

FFWPU Europe

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Sent to all Nations and Communities/Cities

www.uc-eu.org

10th Anniversary MEPI Jerusalem Declaration Memorial Program

Young Shik An

April 30, 2013

Invitation letter and tentative program attached

Please distribute widely

Dear National and City Leaders,

As you aware from the memos already sent to you from Dr. Yang and Dr. Walsh there will be a special MEPI program to commemorate the 10th Anniversary of the Jerusalem Declaration and the MEPI providence founded by True Parents.

Europe is being specifically requested by Dr. Yang to send a substantial delegation – if possible as many as 30 participants, as this event is a very meaningful tribute to the peace building work of our True Father during his physical lifetime.

There are now only two weeks until this 10th Anniversary event so we ask that, without delay, you spread the attached attractive invitational materials as widely as possible and actively encourage participation from Ambassadors for Peace and our FFWPU membership.

We hope that major nations can find 4 to 5 participants and others 1 or 2 participants.

There will be a possibility to sponsor the participation fee for 1 or 2 members who have willingness and ability to act as staff caring for our European delegation (it would be best if they are accompanying a national delegation of several AfPs/members).

Please inform immediately of any interest from your nation/community to attend by notifying the European Office.

Thank you for your good cooperation.

Yours sincerely,

Tim Miller and Peter Staudinger

European Office

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An invitation to a Historic Pilgrimage marking the 10th Anniversary of the Middle East Peace Initiative



Dear

A diverse group of persons from all over the world and from many walks of life who consider themselves friends of both Israel and Palestine, and who are deeply concerned about the ongoing search to bring lasting peace between the two, will meet in Jerusalem on May 14-19, 2013, to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI), launched by the Rev. Sun Myung Moon, who also founded of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) among many other peace-related organisations.

MEPI was established in 2003 as a global movement of persons concerned to help bring lasting peace and reconciliation in the region. The search for interreligious harmony, especially between the 3 Abrahamic Faiths, has always been at the heart of this quest. Thus, MEPI participants, of whom there have been over 14,000 to date, tend to see themselves to some extent as interfaith pilgrims who rally in the Holy Land to further the cause of reconciliation and build bridges of peace between moderates on either side of the political, religious, ethnic and other divides that lie at the heart of the conflict there. Participants have included religious and interfaith leaders from all faiths, scholars, politicians, government officials, as well as people from the widest variety of professions, disciplines and backgrounds.

Dr. Chang Shik Yang, international Vice Chair of UPF announced the 10th Anniversary Jerusalem Declaration Memorial Program on April 24, 2013 and explained that the programme:-

" provides the opportunity for each of our Ambassadors for Peace, WFWP prominent women, Clergy and FFWPU members from all generations to "experience" the vision of unity and reconciliation in Jerusalem. Together we will retrace the historic footsteps of Jesus, understand the heart and faith of Islam and gain deep understanding of the Jewish foundation upon which all Abrahamic faiths trace a common beginning in one God. We will remember Father Moon's unchanging love for all faiths and his vision that the faith leaders, when united, have the key to ending the conflicts in the world."

You are most warmly invited to participate in this historic 2013 pilgrimage.

Those who plan to do so will be required to pay their own airfares and a registration fee of 700 Euros to cover a specially discounted package that has been arranged for UPF's specific requirements and which will take in six days and five nights in the area (including lodging, meals, organized tours and conference fees – see the tentative schedule copied below).

Please inform us immediately of your interest to participate by notifying your local UPF representative, who will contact us at the above email address.

An online registration process is available at - "[online form](#)"

We are looking forward to welcoming you to what promises to be a very meaningful 10th Anniversary event.

Yours sincerely,



Mark Brann
Secretary General UPF Europe

Tentative Schedule May 14-19, 2013



Tuesday, May 14 - Arrive in Tel Aviv and travel via bus or Sheirut taxi to the Dan Jerusalem Hotel at Mt. Scopus. Opening dinner at the hotel.

Wednesday, May 15 through Friday, May 17 - Conference and tours, including Yad Vashem, Bethlehem, Nazareth, the Sea of Gallilee, Ramallah and Jericho.

Saturday, May 18 - *10th Anniversary of the Jerusalem Declaration* with a peace walk through the old city and visits to holy sites, including the Western Wall, Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Al Aqsa Mosque and Via Dolorosa. Commemorative banquet in the evening where Jews, Muslims and Christians celebrate the MEPI interfaith peace movement.

Sunday, May 19 - Departures.

The History of the May 2003 Jerusalem Declaration



The Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI), a key strategic project of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), was launched in 2003 as a Track 2 diplomacy effort to bring a wide range of religious perspectives into the center of the search for peace.

Shelly Elkayam, poetess and researcher at Göttingen University and Hebrew University in Jerusalem, credits the MEPI pilgrimages with changing the hearts and minds of many in the region over a two-year period. She argues in her paper, "A Religious Model in Action: Sun Myung Moon and the Middle East Peace Initiative, 2003 to 2005" that "these MEPI pilgrimages were an educational tool designed by a religious actor as a global model of peace building... [and] represented a new model of interfaith activism carried out during a ferocious war zone and was meant to bring the faiths together and serve the cause of world peace."

MEPI participants visited the Yad Vashem Holocaust Museum, other Jewish sites and were the first non-Muslim organization to be invited to the Al-Aqsa Mosque on The Holy Mount, which had been closed to non-Muslims since the Second Intifada. Then there was a reconciliation ceremony held together with rabbis, imams and pastors where the Jerusalem Declaration was signed on May 18th 2003 - "With that declaration, each major group acknowledged its historical mistakes and repented for them and agreed to work together to realize peace and harmony," (Rev. Philip Schanker).