



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - HONG KONG SYNOD

68 BEGONIA ROAD,
YAU YAT CHUEN,
KOWLOON, HONG KONG.
香港九龍又一村海棠路六十八號

TELEPHONE: 2397 3721
FAX: 2397 4826
WEB-SITE: www.lutheran.org.hk
EMAIL: hksynod@lutheran.org.hk

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May 8, 2018

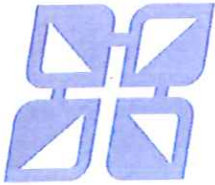
Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison, President
The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod
1333 South Kirkwood Road
Saint Louis, MO 63122-7226

Dear Rev. Dr. Matthew Harrison,

Since the LCHKS convention took place on 28 April 2018, I would like to inform you about these recent proceedings by means of the relevant documents enclosed for your reference.

Cordially in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Allan YUNG, President
Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod



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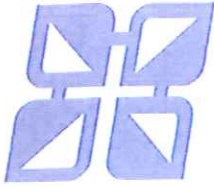
LCHKS General Conference (Convention)

28 April 2018

Proceedings Pertinent to the LCMS

- II. Since the situation is special, the convention accepted the LCHKS President's report for discussion:
- A. Two issues pertinent to the operation of the LCMS in Hong Kong have emerged recently:
- i. From 31 March 2018 the regional (Asian) headquarters of LCMS OIM has been moved completely out of Hong Kong to Taiwan without any consultation with the LCHKS.
 - ii. The LCMS is arranging to sell three Hong Kong properties, which, like some other properties, were acquired a half century ago by the LCMS to support the Gospel ministry of the LCHKS. The properties prepared for sale are:
 - (1) one building at Wiltshire Road (Kowloon Tong),
 - (2) one flat in Sorrento Tower (Kowloon West),
 - (3) one flat in Repulse Bay (Hong Kong Island).

The property listed above as no. 1 was purchased from the donations of some LCMS members to support Gospel ministry in Hong Kong. Ten years ago, because of the LCMS financial situation, the LCMS sold one of its properties (located at Oxford Road in Kowloon Tong) in order to develop Concordia International School in Hanoi (Vietnam) and to buy the properties listed above as no. 2 and no. 3 for LCMS use. Since, at that time, the LCMS considered the LCHKS to be too small to manage these properties and since there was some difference of opinion about such transfers, the LCMS did not discuss property matters with the LCHKS leadership. Our Synod thinks that the LCMS has the legal right to sell the three properties on



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its own. However, selling properties again, without taking the wishes of the original donors into consideration and without consulting our Synod, and with the intention of transferring all the revenue out of Hong Kong, appears to contradict the name "Synod" (walking together) which we share. It seems rather that the LCMS is walking away from the LCHKS. The situation is like that of 1 Corinthians 16, the (LCMS) saints collecting gifts for Jerusalem (the LCHKS); but now you have decided to keep the gifts yourself instead of sharing them.

Furthermore, in the protocol signed in 1996 by the LCMS and our Synod, the LCMS pledged itself to transfer the majority of the LCMS properties used by the respective LCHKS congregations to our Synod, and to transfer these properties in accordance with the Three Party Agreement (the LCMS, the LCHKS, and the respective LCHKS congregations using these venues) in order to ensure that the transferred properties would be used for Gospel ministry. However, this procedure has not been implemented fully.

The LCHKS President provided a list of all the properties of the LCHKS and its congregations (Appendix no. 1).

Our Synod is concerned that in the future, for the sake of development or for other reasons, the LCMS might again decide to sell properties which are used by LCHKS congregations, but the deeds of which are temporarily kept by the LCMS, without consulting the Synod. Furthermore, in 2012, some LCHKS congregations signed on their part transfer agreements based on the Three Party Agreement endorsed by the LCMS but so far the legal transfer of these properties has not been completed, which we deeply regret. Representatives of the local congregations asked the LCHKS President to follow up this issue. To articulate the LCHKS stance on LCMS actions clearly, the convention resolved:

1. to pray for the LCMS, especially for LCMS financial stability and sound management,



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2. to follow up the issue of partnership between the LCHKS and the LCMS in order to uphold and practice Christian love, cooperation and mutual respect between the Synods that should cherish these principles,
3. to ask the Executive Council to endeavour to prevent the sale of the properties labelled as no. 10-16 (in the Appendix no. 1) prior to their transfer to our Synod so that these properties would not be sold without the knowledge and consent of our Synod.

Motion by: Rev. Tony LAU

Motion Seconded by: Mr. Season WAI

Resolution: 2018-03 adopted unanimously.



