

2011 Chinese Convocation Leadership Gathering

The 2011 Chinese Convocation Leadership Gathering (CCLG) was held on January 24-26, 2011 in Los Angeles, California. The theme this year was "Life in the Holy Spirit".

Over 30 church leaders representing congregations in the Chinese Convocation from Hawaii to east coast participated. The gathering began with lunch after being welcomed by the convener, the Rev. Ada Wong Nagata. It was followed by Holy Eucharist to celebrate the Feast Day of Florence Li Tim-Oi, the first female priest ordained in the Anglican Communion. The service was most appropriately celebrated by our beloved Rev. Dr. Fran Toy, the first female Asian priest ordained in the Episcopal Church. Homily was by the Rev. Dr. Winfred Vergara. The Rt. Rev. Mary D. Glasspool, Bishop-Suffragan of the Diocese of Los Angeles gave the closing blessings.

In the gathering, there were wonderful presentations looking at different perspectives of life in the Holy Spirit. Presentations consisted of Christian spirituality by blending scriptures with the Confucian spirituality, Asian American spirituality, Benedictine Spirituality, Holy Currency, spiritual experiences from sabbatical leave and ministry.

Presenters included the Right Rev. Diane Bruce, Bishop-Suffragan of Diocese of Los Angeles; the Very Rev. David Jackson, Rector, Epiphany Church, Honolulu, Diocese of Hawaii; the Rev. David Lui, Rector, Church of Incarnation, San Francisco, Diocese of California; the Rev. Dr. Winfred Vergara, Missioner of EAM; the Rev. Dr. Sze-Kar Wan of Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Texas. There was even presentation via cyber space by the Rev. Eric Law, Executive Director, Kaleidoscope Institute. The first two days' music was played by Dr. Godwin Chou, Music Instructor, South Suburban College, South Holland, IL. This gathering was Godwin's first time joining the convocation. He also shared his spiritual journey and music composition with the convocation.

Something new, the individual spiritual consultation was added to the consultation gathering this year. It was offered by experienced spiritual consultants: The Very Rev. Dr. Michael Battle, Rector, Church of Our Saviour, San Gabriel, Diocese of Los Angeles, faculty member of CREDO; The Rev. Dr. Cynthia Jew, St. Stephens, Santa Clarita, Diocese of Los Angeles, Professor, School of Education, California Lutheran University; The Rev. Dr. Gordon Lau, retired priest, former rector, Church of Our Saviour, Oakland, Diocese of California; and The Rev. Dr. Fran Toy, retired priest, former faculty member of CREDO. Quiet time was also offered for the participants to rest and to reflect. Updates from church wide ministries were given by Mr. Peter Ng, Partnership Officer for Asia and the Pacific in the Episcopal Church's Office of Anglican and Global Relations and Mrs. Mimi Wu, Asian Ministry Coordinator, Province VIII and Vice President of EAM Council. Celebrations and challenges were also shared by participants.

In the last day, convocation business was conducted which included the discussion of a simplified mission statement, resulting with a new vision statement and the consolidation of existing funds and some guidelines of its disbursement. (See attachment)

In the evaluation, the participants stated that they enjoyed the fellowship, the learning, and the hospitality offered by the Retreat Center. The tentative date for next year's gathering will be February 9 to 11, 2012. It will be from Thursday to Saturday to accommodate the laity. Location may be at N. California, alternative is Los Angeles.

May our life be filled with the Holy Spirit as we continue to serve God and God's people.

For documents presented in the convocation, please visit: www.episcopalchurch.org/asian.htm