



# 美城中華基督教長老會

## Mississauga Chinese Presbyterian Church

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The Presbyterian Church in Canada  
Assembly Counsel

10<sup>th</sup> May, 2021.

### **A Statement Supporting the Call from the HanCa Presbyteries for the Presbyterian Church in Canada to Turn from Its Racism**

We thank the members of the HanCa Presbyteries for calling attention to the situation for visible minorities in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Our experience as Chinese Christians is similar to the experience of our Korean Presbyterians congregations in Canada: in that, we are not sure the contributions and unique place of Chinese Christians in the larger Presbyterian Church in Canada have received due appreciation.

Asian cultures approach the theological issues of our day from a different perspective than the European majority. Recognizing civilization does progress over time, we still uphold deep respect for the wisdom of our elders and the traditions they have left us when aligned with the Scripture. We prefer, in deep mutual respect, to express our feelings quietly. Valuing harmony within the household of God, a lack of confrontational opposition should not be misconstrued as in agreement of heart and spirit on this respectful shift from the minority people-group equality in ministry.

The HanCa presbyteries wrote about feeling their perspective being considered somehow less valuable than the European way. We have felt that as well. For example, the national office for years held a regular consultation with Chinese pastors. This was a valuable time of sharing and conversation, but a few years ago the Life and Mission Agency decided it was no longer interested and stopped holding the consultations. Had they continued over the past few years, they would have been useful conversations to reflect on the likely impact passage of these remits could have on our congregations and our ministries. Perhaps a different, more unifying approach could have emerged.

The broader Canadian society has embraced multiculturalism, and secular government leaders do work to consider the different impacts government policies have on visible minorities. Do our church leaders share a similar commitment? The HanCa presbyteries write of how their perspectives are considered less enlightened, less worthy of

consideration, than those of the European majority. We have felt that too, with an additional concern: if a group as large and well organized as the HanCa presbyteries can be so marginalized, what hope is there for a smaller group like the Chinese community in the Presbyterian Church?

So we join the call of the HanCa presbyteries to the national church. Just as the national church repented of the racism behind the Residential schools and moved to create a more open and respectful dialogue with First Nations, we call on the national Presbyterian Church to move to a more respectful outreach and dialogue with the Chinese community – and with the Korean, Arabic, African and other minority communities within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. This will be a necessary step in moving forward as a truly diverse and inclusive community.

On behalf of Chinese Consultation all Ministers petition to Assembly Counsel, here's all the name below:

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