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Appendix No. 1

The Properties Which Have Already Been Transferred by the LCMS to the LCHKS:

	Users	Addresses
1.	Pastoral Residence for Concordia Theological Seminary. Transfer Accomplished	Room A., 14 /F, 25, Hong Lee Road, Kowloon
2.	Pastoral Residence with carpark for St. Mark Lutheran Church. Transfer Accomplished	Room A, 8/F, Yuet Wah Street, Kowloon
3.	Concordia Lutheran School. Transfer Accomplished	12 Tai Hang Road, Kowloon
4.	Concordia Lutheran School-North Point. Transfer Accomplished	20 Cloudview Road, Hong Kong
5.	Sharon Lutheran School. Transfer Accomplished	18 Cherry Road, Kowloon
6.	Concordia Theological Seminary. Transfer Accomplished	68 Begonia Road, Kowloon
7.	Holy Cross Lutheran School. Transfer Accomplished	31 Lo Tak Court, New Territory
8.	Redemption Lutheran Church Transfer Accomplished	13 Muk Lun Street, Kowloon
9.	Saviour Lutheran School Transfer Accomplished	288-290 Tai Po Road, Kowloon

The Deeds of the Following Properties are Temporarily Kept by the LCMS:

	Users	Addresses
10.	Sung Un (Nathan Road) Lutheran Church	Flat C&D, 1/F, 80 Nathan Road, Kowloon
11.	Zion Lutheran Church	3/F, 275 Kings Road, Hong Kong
12.	Pastoral Residence for Holy Cross Lutheran Church	3/F, 235 Sha Tsui Road, NT
13.	Grace Lutheran Church	2/F, 123 Des Voeux Road, Hong Kong
14.	Pastoral Residence for Resurrection Lutheran Church	Flat A, 17/F, 29 Broadway St, Kowloon
15.	Holy Trinity Lutheran Church / Kwun Tong Kindergarten / Kwun Tong College	2 Horse Shoe Lane, Kowloon
16.	St. Mark Lutheran Church	Cha Kwo Ling Main Street, Kowloon

Properties Owned by the LCHKs:

	Users	Addresses
1.	Deaf Lutheran School	89 Hing Shing Street, NT
2.	Lutheran Handicrafts	Room C, 6/F, 21 Hankow Road, Kowloon
3.	Tenant	Flat C, 13/F, 81 Broadway Road, Mei Foo Sun Chuen, KLN
4.	Residence for Ms. Carol HALTER	Flat A, 14/F 59 Broadway Road, Mei Foo Sun Chuen, KLN
5.	Used by Concordia English Centre (Wan Chai)	Room A, 5/F, 164-166 Hennessy Road, Hong Kong
6.	Lutheran Social Service (Martha Boss Center)	89 Chung Hau Street, Kowloon
7.	St. Peter Lutheran Church (Macau)	Block L – M, Edificio Jade Garden, Rua Da Silva Mendes, Macau
8.	Pastoral Residence for St. Peter Lutheran Church (Macau)	K- 8 8/F 22 Estrada da Bela Vista Macau

Properties Owned by LCHKS Congregations:

	Users	Addresses
1.	Eternal Life Lutheran Church	Room 301-302, 3/F, 30-36 Shau Kei Wan Road, Hong Kong
2.	True Word Lutheran Church	Room 116-119, 2/F, Blk B, 103-105 Baker Street
3.	Shepherd Lutheran Church	3/F, 125 Ma Tau Wai Road, Kowloon
4.	Christ Saviour Lutheran Church	Flat A-B, 2/F, 182 Pratas Street, Kowloon
5.	Cheung Sha Wan (Sung Un) Lutheran Church	i.2/F, 151-153 Camp Street, Kowloon ii.1/F, 182 Pratas Street, Kowloon
6.	Sung Un (Nathan Road) Lutheran Church	Flat E, 1/F, 80 Nathan Road, Kowloon

From: HKSYNOD [<mailto:hksynod@lutheran.org.hk>]
Sent: Thursday, January 4, 2018 10:15 AM
To: 'Harrison, Matthew' <MCH@lcms.org>
Cc: 'Collver, Albert' <Albert.Collver@lcms.org>; 'Kevin.Robson@lcms.org' <Kevin.Robson@lcms.org>; john.fale@lcms.org; 'Darin Storkson' <Darin.Storkson@lcms.org>; 李日誠牧師 <ysli@lutheran.org.hk>; 神董會主席陳牧師 <teresayhw@gmail.com>; 劉逸釗牧師 <tony.lau@hkiss.hk>; 'shenjianren' <shenjianren@biznetvigator.com>; Kai Hing Lam <kaih100lam@gmail.com>; 陳聖光委員 <jcpc33@gmail.com>
Subject:

Dear Rev. Dr. Harrison,

On behalf of the Executive Council of the Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod (LCHKS), I am compelled to write to you again in order to address new issues, which have emerged recently, while awaiting your reply to our previous letter. Indeed, your lack of response saddens us and leads to reflection on the sacred bonds which were supposed to unite our churches in action. To be partners means to embrace the same values, to share the same commitments, to work together, to communicate with one another and to use all resources, especially, human resources, for mutual benefit.

