

Dear NAPAD family,

It is with deep regret to announce that a great ecumenical leader, Rev. Dr. Syngman Rhee, passed away January 14, 2015 in Atlanta, GA. Dr Rhee was elected in 2000 as Moderator of the PC (USA) General Assembly, the first Asian American to serve in that position. His ministry included serving as the president of the National Council of Churches from 1992 to 1993. In the midst of the Los Angeles riots of 1992, Dr. Rhee issued a persuading message urging all to remember the spirit of reconciliation: "We are here to stay. We are no longer just sojourners in America. We are a part of America. We have a dream, a dream like the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King that we may all live together in peace and justice."

Rhee was born March 25, 1931, in Pyongyang, Korea, where his father was a Presbyterian minister. When the Korean War broke out in 1950, he and his younger brother joined the flood of refugees fleeing south. They left behind their parents and four sisters. Rhee lost contact with his family for twenty-eight years, until a friend of the family arranged for him to meet with his sisters in North Korea in 1978. He learned that his mother had died eight years earlier and that his father had been arrested by the Communist regime and died in prison. The painful experiences of war and separation from family motivated Rhee's lifelong quest for peace and reconciliation. Dr. Rhee's life story and ministerial endeavors reiterates his life-long commitment in pursuing peace and reconciliation despite tremendously painful moments.

NAPAD, with other denominational friends, celebrates his whole life service for justice, reconciliation, and peace with deep gratitude. Thank you for all you did, Dr. Rhee! Blessings, Jinsuk

For information on arrangements, please go to <http://syngmanrhee.webs.com/>

Jinsuk Chun

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