

General News and Announcements
United Church of Canada visit to Protestant Church in China

An official delegation of The United Church of Canada will visit China at the invitation of the China Christian Council (CCC) and the National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of the Protestant Churches in China. The CCC, with its 30 million members, is the largest Protestant church within the global ecumenical family.

The 10-day visit, beginning November 28, 2015, represents a major partnership initiative for the United Church and will be led by the Moderator, the Right Rev. Jordan Cantwell and the General Secretary of the General Council, Nora Sanders. The 22-member delegation was selected from across the country to represent the broad diversity of the United Church and its ministries. Funding for the delegation has come from a variety of sources, with each delegate responsible for sourcing half of their expected costs.

Delegates have been preparing for the visit for months, through online readings and seminars aimed at grounding the delegation in an understanding of modern China, and the history, polity, theologies, and ministries of the Protestant Church in China. Individually, and as a group, participants look forward to a unique and historic opportunity for mutual encounter, learning, and deepened partnership with Chinese Christians.

The visit will begin in Shanghai, with Sunday worship services in local Chinese congregations. The delegation will experience urban and rural life in and around Shanghai, Suzhou, Nanjing, and Beijing. A focal point will be a two-day consultation at the Nanjing Union Theological Seminary. This joint discussion will include a range of mutual interests, including “Current Contextual Challenges for the Church in Canada and China,” “Community Ministries and Social Services,” and “Church Governance and Structure for the Church of the Future.” The delegation has also been invited to meet the Canadian Consul General in Shanghai, and the Canadian Ambassador in Beijing.

Moderator Jordan Cantwell notes, “Receiving this invitation is a great honour. Christianity in Asia is undergoing fundamental change as Christians there integrate scripture, tradition, experience, and context.”

She adds, “In China, there is tremendous growth happening within the Christian church. This visit opens a window for deepened church-to-church engagement, and presents an opportunity for the United Church to understand China through encounters with Chinese Christians.”

“The visit also recognizes the existing partnership between our churches, the long history of United Church engagement with the people of China, and the potential for learning and growth between churches which have at their heart a vision of unity in diversity among Christians for the sake of God’s mission in the world,” comments Cantwell.

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通訊及報告：加拿大聯合教會 — 探訪中國基督教會之旅

加拿大聯合教會應中國基督教協會（“中國基協”）及中國基督教三自愛國運動委員會之邀請，將派出代表團前赴中國探訪。中國基協有三千萬個信徒，是全球大公教會組織內最龐大的基督教會。

是次赴華的十日訪問由二零一五年十一月廿八日開始，將會是聯合教會一個主要伙伴關係的倡議。團隊由議長Jordan Cantwell牧師和理事會秘書長Nora Sanders率領，廿二位團員是從全國聯合教會及其事工內廣泛層面揀選。代表團經費由多方資助，而團隊成員亦須自行負擔一半的所需費用。

爲了是次訪問，團隊成員已籌備多月，上網閱讀有關資料及參加研究會，加深他們對現代中國的了解，充實在歷史、政體、神學及中國基督教會事工上的認識。無論在個人或團隊層面上，各團員都冀望有一個具有獨特和歷史性時刻的契機，互相觀摩學習，和中國基督徒加深伙伴關係。

是次訪問將在上海開始，首先參加當地教會信徒的主日崇拜，並分別體驗在上海、蘇州，南京和北京的城市與農村生活。探訪的焦點將會放在南京金陵協和神學院爲期兩日的諮詢，是項座談會將涵蓋雙方有共同利益的議題，包括“當代加拿大及中國教會所面對的挑戰”，“社區事工和社會工作”及“未來教會的管治和結構”。代表團亦將應邀和駐上海的加拿大領事，及駐北京的加拿大大使會面。

議長Jordan Cantwell牧師表示：“應邀是次赴華訪問是一個極大的光榮，亞洲的基督教會正在經歷根層的蛻變，這可以由當地的基督徒融合聖經、傳統、經驗和文載的背景已可察覺到。”

她補充說：“中國基督教會巨幅的增長，爲兩地教會在是次會面中提供了更深層次的交流機會，藉著與中國基督徒的接觸，去更加了解認識中國。”

Cantwell牧師稱：“是次訪問亦意識到兩地教會目前的伙伴關係，聯合教會與中國當地人民深遠流長的交往，製造兩地教會互相學習增長的潛力。雙方仰望前瞻，團結一心，讓兩地基督徒彼此分流作工，實踐上帝普世的使命。”

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