Firstly, it appears to us that the LCMS OIM decided to close its Hong Kong office located on Wiltshire Road in Kowloon Tong on the pretext of moving the administrative centre to Taiwan. This decision was never communicated to the LCHKS and there was no consultation with the LCHKS about any transition. We presume such a shift of personnel reflects a change of priorities. We are not convinced that the LCMS OIM policy, as far as Greater China is concerned, corresponds to that of the LCHKS. We miss the trust and respect that used to exist between LCMS and LCHKS.

Secondly, it is a great concern of LCHKS that the LCMS OIM may sell the property on Wiltshire Road. It should be noted that decades ago two buildings were purchased by LCMS missionaries to be used for the benefit of Hong Kong Chinese Lutherans, to facilitate the mission work in Hong Kong, namely, the mission work among Hong Kong Chinese, while restricted gifts of LCMS donors were used to acquire this property. Moreover, these buildings were registered with the Hong Kong government as designated for the use of the LCHKS and its ministries. Therefore, in the past the LCMS missionaries living in these buildings paid a nominal rent to the LCHKS. Some years ago the LCMS OIM resolved to sell one of the buildings and to allocate the revenue at its discretion, bypassing the LCHKS. This time we do not intend to be silent about the LCMS OIM malpractice and we will not accept the LCMS OIM's decision contrary to donors' wishes by divesting the church property which was acquired to serve as a venue for the mission work among Hong Kong Chinese and to help Hong Kong Chinese Lutherans.

This important issue will be tabled for discussion during the LCHKS annual meeting (convention) in April 2018 and we pray that it will not be necessary for us to publicise the LCHKS position so that the LCMS members / donors who decades ago blessed us with this property, or their inheritors, could learn about the situation.

Cordially in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Allan Yung
President, Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod

c.c. Rev. Dr. Albert Collver
Rev. Kevin Robson
Rev. John Fale
Mr. Darin Storkson
Members of Executive Council, LCHKS



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Hong Kong, 27 December 2018

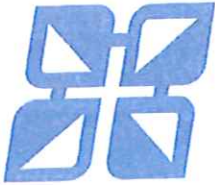
Dear Rev. Dr. Matthew HARRISON,

I am compelled to write to you again on behalf of the Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod (LCHKS) because of new property issues which might be related to the operation of the LCMS in Hong Kong. Recently, I have been informed that a property in Kwun Tong, of which the LCMS is formally a leaseholder (2 Horse Shoe Lane, Ngan Tau Kok Road), but which is used by three agencies of the LCHKS for the benefit of the community, was subject to commercial redevelopment plans which might result in a transfer of the lease to another party.

As the one who is privileged to lead the LCHKS and who is responsible for the brothers and sisters here, whom God entrusted to my care, I am concerned about this situation. The Kwun Tong property provides a platform for Hong Kong Lutheran Church Kwun Tong Kindergarten, Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, and Evergreen Lutheran Centre, which is a part of our work through Lutheran Social Service (LSS). In the words of the Synod which you lead, your focus as you came into office, three words, "Witness, Mercy, Life Together - illustrate how the church lives and works together to proclaim the Gospel." - these we are practising in the Kwun Tong property.

It should be noted that the kindergarten, the church and the unit of the social service helping substance abusers are LCHKS institutions which serve the community, thus putting our faith into practice and bearing testimony to God's love and benevolence enshrined in Jesus. Furthermore, the lease agreement between the Hong Kong government and the LCMS designated the land, on which the Kwun Tong property is built, solely for educational and communal purposes.

On this occasion, I am obliged to express our concern that the LCMS continues to undertake unilateral actions regarding issues which should be discussed jointly by the LCHKS and the LCMS, if the latter still claims to be our partner. Let me mention that this year, the LCMS resolved to sell three properties in Hong Kong without any consultations with the LCHKS. This concern was addressed in the letters which I wrote to you earlier this year on behalf of the LCHKS Executive Council.



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As well, the proceedings of the LCHKS General Conference (Convention), which took place on 28 April 2018, were conveyed to you. Nonetheless, it is not clear that the LCHKS concerns have yet been addressed properly by LCMS leadership. You have said, "Life Together," but seem committed to life apart.

Actually, in the protocol signed in 1996 by the LCMS and the LCHKS, the LCMS pledged itself to transfer to our Synod the majority of the LCMS properties used by the respective LCHKS congregations, and to transfer these properties in accordance with the Three Party Agreement (the LCMS, the LCHKS, and the respective LCHKS congregations using these venues) in order to ensure that the transferred properties would be used for Gospel ministry. However, this procedure has not been implemented fully and, to our disappointment, there is no progress in this regard.

