

107th Foundation Day Anniversary
Union Theological Seminary, City of Dasmariñas
4114 Cavite, Republic of the Philippines
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“LET GRACE BE TOTAL”

Dr. Eleazar Fernandez, UTS President, discussed the “New Overtures in Theological Education,” presenting the four models of theological education: the ecology, the art improvisation, the appreciative inquiry, and the world café models.

UCCP Bishop Arthur Asi presented the recently approved statement of the denomination, “Let Grace Be Total,” regarding the affirmation and acceptance of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender people during yesterday’s afternoon lectures.

He challenged the gathered community to embrace the changes underway at UTS which will secure its reputation of excellence in Theological Formation and Education.

Respondent Ptr. Kakay Pamaran, of the Metropolitan Community Church, welcomed the statement as a courageous step towards “coming out” of the UCCP for the inclusion of LGBT people but with the acknowledgement that there is also a lot of work to study and reformulate the statement.

Dr. Junifen Gauuan, PCU President, on the other hand, centered his presentation on the realities of the present educational system and how Christian educational institutions can contribute to the improvement of the system.

Atty Angie Umbac, a human rights and LGBT activist, focused on the human rights aspect on why it is imperative for Churches and Church people to accept and recognize LGBT people as fellow human beings. According to her, LGBT people are usually judged on only one aspect of their being and that is their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression and that all of the

He said that there is a need to ensure that Christian schools prepare students to be Global citizens, yet at the same time prepare them to act locally.

An open forum followed each lecture



**UTS AND PCU HEADS LEAD
SECOND DAY LECTURES**

other aspects of the person (being daughters, sons, mothers, fathers, bankers, architects, lawyers, good tax payers, spiritual persons) are never considered and almost always forgotten.

UMC Bishop Arichea, during the open forum, called for the need for LGBT people themselves to be part of the further study and reformulation of the statement and the definitions presented.

Another key and controversial question was about the moral or theological question of the physical changes and alterations of transgender people and its relationship to the integrity of the human body to which Ptr Kakay Pamaran responded that body alterations happen all the time by many people such as but not limited to the dying of hair to a different color or plastic surgery of many celebrities to enhance physical beauty. And these

seemingly day-to-day, normal and accepted physical changes do not seem to have any moral and theological implications. The UCCP leadership was asked if the denomination ordains openly gay church workers and General Secretary Bishop Reuel Marigza said, "Yes!"

Athena Peralta, WCC consultant on Poverty, Wealth, and Ecology, argued that system change is the solution to climate change. She spoke during yesterday afternoon's lectures.

Her input emphasized that climate change is an ecological, economical and justice issue that must be looked into by every church, every person, and every nation. Respondents included Dr. Levi Duhaylungsod and Rev. Dr. Pepito Cunanan.

Prof. Anna Skagersten and Ptr. Genesis Antonio facilitated the event.

A CALL FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE

Bishop Joel Tendero of the UCCP-South Luzon Jurisdiction, emphasized justice and peace through his sermon at UTS Salakot Chapel during yesterday's morning worship. The word interpreted was shared via the bishop's poem, "Ang Ministeryo ni Kristo." Prayers for peace and justice with lightning of candles led by UMC's College of Bishop President, Bishop Rodolfo Juan Jr. followed.

"Thank You for the Music!"

Last night, the Salakot Chapel was filled with music as six choirs from all over the region came together to offer songs of love, hope and praise. The six choirs that took part in the Fourth Choir Festival were the *Harmonic Magi & EMC Choir*, *Palapala UMC Choir*, *PCCL Choir*, *Petal Preparatory School Choir*, *Korista Ng Sagrada Ng Dios Kay Kristo* & *the UTS Choir*.

A special prayer was also offered up for the co-workers and benefactors who have gone ahead, and a song tribute was also sung for the late DM Junuel Paaño, an alumnus of UTS and a tenor of the UTS Choir. The Masters of Ceremonies of this event were Carleen Nomorosa and Cristopher Joseph Tiu.

