



American-Chinese
Multi-Faith Religious Exchange

China

October 17-29, 2009

Beijing
Nanjing
Shanghai
Hong Kong

The American-Chinese Multi-Faith Religious Exchange (ACMFRE)



About the American-Chinese Multi-Faith Religious Exchange

In June 2007, His Excellency, Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong of the People's Republic of China, and Dee Froeber, Minister to Internationals, Forest Hills Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC, discussed the American public's perception regarding the role of religion in China. Ambassador Zhou suggested that a bi-lateral exchange of religious delegations would have a positive impact on the American public's understanding of religion in China. Ambassador Zhou subsequently arranged a meeting for Mr. Froeber in Beijing with China's State Administration for Religious Affairs' (SARA) Minister, Wang Zuoan. Minister Wang responded positively to a proposal for an exchange of national level religious leaders.

In January 2008, a proposal drafted by Mr. Froeber to bring a multi-faith religious delegation from China to the U.S. was accepted by SARA. In September 2008, a delegation of twelve Chinese religious leaders led by Reverend Gao Feng, President of the China Christian Council, and Minister Wang Zuoan, Minister for the State Administration for Religious Affairs, arrived in the U.S. to begin a ten day visit to meet and dialogue with U.S. government, civic, business, and religious leaders in Atlanta and Washington, D.C. The Chinese delegation was comprised of religious leaders from China's five major religions, namely Buddhism, Catholicism, Islam, Protestantism, and Taoism.

U.S. participants in the dialogues were provided a first-hand perspective from China's religious leaders on religious policies and practices in China. Following this event, a strong desire was expressed by both Chinese and American delegates to pursue additional exchanges in the future.

In November 2008, Minister Ye Xiaowen, former minister of the State Administration for Religious Affairs, People's Republic of China, invited a U.S. delegation to visit China for a reciprocal visit in 2009.

Goals of the 2009 Exchange

- Increase bi-lateral understanding regarding the role of religion in China and the U.S.
- Explore, from a multi-faith perspective, the contributions offered by organized religion and the challenges to religious faith in modern society, in both China and the U.S.
- Discover new directions and opportunities for progress in the dialogue between China and the U.S. on the subject of religion.



Beijing 2009



The ACMFRE Executive Team



Mr. Davis (Dee) Froeber

Executive Director, American-Chinese Multi-Faith Religious Exchange
Minister to Internationals, Forest Hills Baptist Church, Raleigh, NC, USA

Mr. Froeber has 30 years experience with Chinese locally and has worked and lived in China. His graduate degree and postgraduate studies have focused on the subjects of comparative religion, intercultural communication, conflict mediation, and country specific studies.



Dr. Larry Harper

Senior Pastor, Forest Hills Baptist Church
Senior Advisor, American-Chinese Multi-Faith Religious Exchange

Dr. Harper has a Doctor of Ministry degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at Wake Forest, North Carolina. He has served as the pastor of Forest Hill Baptist Church of Raleigh, North Carolina for the last fifteen years.

The ACMFRE Project Steering Team



Mrs. Angelia E. Harper

Representative, Forest Hills Baptist Church

Mrs. Harper is a leader at Forest Hills Baptist Church and was also a participant in the 2008 American-Chinese Multi-Faith Religious Exchange. She is a National Board Certified Teacher with over 37 years serving in the public school system. She is currently involved with the development and implementation of professional learning teams to promote individual student success.



Mr. Al Haskins

Finance Director, American-Chinese Multi-Faith Religious Exchange

Mr. Haskins participated in the 2008 American-Chinese Multi-Faith Religious Exchange, coordinating financial funding efforts. He is President and owner of a document management company in Raleigh, North Carolina, that specializes in providing storage solutions, both paper and electronic, to business, government, military, and the medical industry. The company's client base is concentrated in the Southeastern United States, but has worldwide reach through companies with an international presence. Mr. Haskins is a member of Forest Hills Baptist Church.



Mrs. Sandra S. Haskins

Director, American-Chinese Multi-Faith Religious Exchange

Mrs. Haskins oversees and directs all aspects of the American-Chinese Multi-Faith Religious Exchange. She is an independent consultant whose professional career includes twenty-five years in the electric utility industry. In 2003, Mrs. Haskins was named by Rader Energy as one of "50 Key Women in Energy - Global" in the visionary category. She is a member of Forest Hills Baptist Church.



Mr. Jeff Wood

Project Coordinator, American-Chinese Multi-Faith Religious Exchange

Mr. Wood is project planner and coordinates all events sponsored by the American-Chinese Multi-Faith Religious Exchange. He has a Master's Degree from the Chinese University of Hong Kong in comparative and public history, where his studies focused on Sino-U.S. relations. He has dual undergraduate degrees in International Business and Chinese Studies. In 2007, Mr. Wood took part in the Asia Pacific Leadership Program at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Nanjing 2009



The 2009 American-Chinese Multi-Faith Religious Exchange

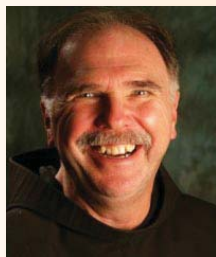
The October 2009 delegation includes U.S. religious and academic leaders. The delegates' faith traditions represent Buddhism, Catholicism, Islam, and Protestantism. Chinese participants will include national religious leaders from China's five recognized faiths (Buddhism, Catholicism, Islam, Protestantism, Taoism), representatives from China's State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA), participants from the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Jinling Seminary, and the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences.