From our point of view, the fact that the LCMS sells these properties and seems to hesitate to transfer to our Synod the lease of other properties used by the LCHKS, is not consistent with Christian mission commitments and runs counter to the wishes of the donors who funded the purchase of these properties by the LCMS years ago. You have over the years studied, written about, and emphasized "Mercy," yet appear to contradict mercy in the directions your Synod moves with respect to Hong Kong.

Furthermore, it should be noted that although these properties were under the trusteeship of the LCMS, the LCHKS is the beneficiary of them and therefore, the LCHKS cannot condone any actions which would violate our interests. Approximately ten years ago, the LCMS OIM resolved to sell one of the buildings located in Kowloon Tong and allocated the revenue at its discretion, bypassing the LCHKS. Consequently, the LCMS unilateral decisions concerning the properties in Hong Kong appear to be a sort of recurrent pattern on the LCMS OIM part. This saddens us deeply.

In the case of "Witness" to which you refer so often, we are also in doubt as far as LCMS OIM intentions are concerned. It is not clear to us what kind of witness strategy the LCMS OIM has to offer for Greater China after moving its headquarters to Taiwan. The relocation of the headquarters signalled a change in LCMS OIM



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priorities, while the limitation of the current LCMS OIM activity to Taiwan confirms our observation.

I hope that LCMS leadership will look seriously into the issues mentioned above so that the partnership between our Synods could continue. I also pray that the LCMS negative response or lack of any response would not compel the LCHKS to bring these issues to the attention of LCMS District Presidents or to the ILC forum. On my part, I wish neither to suspend the LCHKS membership in the ILC nor to terminate the partnership between our Synods but such consequences might ensue from the LCMS unilateral decisions concerning the properties used by the LCHKS for the sake of the Gospel ministry.

Cordially in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Allan YUNG

LCHKS President

Rev. Jian Ren SHEN
Supervisor of
Kwun Tong
Lutheran Kindergarten

Rev. Yan Yan IP
Senior Pastor of
Holy Trinity
Lutheran Church

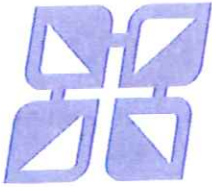
Dr. Annissa LUI, J.P.
Chief Executive of
Lutheran Social Service

cc: Rev. Dr. Albert COLLVER, LCMS Director of Church Relations

Mr. Darin STORKSON, Assistant Director of Church Relations

Rev. Kevin ROBSON, LCMS Chief Mission Officer

LCHKS Synodical Legal Consultant



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - HONG KONG SYNOD

68 BEGONIA ROAD,
YAU YAT CHUEN,
KOWLOON, HONG KONG.
香港九龍又一村海棠路六十八號

TELEPHONE: 2397 3721
FAX: 2397 4826
WEB SITE: www.lutheran.org.hk
EMAIL: hksynod@lutheran.org.hk

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Rev. J.R. Shiu

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Ms. Joyce M.L. Woo

4 February 2019

Dear Rev. Dr. Matthew HARRISON,

In reply to your letter of 31st January 2019, I would like to repeat the position of the Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod (LCHKS) regarding the properties which have not yet been transferred by the LCMS to the LCHKS and regarding the properties which the LCMS intends to sell, as you yourself admitted.

As far as the properties are concerned which have not yet been transferred by the LCMS to the LCHKS, our Synod was always eager to complete the process of transferring all of them to the LCHKS but some years ago the LCMS unilaterally suspended or deferred this process without any explanation. In 2010, this unilateral suspension was indicated in the letter of the LCMS legal representative which was the response to the letter of the LCHKS legal representative in which our Synod urged the transfer of the remaining five properties and the Kwun Tong property. The LCMS legal representative replied that further instructions from the headquarters in St. Louis were awaited by his client in order to proceed in this matter. These two letters are enclosed for your reference. We appreciate that you reaffirmed the LCMS willingness to transfer the remaining five properties and the Kwun Tong property to the LCHKS promptly and I will ask Mr. Joseph T. C. LEE, LCHKS Legal Consultant, to contact Mr. Frank SIMEK, LCMS Chief Administrative Officer, to execute this transfer.

It should be noted that at the present moment, the stamp duty rate in Hong Kong is significantly higher than it was years ago. Thus, because of the increase of the stamp duty rate, the deferment of the transfer caused solely by the LCMS might impose an additional financial burden on the LCHKS in the future when the transfer of all the properties is finalised. Therefore, we reserve the right to claim back our expenditure on the stamp duty from the LCMS.

