

We Will Reform What we Should Reform, and we Will Create What we Should Create

~Our Wish towards the Re-Organized *Hombu Kyo'och'o*~

(*Hombu Kyo'och'o* means the Konko HQ Admin. Office in English.)

(Foreword for the February 2020 issue)

The departments of the *Konkokyo* Headquarters' Administrative Office were re-organized late last year, and the change has been in effect since January 1st, 2020. Until the end of last year (2019), our administrative office consisted of 5 departments. These departments have been re-organized into 3 departments in total.

More concretely speaking, the "new" General-Affairs Department (*So'omu-bu*) consists of the "old" General-Affairs Dept., "old" Finance Dept. and the Church-Affairs Room. The "new" *So'omu-bu* is located on the 5th floor of the Konko HQ Admin. Office Building. The "new" Outreach/Propagation Department (*Fukyo'o-bu*) consists of the "old" Church-Affairs Dept., "old" Outreach Dept. and the *Konkokyo* Ceremony-related Room. The "new" *Fukyo'o-bu* is located on the 7th floor of the Admin. Office Bldg. The *Konko Shimbun* Newspaper's Editors' Room belonging to the Outreach Dept. continues to be located in the northern area of the 6th floor, and the Accounting Room that used to belong to the ("old") Finance Dept. now belongs to the ("new") General-Affairs Dept. and it is located in the southern area of the 6th floor.

For details, please refer to "Instructions to All *Konkokyo* Members" on page 53 and "On the Re-organizing of the Operations in the Konko HQ Admin. Office" on page 28 of the January 2020 issue of the monthly booklet, "*Ametsuchi*."

Our intention or purpose to re-organize the HQ Admin. Office was to clarify which task (*goyo*) is really necessary for us today by having a thorough reconsideration on what we had done in the Administrative Office over the years. Through this process, we intended to succeed what we should succeed, reform what we should reform and create what we should newly create. We have re-organized the Admin. Office, also hoping to advance reforms, through which each staff member of our Administrative Office will be given chance to nurture their respective faiths in our Divine Parent and let themselves become united as one and dedicate themselves to their task/*goyo*.

In other words, a re-organization of the HQ Admin. Office's departments itself is not our main objective; It is rather one big step towards necessary reforms, and reshuffling our divisions is a preparation to launch those reforms.

Because of the change of our departments, we will probably inconvenience you at least for a while, because many of you, *Konkokyo* members, may be at a loss, not knowing which department/division is in charge of your requests, and who you should talk to about them. We apologize for the inconveniences in advance, and we also ask you for your kind understanding.

A Japanese verb, "*aratamaru*," (to revise) seems to have at least 3 meanings/definitions...

- ① Something gets renewed.
- ② Something gets improved.
- ③ Try to polish one's courtesy as much as possible.

Even if we say that we reform the system of our departments in the *Konko* HQ's Admin. Office, a mere

change of those divisions will have little meaning. True reforms will be realized if or when the attitude of each staff member of *Hombu Kyo'ochō'o* becomes improved.

Konko Daijin, our dear Founder, teaches us, "Reforming your heart is most important in practicing faith." (GI: Sato Norio 4-1) Just like this, the Founder left us a lot of teachings about the "importance of the reform of our hearts."

Receiving *Kami's* blessing on a concrete matter/event is often our faith goal, but originally speaking, the purpose of our faith is for us to try to reform ourselves. I pray and hope that we would like to try to reform the way we are on a constant basis, so that we can someday become ones who are able to remain thankful and motivated to serve people around us, no matter what kind of things/events may happen to us. I would like to make these things the purpose of my faith in our Parent *Kami*.

Katsu Kaishū'u, an important and famous person around the collapse of the Edo Shogunate and the Meiji Restoration in Japan, is said to have remarked, "When a reformer wants to reform things, the first thing he or she needs to do is to reform himself/herself." If so, I should be that first person to pray to our Divine Parent for my self-reform. And if all the *Konkokyo* members get to reform themselves and seek the development of their respective faiths in *Kami*, I believe that we can see a bright future of *Konkokyo* right ahead of us.

You may call me a *Konko* minister of idealism, but I believe that religious leaders/priests/ministers should also be idealists. I even think that in a way, to practice faith is to keep chasing around ideals.

Anyhow, the *Konkokyo* Headquarters' Administrative Office has been re-organized, and reforms are already underway. For fruitful reforms, each of us, the Admin. Office staff members, would like to start with improving our respective faiths in our Parent *Kami*. We also would like to speak to one another about the roles we are supposed to fulfill. Through our mutual communications from now, we would like to advance reforms by reviewing, organizing and integrating our tasks/*goyo*. We may be slow in doing this, yet we would like to do so on a steady basis.

Thank you.

<THE END>

(by the Rev. Mikao Tabuchi, Director of General-Affairs Department)