

Bishop Gene Savoy Jr. Meets Reno Mayoral Candidate



Bishop Gene Savoy Jr. met Reno mayoral candidate Hillary Shieves at a Volunteers of America board meeting this August. Gene and Hillary attended ice-skating lessons together as teenagers during the 1980s. Gene and Hillary are third and fourth from the right in the photo. PHOTO: Sandy Isham

Services for the Week of

September 13, 2014



Saturday, September 13, 2014

10:00 AM COMMUNION

Chapel of The Holy Child

RR Gene Savoy Jr.

Lector: RR Sean Savoy

Cantor: Rev. Gary Huss Sr.

Reader: Rev. Vickie Hewlett

Sunday, September 14, 2014

6:30 AM NEW DIVINE SERVICE

Cathedral Church of the Americas

Leave: 5:45

Gate: 6:15

Sunrise: 6:45

RR Gene Savoy Jr.

Concelebrant: RR Sean Savoy

Assistants:

RC Roger Weld
RC Robert Petrovich
RM Rebecca Willis
Organist: RC Gary Buchanan

OPEN-AIR COMMUNION

Church of New Philadelphia

Rev. Robert Roy

Church of New Qumran

Rev. Larry Coesens

Church of New Bethany

Noriko Roy

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

12:00 N COMMUNION

Chapel of the Holy Child

RC Roger Weld

Friday, September 19, 2014

9:00 AM PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP

Chapel of the Roses

RC Roger Weld

Fundraising Dinner Held to Ease Poverty



Reno Mayor Bob Cashell, Radheka Patel Savoy, and Gene Savoy Jr. at Plates to Ease Poverty fundraising dinner PHOTO: Gene Savoy Jr.

Catholic Charities of Northern Nevada hosted the 2014 Plates to Ease Poverty fundraising dinner on Thursday, August 28 at the Atlantis Casino Resort & Spa in Reno. The honorees, Reno Mayor Bob Cashell and his wife, Nancy, received the Catholic bishop's Humanitarian Award because of their advocacy for the homeless. Bishop Gene Savoy, Jr. and his wife, Radheka Patel Savoy, attended on behalf of the ICC. Bishop Gene is good friends with Mayor Bob and his wife, as well as with the Catholic bishop, Randolph Calvo. Mayor Cashell was instrumental in establishing the Community Assistance Center (CAC) in downtown Reno. The CAC includes the St. Vincent's Programs, the Reno Gospel Mission and Volunteers of America, of which Bishop Gene serves on the advisory board. Bishop Calvo and the Catholic diocese are also supporters of the various programs sponsored by the Nevada Clergy Association.

Clinical Pastoral Education Ceremony Attended



PHOTO Roger
Weld

The Summer 2014 graduation ceremony for Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) students took place on Wednesday, August 20, 2014 in the chapel at St. Mary's Regional Medical Center. Bishop Gene Savoy Jr., who sits on the Professional Advisory Group (PAG) at St. Mary's, was in attendance.

CPE is a required educational unit for most seminarians and theological students who are pursuing a career in the ministry.

Following the graduation ceremony for the seven graduates of the program, PAG members met for their regular meeting to discuss Fall class requirements.

Bishop Gene Invited to Korea



Bishop Gene Savoy, Jr. has been invited to attend and present at a conference in South Korea September 17 – 19, 2014 in Seoul. The conference is titled *World Alliance of Religions for Peace Summit 2014: Global Collaboration for Peace and the Creation of an Interfaith Constitution* and will address the topic of the world's diverse spiritual traditions, the drafting of an international constitution for interfaith relations, and first steps towards achieving world peace.

The invitation letter to Bishop Savoy reads in part:

Dear Respected Bishop Savoy:

All of us are working so hard and earnestly preparing for the summit that will happen in September 17-19th. We truly hope for the attainable world peace and we do believe that this gathering will make the difference and will see the fruit together with so many other peace makers around the world. As we certainly know of your interest and devotion, in addition to your most influential work [in the] interfaith community, your presence will reinforce the cessation of war and bring world peace by having [an] interfaith community.

