the ACLC and a veteran of many of these Chicago Banquets. Dr. Jenkins shared the accomplishments of the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon, Founder of the Unification Church, in an impassioned and deeply moving way. His conclusion challenged all who were present to take up (spiritual) arms to make sure that the hopes of our Founding Fathers as well as Lincoln at Gettysburg would truly come to fruition.

The combination of the ALC Conference and the banquet together created a deeply inspiring spirit and the guests exited into the cold Chicago snow with hope in their hearts and the future of America in their very own hands.