

Proposal / Suggestions for a MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT between the TORONTO CONFERENCE of the UNITED CHURCH IN CANADA and the SEOUL PRESBYTERY of THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

We sincerely enjoy and treasure the relationship between the Seoul Presbytery and the Toronto Conference and would like to propose / suggest the following in order to deepen and widen the horizon of this relationship. Embedded in the broader frame of the exemplary relationship between our two churches (United Church of Canada and The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea) the Seoul Presbytery is open to intensify and both exchange and mutual recognition. The following are suggestions for future discussions on a much anticipated exchange of a formal Memorandum of Agreement between the Toronto Conference and the Seoul Presbytery. The following are mainly reflecting the desires and reality of the Seoul Presbytery, that are regarded appropriate and efficient to strengthen our relationship and foster the horizon of understanding in the field of ministry and theologizing. We welcome any suggestion that could complement these suggestions and are open to any additional suggestions to be discussed.

1. Mutual Recognition of Internship

It has been much felt that candidates for the ministerial vocation should be supported through different ways and opportunities in order to gain a wider and deeper understanding of the "Household of God" from perspectives of different cultures and contexts. Not only will the additional effect of learning a foreign language greatly benefit the candidates, but the experience of living in another cultural setting is regarded highly valuable and will be of essential significance in the future ministry of the Seoul Presbytery.

A mutual exchange program based on mutual recognition of Internship is felt to be an ideal framework for ministers of the coming generations.

2. Exchange Programs for Youth

Similar to the above mentioned point, an exchange program on regular base will complement and support the ministerial work through experienced lay in the church. Young people, who are less affluent and still seeking for opportunities and ways of expanding their understanding and abilities should be supported so that the church, as well as the society can be gifted with thoughtful and compassionated disciples.

3. Sabbatical Program

Ministers of the Seoul Presbytery enjoy their sabbatical leave every seven years for at least two months. A Mutual exchange program of such ministers bears high possibilities of re-vitalizing and re-energizing ministers of both sides. Both sides could offer various opportunities of research, voluntary work, lecturing, sharing of experiences and vocation etc.

4. Exchange of Ministry

The field of ministry constantly calls for new inputs and broader understanding and outlooks. The Seoul Presbytery proposes an exchange program of ministry, so that ministers of both the Seoul Presbytery and Toronto Conference may be enabled to contribute toward the ministry, but also be gifted with insights and concepts of ministry in a different context. This could be organized for a certain duration of time.