Several hundred people are said to be attending, including

current and former heads of state and government, diplomats, international peace leaders and human rights advocates, journalists, educators, as well as musicians and artists. Bishop Gene said, "I am very honored to have received this invitation to travel to Korea on behalf of our Community of Light and Peace. I believe our contribution will be to introduce for the first time on the world stage the Universal Proclamation of Human Spiritual Rights which, in itself, is a model for interreligious relations and dialogue and sets a framework for an interfaith constitution. We will see what doors open."

Accompanying the Bishop will be Reverend Ted Staver who was stationed in Korea in the late 1970's. A short video of the summit can be found at <http://vimeo.com/102625204>.

Head Bishop Talks about Efforts to Gain Full Tax-Exempt Status for Red Rock Sanctuary Lands



In July, 2014, ICC Head Bishop Gene Savoy Jr. sat down with the editor of the *Community Communiqué* (CC) to discuss the ongoing efforts by the Church-retained attorney/lobbyist firm to persuade Nevada lawmakers to amend the tax exemption law to include The Church's Red Rock Sanctuary, on which The Church must currently pay thousands of dollars in property taxes annually. Following is an edited transcript of that discussion:

CC: Maybe you could talk about what's going on right now, and after that go back and tell a little of the history of it, how it came about that The Church ended up paying tax on the Sanctuary, and then what's happened over the past twenty years with that.

GS: It might be better to switch that around, if that's ok with you.

To do the background first?

Yes, because it's a chronology.

OK.

In 1980, '81, and '82, The Church purchased what is now the North Sanctuary of Revelation. We purchased that first, and then the South Sanctuary of Prophecy, over a period of about two to three years. And in 1982, The Church applied for property tax exemption under the religious property-tax-

exemption law here in Nevada. And we were initially granted a property tax exemption by the Washoe County assessor through the advice of the Washoe County district attorney.

In 1984, the district attorney changed; there was a new district attorney, and the decision was reversed. So The Church tried to negotiate with the county through letters and meetings, and eventually it was determined, later that year, that we would file a lawsuit against Washoe County. That lawsuit lasted until 1992. Initially, we were successful in the county district court. To make a long story short, The Church won the case. Washoe County then appealed to the Nevada State Supreme Court, and that decision was overturned. The Church then had to pay back taxes from the beginning of the purchase of the properties, including penalties and interest, which was a substantial amount of money. If my recollection serves me, it was somewhere in the neighborhood of \$100,000 to \$150,000, through 1992.

We have been paying taxes on the Sanctuary since then. It's a strange situation in that certain improvements are exempt, but nonimproved areas of the Sanctuary, which we would basically consider open space, are taxed. So every five years, the assessor comes out to our Sanctuary and assesses what improvements we've made, which become exempt, and then the rest of the property is taxed. So, to date, from the purchase of the Sanctuary in 1980 through 2014, we estimate that The Community has expended between \$400,000 and \$500,000 over thirty-five years in property taxes and assessments.

Our goal always was to remedy the situation, and there are two ways to go about that. Our first option would be to file another lawsuit against the county, which is a very laborious process involving local agencies. You have to go through the administrative process and hearings. If you are denied, then you appeal to a higher board. If that is denied then you can file a lawsuit in the county district court. You go through that legal process, and it is mostly likely that the loser

will file again at the Nevada State Supreme Court. You have to go through this process before you can then file a federal lawsuit for religious discrimination or to charge that the law is unconstitutional; that is, that the law does not treat all religions in the state equally. That is probably a ten-year process which would cost additional hundreds of thousand of dollars for attorneys and so forth.