As regards the three properties which the LCMS intends to sell and as regards the sale of one of the buildings located in Kowloon Tong (Oxford Road) approximately ten years ago, the LCHKS is convinced that they were only under the trusteeship of the LCMS, while the LCHKS is the beneficiary of them. The fact that in the past LCMS missionaries living in these properties and serving in the LCHKS paid a nominal rent to the LCHKS, confirms our point that these assets were at that time viewed by the LCMS as designated for the ministry of the LCHKS. It must be remembered that no foreign church body left this country without transferring everything to a local church, which they established in the past, except for the LCMS. To transfer all the property to the daughter church is a universal practice among Christian churches engaged in mission, yet apparently unknown to the LCMS which claims to be a mission-minded Synod.



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Ms. Joyce M.L. Woo

I hope that you can be attentive to the resolution adopted by the LCHKS General Conference (Convention) on 28 April 2018, sent previously, and that you would realise that as the LCHKS President, I am bound to protect and to secure the well-being of the Synod that I am privileged to lead and serve. Lack of positive and constructive reaction from the LCMS will force the LCHKS to bring these issues to the attention of LCMS District Presidents and to the ILC forum, as I indicated in my previous letter.

Cordially in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Allan YUNG, LCHKS President

ENCLOSURES

- 1) A Letter by Mr. Joseph T. C. LEE, LCHKS Legal Consultant to Mr. Nicholas BODNAR-HORVATH, LCMS Legal Representative (12 November 2010)
- 2) A Response by Mr. Nicholas BODNAR-HORVATH, LCMS Legal Representative to Mr. Joseph T. C. LEE, LCHKS Legal Consultant (15 November 2010)

cc: Rev. Dr. Albert COLLVER, LCMS Director of Church Relations
Mr. Darin STORKSON, Assistant Director of Church Relations
Rev. Kevin ROBSON, LCMS Chief Mission Officer
Mr. Frank SIMEK, LCMS Chief Administrative Officer
Rev. Carl Hanson
Members of the LCHKS Executive Council
Mr. Joseph T. C. LEE, LCHKS Legal Consultant

李全德律師事務所
Joseph C. T. Lee & Co.
SOLICITORS & NOTARIES
AGENTS FOR TRADE MARKS & PATENTS

Partners

* JOSEPH C. T. LEE LL. B. (H.K.), B. A. (LOND.)
ADRIAN C. G. LO LL. B. (LOND.)
SAMANTHA K. M. LIU LL. B. (HONGS)
CECILIA L. Y. WONG LL. B. (HONGS)
HO FU WAH LL. B. (HONGS)

李全德律師 2523 6355
羅俊超律師 2524 6024
廖潔雯律師 2810 7740
黃麗英律師 2810 7725
何富華律師 2522 0219

10/F., EURO TRADE CENTRE,
NOS. 21-23 DES VOEUX ROAD CENTRAL,
HONG KONG.
Tel: (852) 2521 5561
Fax: (852) 2810 5586 (852) 2845 7962
(852) 2537 8076

Associates

RAYMOND W. M. CHONG LL. B. (HONGS)
YAT RICHARD LL. B. (HONGS) LL.M.
ERICA L.H. KWAN LL. B. (HONGS)

莊偉明律師 2523 2597
葉思聰律師 2523 3520
關麗霞律師 2161 4783

E-mail: info@jctlee.com
Document Exchange: DX-9159-IC
香港中環德輔道中二十一至二十三號
歐陸貿易中心十字樓
電話 : (852) 2521 5561
圖文傳真 : (852) 2810 5586 (852) 2845 7962
(852) 2537 8076
電子郵件 : info@jctlee.com

* NOTARY PUBLIC

China-Appointed Attesting Officer
中國委託公證人

03/206/NBH/TC

Your Ref: JL/38241/lyy, JL/38242/lyy
JL/38245/lyy, JL/41756/lyy, JL/41579/lyy

12th November 2010

Our Ref:

Date:

Messrs. Horvath & Giles
16/F., On Hing Building
1 On Hing Terrace, Central,
Hong Kong

Fax 2804 6745

Dear Sirs,

Re: Transfer of Properties from The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod ("LCMS")
To The Lutheran Church - Hong Kong Synod Limited ("LCHKS")
Agreement concerning the procedures of transfer dated 11/4/2000 ("the Agreement")
Flats C & D on 1st Floor, Majestic House, No.80 Nathan Road, Kln. ("the 1st Property")
The Second Floor of Nam Tin Building, No.275 King's Road, Hong Kong ("the 2nd Property")
3rd Floor of No.236 Sha Tsui Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories, H.K. ("the 3rd Property")
The 1st Floor of No.123 Des Voeux Road West, Hong Kong ("the 4th Property")
Flat A, 17/F., No.29 Broadway, Mei Foo Sun Chuen, Kowloon ("the 5th Property")

We refer to our letter of 24th September 2010.

