

**Memorandum of Understandings between the National Council of the Churches
of Christ in the USA and the China Christian Council and the National
Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of Protestant Churches in
China**

Date: 26 February, 2009

The National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCUSA) and the China Christian Council and the National Committee of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement of Protestant Churches in China (CCC/TSPM) (hereinafter called two parties) have come to reach the understandings as below:

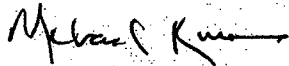
1. Background

We, the undersigned, gratefully acknowledge that the gracious love of God has made us members of the one body of Christ. We give thanks for the distinctive gifts that God has given to us in our different settings (a point which is central to the witness of the Three-Self Patriotic Movement); but we also rejoice that we are related to one another in Christ, and that through one another we can grow in knowledge and love of God. Ours is a relationship of mutual encouragement in order that the body of Christ might be built up in love (Ephesians 4).

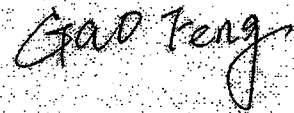
2. Contents

- 1) To maintain and improve the relationship between two parties. We, therefore, celebrate the strong bonds that have developed over the years between our organizations and between the churches in our countries. Signs of this relationship include praying for each other like what we did after the earthquake in 2008, periodic visits, such as the one this year, and support ministries with each other.
- 2) We believe, however, that the time may have come for an even deeper working relationship that allows us to consult regularly with one another and to speak and act together in response to some contemporary issues, such as, we recognize that China, the biggest developed country, and the United States, the biggest developed country, respectively have different responsibility on dealing with the global warming. They together produce, however, 40% of the world's carbon emissions. Therefore, the potential for two countries' cooperation is infinite. For this reason, political leaders in our two nations have affirmed the need to work together to reduce such pollution. As churches, we ought to voice the need of protecting God's creation and to encourage our church members to show solicitude for the environment and take actions to protect the environment. We will share relevant materials on environmental protection and resources with one another on the education of ecology and environment. We pledge to raise these questions within our governing bodies and to continue this conversation.

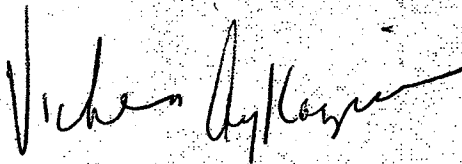
- 3) The NCCUSA delegation eagerly anticipates the event of the Bible Ministry Exhibition of the Church in China, displayed in some cities in the United State and pledges to help advertise this event in our churches. It will be a way of calling attention to the reality of the Christian community in China and of emphasizing our shared commitment to biblical study and translation.
- 4) The NCC delegation also encourages the Protestant Churches in China to play an ever more active role in the global churches as well as in the World Council of Churches (WCC). Toward that end, the NCCUSA will give assistance on due occasions.
3. Our common prayer is that God's will be done and that God's name be glorified! May our work and life together bear witness to the reconciling love of God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, the One who creates, redeems, and sustains us all.



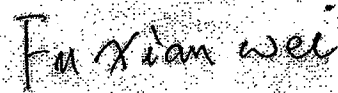
Rev. Dr. Michael Kinnamon
General Secretary, NCC



Rev. Gao, Feng
President, CCC



Archbishop Vicken Aykasian
President, NCC



Elder Fu, Xianwei
Chairperson, TSPM

美国基督教教会联合会和中国基督教两会的会谈共识备忘录

2009年2月26日

美国基督教教会联合会（简称 NCCUSA）与中国基督教两会（简称 CCC/TSPM）（以下称“双方”）已经过会谈达成以下共识：

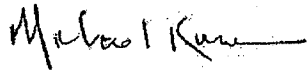
一、双方签署共识备忘录的背景

我们签字双方，心中满怀感恩，因为上帝的大爱使我们成为基督身体的一部分。我们感谢上帝在我们不同的处境中赐给我们独特的恩赐（三自爱国运动的见证就是其中心点）。我们也同样感到喜乐，因为在主内我们是彼此相连的，并且通过这样的彼此联系，我们在认识上帝以及上帝的爱中都有长进。我们的这种关系是基于彼此互相鼓励，以至于在爱中建立基督的身体。

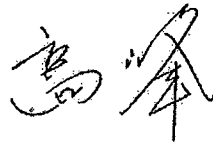
二、共识备忘录内容

1. 保持及增进双方关系。我们要为我们两个组织及两国教会这些年的牢固纽带而欢庆。我们友好的关系体现在彼此互相代祷（在中国 2008 年地震时）、定期来访（如这次的访问）以及彼此事工的关心和支持。
2. 我们相信，一个更进一步的工作关系的时机已经到来，使得我们可以定期就当代的一些议题的回应共同商议、发表看法和联合行动。例如，我们认识到，中国作为最大的发展中国家，美国作为最大的发达国家，虽然在应对全球气候变化问题上所承担的责任不同，但是毕竟中美两国温室气体排放总量占到全球排放总量的 40%。因此，中美在应对气候变化问题上，合作潜力巨大。考虑到这个原因，两国的国家领导人都表示，有需要共同努力来降低污染的排放并表示了关切气候变化的迫切问题。作为教会，我们能够通过发出保护上帝创造的声音来鼓励我们的教会成员关心环境并以实际行动来保护环境。我们可以在环境保护的问题上分享相关材料，以及在生态环境教育中分享各自的资源。我们承诺，提出这一个想法来深化我们领导层之间的伙伴关系，并继续这种对话。
3. 美国基督教教会联合会热切盼望中国教会圣经事工展计划近期在美国的华盛顿和达拉斯举办，承诺协助在其教会内为这一事件做宣传。这将是一个引起大家对中国基督教现实情况注意的方式，也是一个加强彼此圣经学习和翻译分享的方式。
4. 美国基督教教会联合会代表团也鼓励中国教会在世界教会中发挥积极的作用，包括在世界基督教教会联合会（WCC）中的作用，并且将在适当的场合继续为这一点作出努力。

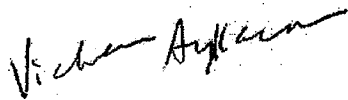
三、我们共同祈祷，愿上帝的旨意成全、上帝的名被荣耀！愿我们的侍奉和生活一起见证圣父、圣子、圣灵和好的爱，他是创造、救赎和保守我们的上帝。



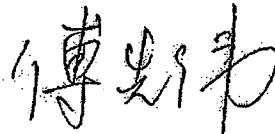
美国基督教教会联合会总干事
迈克尔·金纳蒙牧师



中国基督教协会会长
高峰牧师



美国基督教教会联合会会长
威肯·艾卡赞大主教



中国基督教三自爱国运动委员会主席
傅先伟长老