The 2009 Delegates



Dr. Ron Epstein
Representative, Dharma Realm Buddhist Association

Dr. Epstein has a Master's degree in Chinese language and literature, and a Doctorate in Buddhist Studies. He is also a senior research fellow at the Institute for World Religions, and a lecturer emeritus at San Francisco State University. Dr. Epstein has a longstanding interest in interfaith dialogue, Chinese culture, philosophy, and religion.



Father Larry Janezic
Executive Director, Franciscan Action Network (FAN)

Father Janezic is a Franciscan Priest who lives in Washington, DC. The Franciscan Action Network does advocacy on social policy, collaborating with all Franciscan groups in the U.S. FAN is currently working on climate change, immigration, peace building, and health care reform. Father Janezic previously directed an outreach program in Chicago providing services for the homeless.



Bishop Hee-Soo Jung
President, College of Bishops
Episcopal Leader, Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church

Bishop Jung is known across the Methodist denomination for his work on refugee, immigration, cross cultural, and interfaith relations issues. He has a Master's Degree in Buddhist Studies, and a Doctorate in Philosophy. Bishop Jung is the first non-Anglo bishop to serve as the head of the Northern Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church.



Dr. Ghulam N. Mir, M.D.
Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)

Dr. Mir is the first chairman of the ISNA Founders Coordination Committee, a group of professionals and business people assisting the ISNA Development Foundation and its endowment. He practices gastroenterology in Northeastern Ohio and serves in a number of leadership positions related to medicine.



Shanghai 2009

The 2009 Delegates, continued.



Mrs. Sara Mir
Islamic Society of North America (ISNA)

Mrs. Mir is a dedicated member of the Islamic Society of Akron and Kent, Ohio. She is one of the primary event organizers of the Islamic Community Center.



Dr. Robert N. Nash, Jr.
Global Missions Coordinator, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Dr. Nash has particular expertise in the areas of American religions, world religions, and Christian ethics. He was the Dean of the School of Religion and International programs at Shorter College. Dr. Nash has pastored a number of churches, and is the author of several books.



Dr. Harry M. Rowland, Jr.
Director of Missional Church Ministries, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship

Dr. Rowland has led approximately fifty mission experiences throughout the world. These have included poverty initiatives and homeless outreach in the U.S., immigrant refugee work in Belgium, peace and reconciliation ministries in Africa, and religious tolerance among multi-faith groups in Kazakhstan. He has pastored several churches, and also served as an adjunct professor.



Dr. J. Brent Walker
Executive Director, Baptist Joint Committee for Religious Liberty

Dr. Walker is a member of the Supreme Court Bar and an ordained minister. He has practiced law, pastored a church, is an adjunct professor as well as an author. Dr. Walker routinely provides commentary on church-state issues in the national media. He is a panelist for *The Washington Post* and Newsweek's online project "On Faith". Dr. Walker's latest book is *Church-State Matters*.

Acknowledgment and appreciation are expressed to His Excellency Ambassador Zhou Wenzhong (Embassy of the People's Republic of China in the United States of America), Minister Ye Xiaowen and Minister Wang Zuonan (State Administration for Religious Affairs, People's Republic of China), the Venerable Jing Yin (Centre of Buddhist Studies, Hong Kong University), and the Hong Kong Buddhist Association. A very special word of appreciation goes to former President Jimmy Carter for his on-going support of this project.



Hong Kong 2009

The 2009 Delegation Forums and Events Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong

Amity Printing Press
Beijing Multi-Faith Dialogue
Chenghuang Temple
China Christian Council/Three Self Patriotic Movement
Chinese Academy of Social Sciences
Chinese Patriotic Buddhist Association
Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association
Chinese Patriotic Islamic Association
Chinese Patriotic Taoist Association
Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries'
Banquet Honoring Former President George H. W. Bush
George Bush Sino-US Relations Conference - Opening Ceremony
Interfaith Dialogue at Hong Kong University
Jiangsu Administration for Religious Affairs
Kunshan Qiandeng Church
Nanjing Jinling Seminary
National Seminary of Catholic Church in China
Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences
Shanghai Administration for Religious and Ethnic Affairs
South Gate Catholic Church
State Administration for Religious Affairs, People's Republic of China
Suzhou Administration for Religious Affairs

The ACMFRE Sponsors

Chinese Host/Coordinator

State Administration for Religious Affairs (SARA),
People's Republic of China

United States Sponsors

