

**THE COUNCIL OF THE CHURCH OF EAST ASIA (CCEA)
PARTNERS IN MISSION CONSULTATION
Singapore 21st — 24th April 1975
JOINT STATEMENT**

INTRODUCTION

At a Seminar and Consultation on Mission held in Hong Kong, 25th — 29th November 1974, the Church leaders of CCEA and their Overseas Partners arrived at an Agreed Statement of purpose and general priorities (Appended).

Guided by the spirit of the Hong Kong Statement, the members of CCEA and the Overseas Partners have met in Singapore to further strengthen their ongoing partnership in mission, in relation to the life of the whole Church by identifying the following particular priorities.

I. CCEA: ITS FUTURE FORM AND FUNCTIONS

- (i) There is a definite need for the continuation of such an organisation as CCEA in this region and as a constituent member of the Anglican Consultative Council.
- (ii) The present Constitution allows CCEA to function in the following ways:
 - (a) as a Forum for the Churches and Dioceses of the Region;
 - (b) as a Regional Consultative body;
 - (c) as a Metropolitan Authority, when requested.
 - (d) as the instrument for liaison between the Churches of this region and other Churches and partners.
- (iii) In this transitional period, it is difficult to see and define the exact form and functions of CCEA for the future. In order to assist the CCEA to

discover and define the nature of its future identity, and allow the CCEA to function properly at this time, there is a need to establish and appoint a full or part-time Co-ordinating Officer who will:

- (a) contribute to the spiritual and ongoing life of the Churches in this region;
- (b) be creative enough to foster an ongoing discussion of the subjects of common concern, germinate new programmes and ideas for the benefit of this region, and lead the Churches into a structure which will help them to best exercise their partnership in mission.

The Co-ordinating Officer shall be appointed in the first instance for a period of three years. He shall be nominated by the officers of the CCEA and his appointment shall be approved by the full Council as soon as possible.

The full Council is to meet next in 3 years' time (Spring 1978) in conjunction with the triennial Partners in Mission Consultation.

II. THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

One issue of highest priority throughout the Churches of our region is the concern for leadership training. This concern was reflected in the Agreed Statement of the Hong Kong Seminar and Consultation as "the need for a critical look at our facilities, methods, and content of both clergy and lay training" as a part of our commitment to the renewal of Christian Mission in East Asia. During the four and a half months since the meetings in Hong Kong an ad hoc committee has sought to take just such a critical look at theological education throughout the region. The results of this study have been put before us at the Singapore Partners in Mission Consultation by means of a **Report on Anglican Theological Education in South East Asia.**

Reflection upon the Report and discussion of its implications and suggestions has led this Consultation to the following proposals as a step forward in the process of renewal:

1. To sponsor a 3-4 day Consultation of Anglican seminary heads or faculty delegates, representative Bishops of the CCEA, other diocesan leadership training personnel, and representative lay persons, together with appropriate consultants and other concerned individuals, on the theme of **Partnership in Theological Education for the Renewal of Mission**. The Consultation should be held before the end of 1975 at a time and place most convenient to the majority of delegates and most economical.
2. That the ad hoc Committee be re-ordered with slightly broader representation, to be
 - (a) responsible for all preparations concerning the proposed Consultation, and
 - (b) to serve as a kind of interim Commission on Theological Education.

Preparations for the Consultation will include revision and circulation of the **Report** together with other relevant materials for study throughout the dioceses of the region, and the formulation of an agenda which will include basic issues raised in and by the **Report** (e.g. the Definition of Theological Education and its Purpose; Lay Leadership Training; Church Growth and Leadership training; Anglican Structures of Theological Education in E.A.; Relevance regarding Content of Anglican Education; TEE. and other Non-traditional forms of Theological Education; Financial Viability; the Search for Excellence; Development of Field Education; Church-seminary Relationships; Contextuality of Theology and Theological Education; Opportunities for Partnership).

III. THE CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE OF ASIA (CCA) PRIORITIES AND CCEA

The Hong Kong Agreed Statement's word on **Frontier and Special Ministries to Our Neighbours** underlines "our need to help our fellowmen to achieve their rights to life, dignity, and liberty in a pluralistic society" and implicitly draws our attention to the following priorities set by the Christian Conference of Asia:

1. World Hunger
2. Human Rights
3. Living Theology

In response to this the Council of the Church in East Asia has discussed the issues, first in small groups and then in plenary session.

The discussions have been carried on within the context of CCEA's relationship to CCA.

We propose:

1. That the three CCA priorities of Hunger, Human Rights, and Living Theology are recognised as important issues expressing the Hong Kong Statement.
2. That each CCEA member diocese studies the implications of these issues with the end in view of placing these issues within their own priorities and acting them out in the total life and worship of the Church in the Diocese.
3. That a line of communication be established with CCA looking toward exchange of information and sharing in plans and insights.

A proposal to establish formal relationship as a regional body with CCA needs further study and will depend on the future form of CCEA.

IV. EXCHANGE AND SHARING OF RESOURCES IN TERMS OF PERSONNEL

The proper sharing of human resources is seen as one of the best ways to promote partnership in Mission. This may be accomplished either through sharing of personnel in the same region or with partners overseas. The following priorities in terms of criteria for shared personnel are suggested:—

- (i) Leadership Training
- (ii) Community Service

In order to further strengthen the spirit of partnership it is further suggested that the local Church should be encouraged to contribute a portion of the total cost of any project involving shared personnel.

V. RENEWAL

1. The Hong Kong Statement calls for a critical look at our Church structures. In anticipation of a change in the life style of the Church, all Church leaders are urged to put great emphasis upon a deepening of the spiritual life of our people; to broaden the base of decision making in the life of the Church to include the full participation of the laity; to recognise and use the talents and the ministry of the laity.
2. Renewal must come to all members of the Church including those who exercise its ordained leadership. It is therefore recommended that each diocese or Church should create opportunity for and encourage the Bishop and Clergy to take advantage of continuing education and training for renewal.

VI. CHURCH UNITY

Various manifestations of ecumenical planning and activity are being reported in the several sub regions or areas of CCEA. A genuine spirit of co-operation with other Churches exists throughout the region, and continuing efforts should be made to share our awareness and understanding of partnership in mission with all those with whom we are identified as Christians by a Common allegiance to Jesus and who seek, as we do, to extend His loving care to all the children of God in East Asia.

GAZETTE

Confirmation (By the Bishop)

- 21.5.75 **St. Andrew's Cathedral**
2 candidates.
- 25.5.75 **Holy Trinity Foochow**
16 presented by the Rev. Lai Wen Kwang.
Holy Trinity Hokien
12 presented by the Rev. Yeo Chin Chye.
- 1.6.75 **St. George's Tanglin**
7 presented by the Rev. Bruce Winter.
- St. John's Jurong**
8 presented by the Rev. Yeo Chin Chye.
- 8.6.75 **St Andrew's Mandarin Congregation**
9 presented by the Rev. Canon David Dang.

Licence

- 31.5.75 The **Rev. Peter A. Ellis** licensed as **Port Chaplain**.
- 14.3.75 The **Rev. Dr. Anthony Alan Doran** licensed as **Missionary in Indonesia**.

Authority to Assist

- 14.3.75 **Mr. Christopher Robert Herbert** and **Mr. Rodney Burl Yarberry** authorized to assist in the administration of the Chalice and to preach at **All Saints' Church, Jakarta**.