The second alternative is to have the current Nevada law changed. And that can only be done through the state legislature. So that always seemed like the better route. So it's been a waiting game. We've been waiting since 1992. In 2012 I was introduced to a lobbyist from the firm Hillerby and Associates, and we began discussing the situation at the Red Rock Sanctuary, and he took an interest in our situation. During that time Hillerby and Associates merged with the law firm Kaempfer Crowell, one of the largest law firms in the state. They have offices in Reno, Carson City, and Las Vegas. The merger of the lobbyist organization, Hillerby and Associates, with the law firm, Kaempfer Crowell, made a very good combination in regard to our particular situation.

We had initial discussions with the new firm, Kaempfer Crowell, in January 2013, and they advised us to begin some initial discussions with some of the legislators. We began discussing some of the issues with legislators, but the legislative session had already begun. In Nevada we have a legislative session for 120 days every two years. While we had support, theoretically and conceptually, from several of these legislators, it was too late to introduce any bills into the legislature to amend the statute. We entered, then, into an agreement in March 2014 with Kaempfer Crowell with the idea of introducing a bill in the 2015 legislature—in fact, you have to submit the bill prior to the beginning of the legislative session in February 2015.

What has transpired is that the first meeting Kaempfer Crowell had was with the Washoe County Assessor's Office . . .

On The Church's behalf.

Yes, on The Church's behalf. And the Washoe County Assessor's Office determined that if it were The Church's intention to have the law changed and to submit a bill into the legislature to that end, they would not oppose it. The next meeting was with the district attorney's office, who also said they would not oppose it. So where we are at this point is discussing the same matter with the legislators themselves. We had to wait until the primary season, the primary elections in June, were over in order to determine who they were going to have to talk to. So at this point they have talked to two legislators, who in the initial discussions are in favor and on board, and we are now in discussion with three other legislators, all from Washoe County. Evidently, the way this works is you get your county delegation on board—since we're in Washoe County, you get the legislators from Washoe County on board—and if they're on board, either one or two people can sponsor the bill, or they can do it as a committee, as the delegation itself, which is more powerful, since every legislator from Washoe County has no problem with it. So that's where we're at at this point in time.

Now, initially, the idea was to rewrite the existing law, but instead of that, I understand, the goal is to amend the law. Can you explain further?

That's correct. The law is very broad, and what we decided—that is, the firm and The Church—is that we did not want to get into a huge “crusade” where we were changing the general property-tax- exemption law for the entire state, which would maybe cause county assessors statewide to oppose that; plus, we are not in the position to be the crusader for other religious organizations.

Nor do we need to be since they're not doing what we're doing.

Exactly. In the Nevada statutes there are almost thirty

individual organizations—whether they're fraternal, such as the Freemasons, or whether they are fraternities like at a university, or the Boy Scouts, for example—that are specifically named in the statutes as being exempt. So that is the route we have chosen to take, which is simply to name The Church, and specifically, the Sanctuary. The buildings that we own are already exempt under the existing law. It is only the raw land that is not. Because we are using the land for religious, educational, and wildlife purposes, we actually qualify for an exemption under those three statutes, and we will make that clear to the legislators. It seems that a simple naming of The Church and the Sanctuary for an exemption, as long as the property is not used for commercial purpose, is the way to approach the issue.

Now, just to clarify some pertinent points for those people who maybe haven't been in The Community for very long or just aren't familiar with this situation, how does the state view or categorize the Sanctuary lands?

Well, the purposes of the Sanctuary are threefold: worship for a religious purpose; educational, as it serves as the campus for the Jamilian University; and wildlife conservation, in as much as we have entered into agreements with the United States Department of Agriculture, some state organizations, the Division of Forestry, the Truckee Meadows Fire Protection District, and various other entities to protect the wildlife that exists there—and that seems also to be a great incentive for a lot of the younger legislators.

So, it's been since last March that the law firm has been speaking to legislators. What has to be done now? What are the next steps, and if it is successful how long will it take?