Kindly treat the matter as urgent and let us have your reply as soon as possible.

Yours faithfully,

JL/lyy

Bodnar Horvath

鮑 皓 華 律 師 行

Solicitors and Notaries
Agents for Trademarks and Patents
Suite D, 16/F On Hing Building, 1 On Hing Terrace,
Central, Hong Kong
Tel : (852) 2530 2389 Fax : (852) 2804 6745 2810 1703
Website : www.bodnarhorvath.com
Email : info@bodnarhorvath.com

Our Ref :
03/206/NBH/TC

Your Ref :
JL/38241/lyy, JL/38242/lyy,
JL/38245/lyy, JL/41756/lyy, JL/41579/lyy

15th November 2010

Messrs. Joseph C. T. Lee & Co.
Solicitors
10/F, Euro Trade Centre
21-23 Des Voeux Road Central
Hong Kong

BY FAX & BY POST
FAX NO.: 2810 5586

Dear Sirs,

Transfer of Properties from The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod to
The Lutheran Church – Hong Kong Synod Limited

We refer to your letters of 24th September 2010 and 12th November 2010.

Please be advised that our client is presently taking instructions from its headquarter in St. Louis,
we shall revert to you as soon as we receive any instructions.

Meanwhile, we enclose a Notice of our firm for your information.

Yours faithfully,



BODNAR HORVATH
jj26/TC

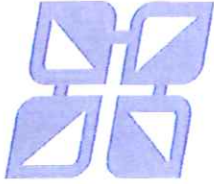


Sole Proprietor:
Nicholas Bodnar-Horvath* 鮑皓華 律師
LL.B (Lond.) TEP

Associate:
Teresa K Y Chlong 張嘉賢 律師
LL.B (Melb.)

Consultant:
Alan H Day*
LL.B (Lond.)

*Notary Public



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25 March 2019

Dear Rev. Dr. Matthew HARRISON,

In view of the General Conference (Convention) of the Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod (LCHKS), which is scheduled on 27 April 2019, I feel obliged to seek your final and definitive reply regarding three major areas of concern. Indeed, all these issues have already been raised in my previous letters sent to you on behalf of the LCHKS Executive Council. In addition, the LCHKS General Conference last year, on 28 April 2018 to be precise, took a stance on these issues. This year, I shall report to the General Conference the latest developments in this regard.

First, in your letter dated January 31st, 2019, you reaffirmed that the LCMS was committed to transferring the remaining five properties and the Kwun Tong property to the LCHKS. Although Mr. Joseph C. T. LEE, our legal representative, has already prepared five assignments (transfer documents) for the signature of the authorised representatives of the LCMS and sent these legal documents to Mr. Matthew R. BUESCHING, the solicitor representing the LCMS, for further action, in his reply, Mr. BUESCHING cited the possible conflict of interest as far as Mr. LEE, our legal representative, is concerned. Mr. LEE is no longer engaged by the LCMS and there is no conflict of interest which we could think of. The fact that Mr. BUESCHING did not take any action concerning the five assignments prepared by Mr. LEE and that he did not reply to three follow-up letters (dated February 9th and 20th, 2019 and March 11th, 2019), which Mr. LEE sent him, is disturbing because we do expect that the LCMS will transfer these five properties and the Kwun Tong property to the LCHKS promptly, as you pledged in your letter dated January 31st, 2019.



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68 BEGONIA ROAD,
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Second, we believe that the relocation of the LCMS OIM regional headquarters from Hong Kong to Taiwan actually reflected a shift in the mission direction of the LCMS in Asia, particularly, with respect to Greater China. None of the explanations of the relocation offered by the LCMS is convincing or appealing to us. Furthermore, in view of our partnership with you this relocation might jeopardise our joint ministry. The LCMS OIM decision to leave Hong Kong has never been discussed with the LCHKS and was reached unilaterally by the LCMS to the exclusion of its partner church in Hong Kong, that is, to the exclusion of the LCHKS. Currently, it appears to us that the operation of the LCMS OIM in Greater China is confined to Taiwan, while the Mainland, Hong Kong and Macau are bypassed by the LCMS OIM in terms of vision and long-term strategy. Needless to say, the LCHKS will neither accept nor condone such an approach to Gospel ministry in China on the LCMS OIM side. As long as the partnership between the LCHKS and the LCMS is claimed, both Synods must be aligned with one another in mission for the sake of Gospel ministry and for the sake of coherent service and witness to the community which should be delivered by the LCHKS and the LCMS in harmony and in mutual respect.

