

RENEW PARTNERSHIP WITH TAINAN PRESBYTERY

**A Resolution of Renewing the Global and Ecumenical Partnership with the Tainan
Presbytery**

Submitted by the Conference Council of Northern California Nevada Conference of the United
Church of Christ

1 **SUMMARY**

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3 The proposed resolution to renew the Global and Ecumenical Partnership with the Tainan
4 Presbytery is an exciting opportunity that will open our eyes to God’s vision that is making all
5 things new.

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7 This resolution calls for partnership in Christ’s service to ministries of grace and compassion in
8 the world’s context.

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10 This resolution also calls for Conference-wide and local church support and participation.

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12 **HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

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14 Back in 1995 at our Conference’s Annual Gathering at Asilomar, an official Global Partnership
15 was established among the Northern California Nevada Conference of United Church of Christ,
16 the Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada, and the Tainan Presbytery. This was the
17 beginning of the partnership, when Mei Wang was actively involved in this partnership ministry,
18 because she was born and raised in Taiwan and speaks Taiwanese. as do the delegates of the Tainan
19 Presbytery.

20 Three exchange programs were developed from 1997 to 2000, when Mei Wang and Eppie Encabo
21 were actively involved. The first exchange program was between Taiwanese youth and American
22 youth. Ten youth delegates from the Tainan Presbytery came to the US, where they engaged
23 deeply with ten American youths from the Northern California Nevada Conference of United
24 Church of Christ and the Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada. They shared in living,
25 working, and worshipping together, enjoying recreational activities, and bonding with one another.

26 The second exchange was between Taiwanese pastors and American pastors. Eight pastors from
27 the Tainan Presbytery visited the US and participated in a retreat with eight pastors from the
28 Northern California Nevada Conference of United Church of Christ and the Christian Church of
29 Northern California-Nevada.

30 The third exchange held in year 2000 was special and unique, when 22 delegates from our
31 Conference and the Christian Church of Northern California-Nevada flew to Tainan, Taiwan, to
32 join in the celebration of the Tainan Presbytery’s 70th anniversary. Eppie Encabo and Mei Wang
33 were among the 22 delegates. This visit was meticulously recorded and documented, culminating
34 in the creation of a commemorative album titled, *Tainan Presbytery 70th Anniversary Memorial*
35 *Album 1931-2000.*

36 After the year 2000, the active engagements of the Global Partnership with the Tainan Presbytery
37 entered a period of dormancy, although sporadic correspondence was maintained.

38 At the February 2023 NCNC Council meeting, Mei Wang proposed to reconnect and rekindle the
39 partnership with the Tainan Presbytery, which was affirmed and approved by the NCNC Council.

40 In March 2023, Mei Wang represented the Conference Council during a visit to the Tainan
41 Presbytery, where she met with seven Board members of the Tainan Presbytery, including their
42 Chair and Vice Chair. They showed great interest in renewing the Global and Ecumenical
43 relationship with the Northern California Nevada Conference of United Church of Christ. They
44 shared their dreams and visions, such as sending youths, young adults, and/or seminary students
45 to visit the Northern California Nevada Conference local churches during summertime.

46 At the May 2023 Council meeting, the Council affirmed and approved a drafting committee to
47 form a resolution to renew and revitalize the Global and Ecumenical partnership with the Tainan
48 Presbytery to be presented at the Annual Meeting.

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50 **BIBLICAL, THEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL GROUNDING**

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52 The proposed Resolution of Renewing the Global and Ecumenical Partnership with the Tainan
53 Presbytery would be an answer to Jesus’ prayer for the disciples in John 17:21-23, uniting all
54 followers of Christ into a single community of faith. Jesus not only prayed for the disciples who
55 sat in front of him, but for those who would come after them, believing his word. It was Jesus’
56 desire that the body of Christ would be One as he and God are one, so that the world would believe
57 God had sent him.

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59 The proposed Resolution of Renewing the Global and Ecumenical Partnership with the Tainan
60 Presbytery would also be a witness to the working of the Holy Spirit in community and mission to
61 the world. As we read in Acts 2:2-4 & 6: “And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like
62 the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues,
63 as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled
64 with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages, as the Spirit gave them ability. And at
65 this sound the crowd gathered and was bewildered, because each one heard them speaking in the
66 native language of each.”

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68 The UCC has a long history of having and supporting global and ecumenical partnerships with
69 other denominations throughout the world, on many continents. The United Church of Christ is a
70 founding member of the National Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, the World
71 Alliance of Reformed Churches, and many other ecumenical agencies and projects. These
72 agencies began to take shape in the late 19th-century in response to the worldwide ecumenical
73 movement. Through these partnerships, the United Church of Christ is actively engaged in
74 ecumenical relationships that seek to heal the broken unity of the Body of Christ.

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78 TEXT OF THE MOTION

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80 **WHEREAS** the UCC has a long history of supporting Global Ministries and sending missionaries
81 beyond our national boundaries in sharing the Good News of Jesus, the proposed **Resolution of**
82 **Renewing the Global and Ecumenical Partnership with the Tainan Presbytery** would expand
83 our world view and would enrich our understanding and interpretation of the Gospel.

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85 **WHEREAS** the proposed Resolution of Renewing the Global and Ecumenical Partnership with
86 the Tainan Presbytery would also renew our commitment in sharing life, resources, support, and
87 faith through advocacy, dialogue, sharing people in mission, sharing resources, and sharing in the
88 story of God’s love in Jesus Christ.

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90 **WHEREAS** the proposed Resolution of Renewing the Global and Ecumenical Partnership with
91 the Tainan Presbytery would also educate our members in the Northern California Nevada
92 Conference of United Church of Christ, as well as in the Tainan Presbytery, about the ministries
93 carried out in building interdependence and unity among God’s children; in living out God’s
94 radical love by confronting powers that deny the fullness of life and the integrity of creation; and
95 in embodying reconciling relationships with God, humanity and creation.

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97 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Northern California Nevada Conference of United
98 Church of Christ supports the Resolution of Renewing Global and Ecumenical Partnership with
99 the Tainan Presbytery.

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101 **FUNDING:** The funding for the implementation of the resolution will be made in accordance with
102 the overall availability of funds and the enthusiasm of the local churches who may be willing to
103 support and host delegates from and/or to the Tainan Presbytery, and with funds available from
104 the Conference.

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106 **Contact Information**

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