



THE LUTHERAN CHURCH - HONG KONG SYNOD

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香港路德會

A MEMBER CHURCH OF
INTERNATIONAL LUTHERAN COUNCIL
HONG KONG LUTHERAN FEDERATION

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Ms. Joyce M.L. Woo

Dear Brothers in Ministry,

We would like to brief you on three issues. A more detailed explanation can be found in the **letter of concern** and in the **letter of clarification** posted on the Lutheran Church Hong Kong Synod (LCHKS) website (www.lutheran.org.hk).

First, it should be noted that all letters previously sent by me to LCMS leadership were all true facts and were endorsed by the LCHKS Executive Council. Moreover, the General Conference (Convention) of the LCHKS, which took place on 27 April 2019, endorsed our letter to the LCMS District Presidents [Resolution 2019-03 and 2019-04], while the LCHKS Executive Council resolved that this letter was to be sent out on 29 April 2019.

Second, the LCMS leadership has never consulted the LCHKS while selling the three properties in Hong Kong and moving the LCMS OIM regional headquarters to the Taiwan Province. We learnt about the relocation of the LCMS OIM regional headquarters from Hong Kong staff members laid off by the LCMS who were searching for new employment with the LCHKS. We would like to point out a discrepancy in the FAQ posted on the LCMS website. On the one hand, in the FAQ, the LCMS claims to "continue to have missionaries on the ground to support [its] efforts and to work alongside the LCHKS". On the other hand, the three residential venues are being sold as "no longer needed for LCMS ministries in Hong Kong", according to the LCMS statement. Since missionaries serving with the LCMS OIM and other missionaries who are members of the LCMS are living in Hong Kong, we cannot understand how the three properties purchased in the past solely for the sake of Gospel ministry in Hong Kong are being sold by the LCMS as "no longer needed". Therefore, **it is not clear to us whether the LCMS core leadership has ever taken into consideration the possible furtherance of LCHKS ministry while selling these three properties.** These three properties, which the LCMS is selling right now, were purchased from the offerings of LCMS donors years ago for one purpose only, namely, to advance Gospel ministry in China, particularly in Hong Kong. Although the LCMS claims that these three properties are "no longer needed for LCMS ministries in Hong Kong", they could strengthen our ministry and could serve the next generations of Chinese Lutherans.

Third, the transfer of the remaining properties to the LCHKS by the LCMS has been suspended unilaterally by the LCMS for more than 9 years although the protocol which was signed by the LCMS and the LCHKS in 1996 laid down a transparent and feasible procedure for transferring the properties in question. Therefore, in our opinion, **all remaining properties and the Kwun Tong property could be transferred promptly.** It appears to us that no special "governmental approvals" are required to execute the transfer of these properties besides ordinary legal arrangements with which we are familiar and which can be enacted over a span of a few months. In the light of Hong Kong law, these properties are viewed as private and their transfer from one charitable institution to another does not require "governmental approvals". **The fact that congregations using these remaining properties and the Kwun Tong property feel insecure about their venues should be taken seriously by the LCMS, given that the stability and welfare of the ministries housed therein are at stake.**

Cordially in Christ,

LCHKS Executive Council



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6 May, 2019