Third, we are determined to seek further clarification concerning three Hong Kong properties which the LCMS intends to sell and one property in Kowloon Tong which was sold by the LCMS approximately ten years ago. From our point of view, all these properties were only under the trusteeship of the LCMS, whereas the LCHKS remains their beneficiary. Furthermore, we are convinced that honouring the wishes of the donors who funded the purchase of these properties by the LCMS for the sake of Gospel ministry in Hong Kong, is a moral and legal imperative. Those donors funded the aforementioned purchases solely to support Gospel ministry in Hong Kong, not to enable the LCMS OIM to take hold of the revenue from the



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sale of those properties and transfer it out of Hong Kong for other purposes unknown to us.

Finally, it should be noted that lack of positive reply will compel the LCHKS to take further actions in the light of the principles articulated in Matthew 18 and 1 Timothy 6. The partnership between the LCHKS and the LCMS ought to be the relationship of trust and support between brothers in Christ, not a sort of competitive game indulged in by one of the parties to its own advantage. Therefore, we reserve the right to approach the LCMS District Presidents and to bring this issue to the ILC forum and if necessary, to inform the public and our government about the LCMS attitude to its partner church in Hong Kong as far as the handling of the properties is concerned.

Cordially in Christ,

Rev. Dr. Allan YUNG
LCHKS President

cc:Mr. Darin STORKSON, Assistant Director of Church Relations, Interim General Secretary of the ILC
Rev. Kevin ROBSON, LCMS Chief Mission Officer
Rev. Dr. Albert COLLVER, LCMS Director of Church Relations
Rev. Carl Hanson
Members of the LCHKS Executive Council
Joseph C.T. Lee & Co.



THE
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Missouri Synod

Office of the President
The Reverend Doctor Matthew C. Harrison
President of the Synod

Holy Week, A.D. 2019
April 17, 2019

Rev. Dr. Allan Yung, President
Lutheran Church—Hong Kong Synod
68 Begonia Road
Yau Yat Chuen, Kowloon
Hong Kong SAR

Dear Dr. Yung,

Grace and peace in Christ.

I am in receipt of your letter dated March 25, 2019 and was disappointed with many of the statements and factual inaccuracies in that letter. After prayerful consideration, it is my belief that the continued trading of letters regarding the properties owned by The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Hong Kong will not be productive in furthering the needs of the united work of our church bodies in Christ, and that we should meet in person to discuss the disposition of these properties. However, I feel obligated to respond to the specific charges you have made in your letter in an attempt to shed light on certain inaccuracies and misconceptions and to lay the groundwork for future conversations between the two of us.

In your letter, you reference correspondences between Mr. Joseph C. T. Lee and Mr. Matthew R. Buesching dated February 9, February 20, and March 11. To clarify the timeline in your letter, the February correspondences between Mr. Lee and Mr. Buesching pertained to whether Mr. Lee has a conflict of interest in representing the Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod (LCHKS) given Mr. Lee's current representation of the LCMS on certain matters in Hong Kong. I was surprised to learn in your letter that Mr. Lee claims to no longer represent the LCMS given that, as of the writing of this letter, neither Mr. Lee nor the LCMS has notified the other of the termination of Mr. Lee's legal representation. We will be addressing Mr. Lee's representation of the LCMS and continuing obligations to the LCMS separately with Mr. Lee.

I can confirm that we have received draft assignment agreements for the following Hong Kong properties owned by the LCMS, which assignments were received from Mr. Lee by Mr. Buesching in mid-March, 2019:

1. 1st Floor, Tai Hing Building, Nos. 119, 121, 123, 125 and 127 Des Voeux Road West;
2. Flats C and D, 1st Floor, Majestic House, 80 Nathan Road, Kowloon;
3. 2nd Floor, Nam Tin Building, 275 King's Road;
4. 3rd Floor and the balcony, No. 236 Sha Tsui Road, Tsuen Wan, New Territories; and
5. Flat A, 17th Floor, No. 29 Broadway, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

As I stated in my January 31, 2019 letter, the LCMS is prepared to transfer these properties as specified in, and in accordance with, the agreements between the LCMS and the LCHKS, once all legal steps necessary to enable the transfers have been implemented. As part of this process, the draft assignment agreements forwarded by Mr. Lee are under review by our legal counsel here in the United States and are also being reviewed by legal counsel for the LCMS in Hong Kong. I have instructed the LCMS' legal counsel to provide LCHKS' legal counsel with an update once these reviews are completed.



1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295 | 314-996-1402 | Fax: 314-996-1119 | president@lcms.org | www.lcms.org

As I know you appreciate, the process to transfer properties in Hong Kong can be complicated. The agreements between the LCMS and the LCHKS reflect this, as they previously had to be amended due to a variety of legal and practical complications in transferring Hong Kong properties. Both the LCMS and the LCHKS need to carefully manage this process so that mistakes are not made that could be detrimental to both the LCMS and the LCHKS. I wish to assure you that the LCMS being judicious in this process should not be misconstrued as the LCMS' unwillingness to honor its agreements with the LCHKS. I simply ask that you exercise patience as the LCMS and LCHKS work together through this complicated process.

