

Fore
word**Let's Sail towards the Brighter Future!**

by the Reverend Yumi Asano Administrative Advisor

This time, I would like to write this foreword as an administrative advisor for the Konkokyo Headquarters Office. According to the Konkokyo Constitutions, an "administrative advisor" is "supposed to provide the cabinet members with advice about the administration of Konkokyo in general." Because of this position, I am required to have close, careful observations of Konko Organization's activities while being in my church. This is not a very easy job. The situation surrounding the Konkokyo Organization has recent been quite severe, and I can vividly sense this even at my local Konko church. I, however, have a hard time coming up with ideas as to what we should do about this problem.

I was ordained as a Konkokyo minister 40 years ago. Back then, our Organization was already losing its lively energy little by little. Because of this, the Hombu Administrative executives were taking various actions in order to turn this difficult situation around.

One day, Hombu kindly held a meeting for young adult ministers and I attended it. At

the meeting, a senior minister said to us, "The Konkokyo Organization is just like one huge ship. It is now in danger of capsizing, but what you're doing is to protect your own cabin." With these words, this minister scolded us a whole lot. And I felt a sense of big responsibility. I recalled his words from time to time, and I have made it a rule to remind myself not to think about my church only.

However, the Reverend Michio Hashimoto, the incumbent Chief Administrative Director of the Konko Faith, presented a different view of our Organization at the Commemorative Ceremony of Konkokyo Independence in June, 2024. In his address, the Rev. Hashimoto stated, "The Konkokyo Organization is often compared to one huge ship. But to me, it is more like a large fleet. A group of numerous ships is sailing towards a 'bright future' together, sharing a loose yet warm connection with one another. This image is more suitable for Konkokyo." These words of the Rev. Hashimoto convinced me very well.

As far as Konkokyo is concerned, each local church is just like a ship. In this sense, it is significantly important for a minister to navigate and protect/defend his or her church. They should be focused upon this task first of all. However, the sea surrounding each of our churches is not so gentle and mild as before. The wave is anything but benign. It is in fact quite rough. Because of this, many of us seem to find it extremely hard to steer our ship right. We are also not quite sure which direction our ship should go to from now.

I thought about what a Konko church is and what the Konkokyo Organization is. I did so again after a long absence. Then I gradually saw that the reason why we sometimes feel lost and why we are not so sure about what to do with our church is because there were no such things as "churches" and "Organization" during the lifetime of our Founder, Konko Daijin. As to how a worship hall (hiromae) should be like, we can follow

the Founder's hiromae. On the other hand, we can hardly come up with a suitable image for a church and the organization for the reason mentioned above.

Takahashi Masao sensei wrote a book, "In Search of Our Founder's Faith," and he says in this book, "This group (organization) is something you (the Founder) didn't really need. This is something we established for the sake of ourselves. We are currently in a situation where we need to think about this from a fundamental perspective." The Rev. Takahashi continues and prays, "Please cast your light upon all of us, so that we can follow your will/desires."

Today, this large fleet called the Konko Faith (Konkokyo) is in a position where all the crew of the ships gets united as one and pray this very thing together, so that we will be given a light that teaches us what we should do now. I sincerely believe that our doing so is tremendously important.

The Day for Rev. Hiromichi Konko to Become Kyoshu (Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator)

With Desire to Contribute to the Realization of Kami's Wish in Any Way We Can

On March 26th, 2026, the Reverend Hiromichi Konko finished his (first) five-year term as Kyoshu (Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator). On the following 27th, he entered his second (five-year) term as our Spiritual Leader.

At 8:00 AM (of March 27th, 2026), the staff of the Konkokyo Headquarters' Administrative Office and the staff of other institutions, Konkokyo Seminary students and lay believers living in Konko Town got together at the Central Worship and Mediation



Hall. The Reverend Michio Hashimoto, the Chief Administrative Director of Konkokyo, expressed his gratitude and request at the Mediation Place, representing the whole community of the Konko Faith. After that, Kyoshu Konko-sama made a statement.

◆ Official Address by the Chief Admin. Director ◆

Thank you very much, first of all, for your daily prayer and Sacred Mediation for all of us. Thanks to your selfless service for our Parent Kami, we receive grand blessings from Kami. And I am deeply thankful about this.

I'd like to speak to you.

On March 27th, 2021, you (the Sixth Konko-sama) humbly accepted the former (Fifth) Konko-sama's will and succeeded your father's position as Kyoshu. Since then, you have served our Parent Kami as our Spiritual Leader/Principal Mediator. Since then, you have unified the whole Konkokyo community. And since then, we have all been saved and fulfilled thanks to the Sacred Mediation you perform for each one of us. I am truly appreciative about this.

Today, following your first five-year term as the Spiritual Leader of the Konko Faith, you assume the position of Kyoshu again. For this, everybody in this Faith are delighted a whole lot and they are all deeply grateful. On behalf of them, I would like to convey my thick, deep appreciation to you.

The Konkokyo Organization is executing various activities with the Basic Policy of "Let us keep the content of the Divine Reminder/Tenchi Kakitsuke in our mind and put it into practice. By doing so, let us try to become the (bright) light for world peace and the salvation of all people." Each activity is being done as planned and desired, and I know that it is because Kami gives us blessings upon our activities. I thank you very very much.

You, Konko-sama, showed us the important point of Konkokyo's faith at the radio program that was aired on New Year's Day of this year. You remarked, "By nature, people have capability to give a hand to someone who is in trouble. This is for everybody to be able to smile. It is my firm

Remarks by Kyoshu Konko-sama

I am deeply thankful that I've been allowed to do goyo (as the Spiritual Leader of Konkokyo).

I know I am not perfect, yet I would like to continue to seek, express and hand down the faith of Konko Daijin, our dear Founder, to future generations. I would like to receive Kami's blessings with all of you, and I'd like to contribute to the realization of Kami's wish even if a little bit.

I'd like to call for your prayers, understanding and cooperation.

Let us strive together!

Thank you very much.

belief that humans are humans because they get to help others." We would like to follow your words and receive such a blessing from our Parent Kami.

On your inauguration day, we would like to live our faith life, knowing the importance of "Being aware of the debt one owes to his/her parents and trying to repay them for their kindness to him/her" with a refreshed mind. And I sincerely pray that we will get to contribute to the realization of Kami's wish, "true peace of the world."

On behalf of the entire community of the Konko Faith, I would like you to take care of yourself, pray and conduct Sacred Mediation for not only the members of the Konko community but also all people of the world so that all of us will be saved and fulfilled. With your selfless service for our Parent Kami, we would like to receive Kami's blessings in everything we are involved in.

Thank you very much, Konko-sama !