

## The (ACLC) American Clergy Leadership Conference's 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary

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May 20–22, more than a hundred and fifty clergy members gathered at the International Peace Education Center (IPEC) in Las Vegas, where True Parents' love and sincerity were tangible, and held a graceful twenty-first anniversary ACLC conference.

On the first day, Chairman Chung-sik Yong and Dr. Luonne Abram Rouse each welcomed the members as ACLC co-chairs. They reflected on what ACLC has accomplished over the past twenty-one years and spoke of becoming ACLC clergy members that can facilitate True Mother's efforts to bring the Marriage Blessing to the people of the world.

Additionally, Ki-hoon Kim, chairman of the World Clergy Leadership Conference gave an encouraging speech to thank the religious leaders for their hard work over the past twenty-one years, emphasizing the responsibility of Christianity and encouraging them to become one with True Mother.

On the second day, the clergy members started the day with all the participants reading the sermons collected in *Christianity in Crisis*, which True Father gave in 1973. After the reading, ACLC members commented that Father had given those speeches almost fifty years ago, but it was a precious time to remind ourselves of True Parents' amazing insights. They foresaw the mission of America and Christianity, and both warned and encouraged religious leaders.

In a presentation on ACLC's history, Dr. Michael Jenkins vividly demonstrated True Parents' great path to embracing Christianity and to religious harmony in the US. WCLC Chairman Kim Ki-hoon emphasized that KCLC and WCLC were founded on the basis of ACLC, and that the hard work and love of True Mother was at the center, encouraging religious leaders to join and for Christians to seek religious harmony. Levy Daugherty, the FFWPU-Georgia state leader who played an important role in the founding of ACLC, testified about the background of ACLC and how much he came to love America and Christianity through a fifty-state tour.

Bishop Stallings, while covering what ACLC has been doing for the past twenty-one years and what level ACLC has reached twenty-one years later, went on to say he doesn't know what others have done, but he has been watching True Parents' footsteps for the past twenty-one years. As he joined them, following in their footsteps, he became convinced that True Parents are the Messiah, Savior, Second Coming of the Lord, and the living word itself. He called it an amazing blessing to have been able to participate in his True Parents' journey and in the vivid history of ACLC over the past twenty-one years.



ACLC co-chairman Dr. Rouse shared the direction and responsibility of ACLC in the future, focusing on the second seven-year journey centered on True Mother. Immediately afterward, the video "Mother of Peace," an introductory video about True Mother, was screened and we had time to open up our hearts about True Mother. After the screening, Dr. Alexander and Dr. Edwards testified at length that True Mother is the only begotten daughter. After the testimony, all participants gathered their hearts and made a monetary offering for their True Mother who was coming to Las Vegas on June 5.

John Jackson, leader of the fourth district, emphasized the meaning and importance of the Blessing, stressing that one of ACLC's responsibilities is to lead not only oneself but also one's church members to heaven through the Blessing.

In the evening, everyone enjoyed ACLC's twenty-first anniversary celebration banquet. Following presentations of bouquets and cake cutting, there was a video screening of "Chosen," which followed True Parents' footsteps and highlighted their achievements. This was followed by a keynote speech by Dr. Chung-sik Yong, who focused on the history of ACLC and the foundation it has laid over the past twenty-one years. He also looked ahead to the hard work of the upcoming seven years and eventually twenty-one years.

The last day began with us reading True Parents' teachings in *The New Future of Christianity*. Afterward, three clergy couples among the attendees drank holy wine and went through the rite of the indemnity stick. They had gone through a forty-day abstinence from marital practices and would soon go on to do the three day ceremony. They vowed to return to their church and share the Blessing with their congregation.

There was a sense of determination among the heads of the five districts and the pastors of ACLC in each district to fulfill the responsibility of delivering True Parents' teachings and further spreading Blessings throughout the United States. Since then, all participants have gathered with others around the globe to discuss specific plans and report on what they experienced and pledged to do while at the seminar.