My understanding is that once we get the verbal commitment of several legislators here in Washoe County, then the firm will draft legislation to be presented as a bill in the legislative session that begins in February. The final version of the bill

has to be submitted sixty days before the commencement of the session. But prior to that, the draft is submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau in Carson City. They are the people that professionally review bills for language, to make sure that it fits into the language of the Nevada statutes. So the firm will draft it, send it to the Legislative Counsel Bureau in Carson City, who will review it. If they make any amendment, we will then alter the proposal, and then it has to be submitted sixty days before the session starts, which would be somewhere around the beginning of December, if not sooner.

Then once the legislative session opens, what happens then?

Well, it's a long, drawn-out process that I'm not really educated on, but once the bill is proposed before a particular committee—this would probably be the taxation committee—it goes through a series of hearings and the lobbyist/law firm is present to make our presentation and our points, and hopefully, the committee passes it along to . . . and again, each house of the legislature has its own taxation committee so it has to be presented in each house, and hopefully, it moves along in each house and is then sent to a vote in each house, and then, if it passes, the governor signs it.

So sometime in May you should know whether it was successful or not? And if for any reason it might not be decided during that session does it carry over or . . . ?

It either goes forward or it dies. And then we'd have to try again in two years.

And I understand the law firm has been asking a certain fee from us over this time, and will they charge a different amount for the different processes, such as the drafting and submission, then the follow up would be another fee or . . . ?

Yes, I believe that's basically correct. My understanding in my discussions with them is that for a fee—a very reasonable fee, I might add—of \$10,000, they will have talked to the

county, which they did; they will attempt to garner the support of the Washoe County delegation, which we are in the process of doing; they will draft the proposal, send it to the Legislative Counsel Bureau, submit it, and at that point, that's as far as our agreement goes at this time. I think we would enter into a separate agreement for them to actually represent us when the session begins.

As lobbyists.

Exactly. And I don't know what that agreement will be.

So that \$10,000, we're still paying it, or is it paid?

We're still in the process of making those payments.

So further contributions would be welcome.

Contributions are always welcome!

And contributions for the upcoming session would, I imagine, be really helpful because it might be a little more active?

Yes, the law firm, at that point, would be actively lobbying legislators from other parts of the state on this particular point. Now, that probably would not be a long, drawn-out process, because we're only talking about our little Sanctuary in Washoe County; it's not affecting any other county or any other assessor or how they collect their taxes. So the idea is that if we can get the Washoe County delegation on board, then it should be a pretty simple process to let other people know, and most likely they would support it. But most of the time that our lobbyists would spend for us is in committee, being present at the committee meetings, making presentations to the committee on why they should approve the bill and pass it on to the full house for a vote.

OK. Any final comments?

Well, I have told the lobbyists that this is a very personal

and emotional issue for the members of this Community, just solely based on the fact that in Washoe County, every religious organization is exempt from property taxes. Of course, the vast majority of those religious organizations merely have buildings, and that was what the law was designed to exempt when it was written in the 1800s. There are other organizations that have “vacant” or “open” lands that are exempt, but they have a little more clout than we do. So for us, as I mentioned to the firm, and will stress again, it’s a very personal and emotional issue and to be able to win this, it would put away a lot of hurt from the past, and I think, from a psychological point of view, would allow us to move forward in a different way as we continue in developing the Sanctuary.

Great! Thank you!

Services for the Week of September 6, 2014



Saturday, September 6, 2014

10:00 AM COMMUNION

Chapel of The Holy Child

RR Gene Savoy Jr.

Lector: RM Carol Ann Crabb

Cantor: Rev. Ben Hubbard

Reader: Sonya Savoy

Sunday, September 7, 2014

6:23 AM NEW DIVINE SERVICE

Cathedral Church of the Americas

Leave: 5:30

Gate: 6:05

Sunrise: 6:38

RR Gene Savoy Jr.

