

Fore
word**Thank you Very Much, Konko-sama!**

by the Reverend Kazumasa Tsukamoto Director of the Outreach Department

These words are what (the current Sixth) Konko-sama cherishes and says every single day.

Right here, right now, every one of us is given grand blessings thanks to the daily prayers and Sacred Mediation of our Founder and the successive Konko-samas. When I think about this truth, I cannot but say "Thank you very much, Konko-sama!" from the bottom of my heart.

The current Sixth Konko-sama is the first Konko-sama who says "Thank you very much, Konko-sama!" at the Mediation Seat, even though Konko-sama himself IS Konko-sama. When I first heard him say so, I wondered how I should appreciate or understand those words.

Finding an answer wasn't easy, and so I kept searching for one on a frequent basis. One day, I was fortunate enough to encounter the following words of the

Sixth Konko-sama.

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"My words, 'Thank you very much, Konko-sama,' do not refer to one particular individual. When I say these words, many people are on my mind... Ikigami Konko Daijin (our Founder), Tenchi Kane No Kami (Divine Parent of the Universe), my ancestors, numerous mitama spirits, successive Konko-samas, my wife, everyone around me, everything that takes care of me... I am thinking of all these people and things when I say, 'Konko-sama!' Maybe many of you too, but I spontaneously say 'Konko-sama!' when, for example, my child falls over a stone. I do this even without thinking. I've been trained enough to say 'Konko-sama!' in a state of emergency. With this in mind, I say 'Thank you very much, Konko-sama!' on a daily basis."

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I was not only surprised but also deeply impressed and moved to learn how much feeling the present Konko-sama puts into this phrase.

"Thank you very much, Konko-sama!" This phrase allows anybody to get connected to the feelings of (the current Sixth) Konko-sama, no matter when it is, no matter where he/she is. This phrase is indeed "words of prayer" which open up the door to Kami-sama for us. I would like to cherish the deep feelings and consideration of Konko-sama behind these words from now on too.

When we live, not everything that happens to us is a good, positive thing. We, in fact, are often made to go through hard, painful and sad events. Even under such a severe circumstance, we can feel at ease IF OR WHEN we recognize that we

are wrapped/embraced with grand prayers and try to live a faith-ful life where we seek a way of life based upon gratitude.

Konko Daijin, our dear Founder, gave Ms. Shima Senda a teaching: "Tell about the divine blessings you have received to those who are unaware of Kami-Sama's blessedness. Then those people will be saved. Giving thanks this way will make Kami-Sama most happy."

We will soon hold the Spring Grand Ceremony for our Parent Kami. I would like to keep trying to live a way of life based on thankfulness and show my enormous feeling of "gratitude to Kami" to people around me, so that those people will get to take a notice of my joy and deep emotion of being moved.

Rev. Hiromichi Konko Accepts the Position of Kyoshu (Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator)

The Headquarters of the Konko Faith had a Kyoshu Election on February 17th, 2026, for the present Sixth Konko-sama will finish his first five-year term as Konkokyo's Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator on March 26th, 2026.

The Head Ministers of each local Konko church are the voters. The voters can cast their votes in one of the following four methods:

- 1) A voter (the Head Minister of a local Konko church) comes to the voting site on the first floor of the Konkokyo Headquarters' Administrative Office Building on the Election Day and votes directly.
- 2) A voter sends his ballot to the Konko HQ by postal mail.
- 3) A voter does an "early voting" by coming to the voting site prior to the Election Day.
- 4) The Vice Head Minister or an associate minister of a local Konko church brings the ballot of their Head Minister on his/her behalf.

Vote counting started as soon as the voting period was over, and the Rev. Hiromichi Konko, the incumbent Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator of the Konko Faith, was elected.



In the evening of the Election Day, the Rev. Michio Hashimoto (the Chief Admin. Director of Konkokyo) made a report of the Election result for the Rev. Hiromichi Konko and, as the Election manager, Rev. Hashimoto asked him to assume the position of Kyoshu. On the same day, Rev. Hiromichi sincerely accepted the

request of the entire Konkokyo community.

Now these are official: the Rev. Hiromichi Konko will assume the position of Konkokyo's Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator on March 27th, 2026, entering his second five-year term as Kyoshu. The Konkokyo Headquarters will hold Rev. Hiromichi's inauguration ceremony as Kyoshu following the Independence Ceremony of the Konko Faith on June 14th, 2026.

At the hall on the first floor of the Konkokyo Headquarters' Administrative Office Building at 9:30 AM of February 18th, 2026, the Rev. Hashimoto informed the entire staff of the Konkokyo Organization of the Rev. Hiromichi Konko having accepted the position of Kyoshu. The Rev. Hashimoto also made some comments on this time's Kyoshu Election. Please refer to the following page for his comments.

Report and Commentary by the Chief Administrative Director of Konkokyo Told by the Reverend Michio Hashimoto

Yesterday, we had an election in order to elect a Konko minister with the family name of "Konko," whom we, as Konkokyo, ask to become our Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator. The result is that the Reverend Hiromichi Konko had more than 1,000 votes and elected. Following this election outcome, on the evening of the same date, I humbly asked Rev. Hiromichi to become our Konko-sama and he accepted our request kindly and sincerely on the same date.

Please refer to the Election Records for the detailed number of votes for each candidate. The Reverend Hiromichi Konko will enter his second 5-year term on March 27, 2026. The Konkokyo Headquarters will hold inauguration ceremony following the Independence Ceremony on June 14th, 2026.

In an ordinary election, the candidate with the largest number of votes wins the election and he/she celebrates the election result with his/her

supporters. Our Kyoshu Election is different: In the case of Konkokyo, after seeing the result, the Election Manager goes to the elected minister and humbly ask him/her to become our Konko-sama. If the minister says "Yes," our Kyoshu Election will officially conclude. I, as the Election Manager, I feel nervous when I ask to become our Principal Mediator, because I am never sure if he or she says "Yes." This time, Rev. Hiromichi gave me a reply of "Yes" on the evening of the Election Day, for which I was thankful. At the same time, I am being deeply grateful that the Rev. Hiromichi Konko will continue to be our Spiritual Leader.

With this joy, I would like to encourage all of us here now to do goyo with a refreshed motivation, receiving Konko-sama's prayers and Sacred Mediation on a constant basis.

