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COLLEGE FILES

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Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.
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File - Hangchow

THE BOARD OF FOREIGN MISSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.
156 FIFTH AVENUE
NEW YORK

OFFICE OF SECRETARY

Excerpt from Minutes of the Meeting of the
Board of Trustees, Hangchow Christian College,
January 11, 1932.

"We have learned of the proposed creation of
Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China as
outlined in the meeting in New York, December 16, 1931
and it was voted that the Trustees consent to the
proposal and express their desire to join in the proposed
cooperative organization. It was voted that Edwin F.
Willis be elected a member and that Dr. T.H.P.Sailer be
elected as alternate member representing the Trustees in
such organization."

Dear Mr. Garside:

The foregoing will probably reach you officially
through Mr. Willis, Secretary of the Hangchow Trustees.
This is an informatory copy.

Sincerely,

Francis Graham

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ASSOCIATED
BOARDS

June 6, 1936

Dr. George T. Scott
156 Fifth Avenue
New York City

My dear Dr. Scott:

For sometime I have been anxious to discuss with you a number of questions affecting our China Colleges, some of which are getting in rather a critical state. In two Colleges particularly we have a number of important matters dangling at loose ends:-

The North American Section of our Cheeloo Board of Governors, in electing officers for the ensuing year, voted unanimously to re-elect you as Chairman of the Section for the ensuing year, subject, however, to your acceptance of the position. The Section is urgently in need of the type of vigorous leadership which you can supply, and we have all regretted that your absences from New York during the last two years have made it impossible for you to give much time or thought to Cheeloo affairs. We earnestly hope, however, that during the coming year you will be able to resume once more the active interest in Cheeloo you have had for so many years.

For several years the Hangchow Board of Trustees has been increasingly inactive. I understand that for a long time there have been no meetings whatever. With the death of Mr. Day and Mr. Wheeler's absence from America, the only two members of the Hangchow Board of Trustees closer to New York than Nashville are yourself and Dr. Sailer. While Dr. Sailer has been fairly active in Princeton-Yenching affairs and takes an interest also in Yenching, he has not shown much interest in Hangchow. I understand that Mr. Willis is Secretary of the Hangchow Board of Trustees but addressing communications to him seems to be merely a waste of stationery and postage.

As a result, the Hangchow Trustees have neglected almost completely their responsibilities to the Associated Boards, both as regards the financial contributions they have been asked to make and also as regards participation in the activities of the Associated Boards and its various standing committees. I sent a very detailed statement to Mr. Day almost a year ago, in which I discussed at some length the points at which action should be taken by the Hangchow Trustees in discharging their financial obligations to the Associated Boards. I believe that a copy of this letter is in your Presbyterian Board files. Mr. Day promised me that he would take an active interest in bringing these matters to the attention of the Hangchow Trustees but his death occurred before anything constructive had been accomplished. We are now within a few weeks of the close of our fiscal year, and the failure of Hangchow to bear any part of our financial burden is creating a serious embarrassment.

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Dr. Scott

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June 6, 1936

Even more serious is the fact that it is almost impossible for the Associated Boards to render any real service to Hangchow Christian College unless its Board of Trustees keeps us informed of the plans and needs of the College, and do their part in carrying on the work of the Associated Boards.

I would welcome an opportunity to talk over these matters with you. I will be glad to fit in my own schedule to your convenience.

Very sincerely yours,

BAG:MP
Encl.

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RALPH C. WELLS
Chairman
EDWIN E. WALLINE
Vice-Chairman and Secretary
MARGARET A. FRAME
Secretary

THE CHINA COUNCIL
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U.S.A.
519 THE MISSIONS BUILDING
SHANGHAI

CABLE ADDRESS: LINK, SHANGHAI
THE MISSIONS CODE
TELEPHONE: 10473

June 22, 1940

Dr. R. J. McMullen,
Hangchow Christian College,
Shanghai

Dear Dr. McMullen:

In answer to your letter of June 18th I regret that I cannot send a more satisfying reply. The following minute may come somewhat as a disappointment to you and to President Lee. Nevertheless, since our Board has devolved such large responsibilities upon its Field Council in China careful consideration must be given to an important problem arising on the field before it is transmitted to the home Board for its action. Our Board is cooperating in several higher educational institutions and a change of policy in one needs to be considered in its relationship to our entire program in China. Our Ad Interim Committee, therefore, took the following action at its meeting of June 19th:

"Hangchow Christian College, Reorganization.- Hangchow Christian College has undertaken to reorganize its work upon a university basis under the regulations of the National Government of China. The proposed university will consist of three schools - Arts, Business and Engineering. The plan has been approved in general by the field Board of Control of the Hangchow Christian College and the two Missions on the field representing the original founders, viz., the Mid-China Mission of the Executive Committee of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S., and the East China Mission of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

Our East China Mission has referred the proposal to the China Council for consideration and recommendation to the Board of Foreign Missions of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.