Concelebrant: RR Sean Savoy

Assistants:

RC Roger Weld

RC Ted Staver

RM Carol Ann Crabb

Organist: RC Gary Buchanan

OPEN-AIR COMMUNION

Church of New Philadelphia

Rev. Herman

Aggenbach

Church of New Qumran

Rev. Dorothy Kubiak

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

12:00 N COMMUNION

Chapel of the Holy Child

RM Carol Ann Crabb

Friday, September 12, 2014

9:00 AM PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP

Chapel of the Roses

Rev. Vickie Hewlett

Services for the Week of August 30, 2014



Saturday, August 30, 2014

10:00 AM COMMUNION

Chapel of The Holy Child

RR Gene Savoy Jr.

Lector: RC Ted Staver

Cantor: Rev. Herman Aggenbach

Reader: Rev. Karen Elliott

Sunday, August 31, 2014

6:17 AM NEW DIVINE SERVICE

Church of New Pentecost

Leave: 5:30

Gate: 6:00

Sunrise: 6:32

RR Gene Savoy Jr.

Concelebrant: RC Robert Petrovich

Assistants:

RC Roger Weld

RC Ted Staver

RM Rebecca Willis

Organist: RC Gary Buchanan

OPEN-AIR COMMUNION

Church of the Universal Theocracy

RC Gary

Buchanan

Church of the Americas

Rev. Amanda Buchanan

Wednesday, September 3, 2014

12:00 N COMMUNION

Chapel of the Holy Child

RC Roger Weld

Friday, September 5, 2014

9:00 AM PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP

Chapel of the Roses

RC Gary Buchanan

Services for the Week of August 23, 2014



Saturday, August 23, 2014

10:00 AM COMMUNION

Chapel of The Holy Child

RR Gene Savoy Jr.

Lector: RC Gary Buchanan

Cantor: Rev. Vickie Hewlett

Reader: Rev. Michael Spohn

Sunday, August 24, 2014

6:10 AM NEW DIVINE SERVICE

Church of New Pentecost

Leave: 5:15

Gate: 5:55

Sunrise: 6:25

RR Gene Savoy Jr.

Concelebrant: RR Sean Savoy

Assistants:
RC Roger Weld
RC Ted Staver
RM Carol Ann Crabb
Organist: RC Gary Buchanan

OPEN-AIR COMMUNION

Church of the Races of Man	RC Ted Staver
Church of the Christian Churches	Rev. Michael
McIntyre	
Church of the New Covenant	Rev. Gary Huss Sr.

Wednesday, August 27, 2014

12:00 N COMMUNION

Chapel of the Holy Child

RR Sean Savoy

Friday, August 29, 2014

9:00 AM PRAYER & FELLOWSHIP

Chapel of the Roses

RR Sean Savoy

Home Shrine Modeled



Harold Boulette's home shrine PHOTO: Harold Boulette

Longtime Community member Harold Boulette shared with us a photo of his home shrine, designed after the instructions given in the Community's Christology, along with these comments:

"Several years ago, we had a lecture and demonstration on how to set up and use a home shrine. Following the instructions, I set up this one. The shrine itself is a small table, about fifteen by eighteen inches. At the back of it is a large photo of the Community Cross (actually a photo of a stained glass copy of that cross) in a picture frame. On the right side (in the photo) are two bottles, one containing water and the other with scented oil—olive oil with essential oils added. In front is a small chalice. Instead of three individual candle sticks, I have a candelabra on the left that holds three small candles. In front of that is a small salt shaker. In the center there is an incense burner with two small glass bowls in front of it for the water and oil. Not visible in the photo are several books of scripture and a copy of the Rules of the

Order, which sit on a shelf below. Also, there are no flowers on the shrine. Instead, I have a potted plant, a peace lily, next to the shrine.”

contributed by Harold Boulette

Harold's Blog: [Solar Wind](#)