Your letter also references a proposed transfer of a Kwun Tong property. I am wondering whether this is a mistake. The LCMS has previously transferred the seminary professor residence and St. Mark's parsonage in Kwun Tong pursuant to the agreements between the LCMS and LCHKS. Pursuant to the express terms of the LCMS Board of Directors resolution authorizing the transfer of the Hong Kong properties, the Kwun Tong Lutheran School located at 2 Horse Shoe Lane in Kwun Tong was not to be transferred to the LCHKS. The agreements between the LCMS and the LCHKS reflect this.

In your letter, you raise concerns about the relocation of the LCMS OIM regional headquarters to Taiwan. It is vitally important to stress that our focus and mission in China has not changed. The LCMS continues to have missionaries on the ground to support our efforts and to work alongside the LCHKS. While our OIM staff discussed with you the matter of moving our Asia Region headquarters, that discussion was regarded by you as insufficient. However, several factors were judiciously and prayerfully considered by the LCMS in deciding to relocate to Taiwan. Access to a much more sufficient building in central Taiwan, at very little cost and with no capital investment, was a significant factor in the LCMS' decision to relocate. The significantly lower cost of living for our Asia Region Headquarters staff in Hong Kong was also a factor. Opportunities in Taiwan are significant, particularly since Taiwan enjoys religious freedom and the only Mandarin-speaking Lutheran Seminary in the world. In retrospect, we could have done more to communicate with you on this matter, but we reiterate the LCMS' commitment to Hong Kong. The total number and value of properties which the LCMS has gifted to the LCHKS over the decades is astounding and further demonstrates that commitment.

In your letter, you have also sought further clarification regarding the sale of certain properties in Hong Kong which are owned by the LCMS and with respect to which the LCMS has no agreements with the LCHKS. The LCMS' position with respect to these properties has been clearly communicated to you on numerous occasions. As I reiterated in my January 31, 2019 letter, our Synod's Board of Directors is solely responsible for deciding to sell the three properties in question and for determining the use of the sale proceeds. It is inaccurate to state that somehow designated monies are being misused in the sale of these properties, and I am deeply troubled by the implication that the LCHKS is the beneficiary of these properties or is somehow entitled to the proceeds of the sale of these properties. There is absolutely no Synod or legal basis for this position. These properties have never been included in any discussion of potential transfers to the LCHKS, and the Synod has the full right and authority to own and sell its properties as it believes is prudent and in furtherance of the mission of the LCMS.

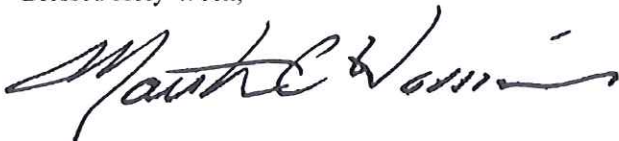
Let me just briefly state at this point that I, in fact, made certain that on numerous occasions my senior staff communicated with you and in your office. I have detailed notes from Mr. Darin Storkson regarding his contacts with you. The meetings were all cordial and cooperative, even discussing how one property might be sold to the benefit of both the LCHKS and the LCMS. This seemingly cooperative relationship all changed in November 2017, when you learned that representatives from Concordia Shanghai and OIM declined to attend an event for your school project in Xiamen. It was reported to the LCMS that the Xiamen project was in legal trouble with the government. It has also been reported to me that you also portrayed yourself to the government as head of LCMS Concordias in Asia, and that you even suggested to officials that Concordia Shanghai could be considered collateral for your Xiamen project. The LCMS

was, of course, very hesitant to participate, and since then, Concordia Shanghai has understandably made clear on their web page and with the government that they are not connected with your schools. At the time that LCMS personnel were hesitating to attend your Xiamen event, you stated to LCMS staff, "Do you want to start a war?" As you might imagine, a comment such as this is very disturbing, confrontational, and contrary to the spirit of walking together in Christ. I have also been deeply disappointed to see that your communications with politically motivated individuals in the LCMS have resulted in negative and false stories being published regarding the LCMS' activities in Hong Kong. This is not productive in bringing about the resolution of any concerns you may have regarding LCMS activities.

Brother, I am eager to follow Matthew 18, indeed. I have already suggested meetings where we work through these issues, but you have declined. I eagerly wish to improve the relationship between you and the LCMS. But if that is to happen, it must be based on actual grievances and truth, not on letters written by lawyers.

In that spirit I am happy to hear you out in person. I stand ready and willing, as your brother in Christ, to meet you face to face at the earliest possibility so we can together move in a positive direction.

Blessed Holy Week,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Matthew C. Harrison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M' and a long, sweeping tail.

Rev/Dr. Matthew C. Harrison, President
The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod