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Official Greeting by the Reverend michiyo Iwasaki,  
the Chief Administrative Director of Konkokyo

To all Konkokyo ministers and believers:

**On Assuming the Position of the Chief Administrative Director (*Kyo'omu So'ocho'o*) of  
the Konko Faith (*Konkokyo*)**

Through wondrous divine arrangements of our Parent Deity, I hereby assume the position of the Chief Administrative Director of *Konkokyo*, succeeding the former *Kyo'omu So'ocho'o*, the Reverend Yoshinori Nishikawa.

For the last four years, the Nishikawa Administration has implemented various events and activities, and one of their main focuses was to make the 160th Anniversary of *Konkokyo*'s Foundation (2019) as memorable a year as possible. The Reverend Nishikawa and his cabinet members aspired to realize the wish of *Kyo'oshu Konko-sama*, the Spiritual Leader of the Konko Faith, and *Konko-sama* expressed his desire in the Grand Ceremony for Ikigami Konko Daijin, commemorating the 150th Anniversary of *Konkokyo*'s Foundation (2009) as follows: "I pray that we will sincerely contribute to the people around us, so that they will be able to recognize the 'Way of Kami and People' in the life of each of them."

The Nishikawa Administration regarded the meaning of *Konkokyo*'s foundation as the "opening of the 'Way of Kami and People' which allows both Kami and people to become mutually fulfilled." They fully knew that each local church and the *Konkokyo* Organization were supposed to open up the 'Way of Kami and People,' and Rev. Nishikawa and his comrades believed that the churches and the Organization should have a vision to "revive Sacred Mediation (*Toritsugi*).\" Thus, the revival of *Toritsugi*-Mediation soon became the primary goal for the Nishikawa Administration. In order to achieve this goal, the former cabinet made frequent approaches to local leagues of Konko churches. I understand that these endeavors of the Nishikawa Administration are a concrete manifestation of their basic attitude to administer tasks, facing *Konkokyo* churches in sincerity, because they were fully aware that our churches are the "base" of the fulfillment of our Divine Parent's wish.

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Reverend Nishikawa, the former Chief Administrative Director, and his dear cabinet members, all of whom have done their service (*goyo*) with the aforementioned wishes and attitude.

Today, we see several distortions in our present-day society. We confirm those distortions in every corner of our society, and each of the distortions can be seen quite concretely. COVID-19 or the Novel Corona Virus infections, they arose as a sharpened phenomenon of those distortions, and this new-type virus is asking us severely, "How are you going to live from now?"

Because we are under such a circumstance, together with all of you in our *Konkokyo* community, I would like to work hard for "seeking and letting Konko Daijin's faith be known." I say this

because this is what the entire *Konkokyo* congregation has constantly strived for. By working on this, I sincerely hope that we will be allowed to contribute to the realization of Kami's wish. When we practice faith in our Divine Parent and see things come true, we are supposed to realize Kami's true intention(s) that is way beyond our capacity of understanding things. We should say to ourselves in great awe and appreciation, "Oh, wow! This was what Kami had intended !!"

In order for this to happen to each one of us, I, together with all Headquarters' facilities, churches, ministers, ministers' assistants and lay believers, would like to ask for and receive *Konko-sama's* Sacred Mediation and try hard to make sure Kami's deep, true intentions behind each single thing that happens to us. By doing these things, I would like to do Konko administrations from now.

This is all for my greetings. Thank you very much.

*Delivered by the Rev. Michiyo Iwasaki on July 1st, 2020*

## **On Resigning from the Position of the Chief Administrative Director of the Konko**

### **Faith**

On July 1st, 2016, I succeeded my predecessor, the Reverend Okanari, and assumed the position of the Chief Administrative Director. Receiving the earnest prayers and Sacred Mediation from *Kyo'oshu Konko-sama* on a daily basis, and also receiving the prayers and cooperation from all of you in the *Konkokyo* community, I have been allowed to engage in this important service (*goyo*) for the last four years. Today is the day I humbly step down from this position.

During these years, my/our administration had a Basic Policy, "We will open up the 'Way of Kami and People' for the sake of world peace and the salvation of humanity. For this, more concretely speaking, we will ask for and receive Sacred Mediation, let our *kami*-like heart guide us, pray for, help and lead people around us." Out of this Basic Policy, we had activity guidelines for ourselves; "Realization of salvation via Sacred Mediation at the Mediation Seat/Place," "Promotion of Faith Movement for Life that Invites Mutual Fulfillment between Kami and People" and "Promotion of 'Propagation by the Konko Headquarters.'" We knew that the "Way of Kami and People" was the wish of *Konko-sama*, and so we decided that this should be the important "pillar" of our faith. And we, as the Nishikawa Administration, have worked hard in order to open up this Way in a concrete way. I had the most memorable experiences last year in 2019, when we welcomed the 160th Anniversary of *Konkokyo's* Foundation. We wanted to re-learn and re-appreciate the meaning of *Konkokyo's* emergence in this world as well as wanting to develop our faiths in Kami even more from then on. And we were allowed to engage in various events and activities throughout that year. I am deeply thankful for this.

Today, the Reverend Iwasaki newly assumes the position of the Chief Administrative Director of the Konko Faith. I am happy for Rev. Iwasaki, who is ready to meet the challenges that may lie ahead of him from now.

Lastly, allow me to pray that we will become united as one more than ever, where we will all appreciate and cherish *Konko-sama's* wish of the "Way of Kami and People" and we will be allowed to see our Faith prosper.

This is all for my greetings. Thank you very much.

*Delivered by the Rev. Yoshinori Nishikawa on July 1st, 2020*