While the Ad Interim Committee of Council is sympathetic with the desire of the College for quick action upon this important proposal, it regrets that since a number of questions of educational policy inherent in the proposed reorganization plan affect our total Mission commitments for China, it seems best to refer the matter to the annual meeting of the China Council in September. Meanwhile, there are also practical questions relating to staff commitments of the cooperating Missions, financial obligations for new plant and equipment and for operating expenses in expanded and separately administered senior and junior departments of the College in Shanghai and Hangchow upon which Council requests further authoritative information from the Board of Control of the College in advance of submitting a recommendation to the Board.

It was, therefore, voted to refer the question of the re-

1337

organization plan of the Hangchow Christian College to the Council meeting in September."

For clearer understanding of what we mean by the above action I am sending to you certain questions that came up in the discussion of the reorganization plan. To these we should appreciate as full replies from the Field Board of Control as is possible under present circumstances. These questions are:

1. Relationship of the Hangchow Christian College(University) development to the correlation of Christian higher education in East China?
2. The effect of the reorganization upon the present incorporation of the College in the United States?
- ✓ 3. The Chinese Government's minimum requirements for a university of three colleges or schools as to plant, equipment, number and qualifications of teachers, current budget?
4. The extent of the new plant needed in Shanghai to accommodate the senior department - land, administration, class rooms and laboratory buildings? Dormitories for men and women? Equipment?
5. In the plans for a new plant in Shanghai how will housing arrangements for missionary teachers be provided?
6. The sources of the funds for the contemplated new plant and equipment:
 - a. From a financial campaign in China?
 - b. From Chinese Government grants?
 - c. From a financial campaign in the United States?
 - d. From other sources?
7. How will new academic qualifications for members of the staff affect present mission assignments?
- ✓ 8. Can you furnish us with a table showing a proposed budget under the plan of reorganization in comparison with the actual receipts and expenditures of the past fiscal year?

These are some of the questions that will naturally arise when the reorganization plan of the College is considered by our Council and home Board. We believe it is preferable to present the plan with full information upon these points rather than have the action deferred and the matter turned back to the field for further information. We shall appreciate a reply upon these points by the Field Board of Control in order that Council may be able to present the plan most effectively to the home Board.

Sincerely yours,

E. E. Walline

EEV;c

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To the Members of the China Council

Dr. R. J. McMullen, Acting President of Hangchow Christian College, has forwarded to this Board your letter of June 7, 1940, calling for more detailed information in connection with the change of status of the College. We take pleasure in answering your questions in order.

1. The relationship of the University to the correlation of Christian Higher Education in China will not be changed. The new program seeks for a closer cooperation with the other three Christian Universities now in Shanghai. Our cooperation with St. John's in Civil Engineering will be continued. Chemical Engineering was been divided with Shanghai and Soochow by assigning Inorganic Chemistry to Shanghai, Organic to Hangchow, and Metallurgy and Minerology to Soochow. A similar division of work is contemplated in the School of Commerce and the field in which this College now plans to work is not covered by the other three Universities.

2. It will be necessary to report to the Recorder of Deeds, District of Columbia, regarding the new program of the University. It is to be remembered, however, that the name of university does not necessarily involve the undertaking of post-graduate work.

3. The minimum requirements of the Chinese Government for a university of the three schools we have selected is \$600,000 for plant and equipment. The qualifications of teachers are the same as those of a college. The number depends upon the number of departments undertaken and the courses to be offered to meet the needs of students. The current budget for the three colleges- Arts, Commerce, and Engineering- is \$360,000.

4. The new plant which will be needed in Shanghai will not be affected by the change of status of the College. If we are to remain in Shanghai for cooperation in senior college work with the other three Universities we shall need a new plant, dormitories for men and women, as well as some faculty residences. Such additional equipment and buildings will be part of the provision to be made for the joint work of the Associated Christian Colleges and for which appeal is made to the Associated Boards in New York.

5. Housing arrangements for missionary teachers will in no way be affected by the change of status of the institution. If our senior college is to be in Shanghai such provision will be necessary even if the status of the College is unchanged.

- 6. See answer to question 4 above.
 - a. No financial campaign in China is planned before peace is restored.
 - b. No government grants are expected for plant and buildings in Shanghai.

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- c. This is left to the decision of the Associated Boards of Christian Colleges in New York.
- d. Help may be solicited from the China Foundation and/or the British Indemnity Fund.

7. Changing to the status of a university has no effect upon the number and qualifications of missionaries on the staff. It is hoped, however, that more missionaries will be appointed to the faculty. Requests for these have been made through the Board of Trustees in the United States who have secured the consent of both Missions to find suitable men for the College.

8. A comparative budget is herewith presented. Two items of income differ in the budgets for the two years.
(1) Subsidies from the Associated Christian Colleges.
(2) Engineering equipment requested of the Associated Boards for Christian Colleges. On the expenditure side the item of salaries is increased. This is not due so much to additional staff secured as it is to the higher salaries made necessary by soaring prices. The amount for equipment is much larger particularly for Engineering. This is counter-balanced, however, by the request for funds from the Associated Boards.

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TELEPHONE: 10473

December 4, 1940

Dr. R. J. McMullen,
Hangchow Christian College

Dear Dr. McMullen:

The rush of correspondence and the general confusion growing out of evacuation plans has led me to neglect an important matter connected with the following up of the annual meeting of our China Council. We took the following two actions:

"Hangchow Christian College, Reorganization.- The Council gave consideration to the program of Hangchow Christian College referred to it by the East China Mission. The Council wishes to express its deep satisfaction in the reports of Christian activities within the College and in the growing reputation of the College. It is in sympathy with the proposed changes in the academic set up by which it will become a university under the regulations of the National Government of China. Instead of two schools, Arts and Science, the proposed university will consist of three schools, Arts, Business and Engineering. This approval is given with the understanding that the changes in organization do not prejudice the possibility of fuller correlation with the other Christian universities of China in the future and with the understanding that they do not provide the basis for any appeal to the Mission for either staff or funds beyond the Mission's present commitments."

"Hangchow Christian College, Relationships.- Some confusion having arisen as to procedure when the Field Board of Control of Hangchow Christian College wishes to approach our Mission or when the Mission has occasion to approach the Field Board of Control, it was voted to ask the Ad Interim Committee in conjunction with the East China Mission to study the question of relationship of the Hangchow Christian College and the East China Mission, and report to the next meeting of the Council."

The first one represented a very real approval on the part of our members of the changes in your set up at the same time that they realized that our Board was not now in a position to go beyond its present commitment in the matter of staff and funds. You know also that we do not see any more than you do just how that fuller correlation of the Christian universities can be worked out. We want always to be in the attitude of welcoming and furthering any correlation that is shown to be possible and be ready to meet any increased willingness on the part of other institutions for such fuller correlation.

The second action of our meeting does not at this stage greatly concern the College, although you will be interested in it. The East China Mission has not been quite sure of the degree of relationship to the College. We studied into it and we felt that they were the body to whom the College, under our present constitution, should direct any questions to be referred to our Board. We also realized that their control was in the election of representatives on the Field Board of Control and that they were at liberty to approach the Field Board of Control with their proposals if there was any

1342

question which they wanted that Field Board to consider, or even with their criticisms, although control was vested in the Field Board. However in the minds of certain of the East China Mission members there is undoubtedly the feeling, not fully shared by our Council, that the China Council might be the more natural body to be related to the College. We do not share it because our Mission is related to many colleges and in North China it is the North China Mission that is related to Yenching and in Shantung it is the Shantung Mission that is related to Cheeloo. It seems better to some of us therefore to have the Hangchow Christian College continue to be related as at present to the East China Mission, which is a relationship much more in harmony with that of the Mid-China Mission to the College. However there was enough question in the minds of many to justify this minute asking for consideration among ourselves. It does not at this stage greatly concern the College but if we should suggest at the next Council meeting any constitutional change in relationship it would then be very much up to the College to decide whether it approved of such a change or not.

I certainly am apologetic for having failed to convey to you this first action much more promptly than I have done. Dr. Walline put the matter in my hands immediately after Council meeting so I must accept responsibility for failure to send it to you.

Yours cordially,

F;c

Margaret A. Frame

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January 30, 1941

The China Council
Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Dear Sirs:

Hangchow College has always been interested in securing the use of the T'ieh K Yang property in Hangchow. You will recall that the College started at this place and in our future plans we hope to make use of this property again.

We respectfully request that you give us an option on the two pieces of property, one on the south side of the T'ieh K Yang lane, the other on the north side. These two, we understand, constitute the entire property less the two foreign residences which we fear have already been sold. We do not know just when we will be able to take up this option. It may be not before the College returns to Hangchow. We wish, however, that we be given a definite option on it and that it be not sold to any other person.

In the past the College authorities took up this matter with Dr. Scott and requested that he present this property to the College. This was not done. Since the College wishes to use the property as it was originally used, we would appreciate as low a price being placed upon it as the Council is able to do. Will you please let us know what this price is so that the College can immediately make plans to take up the option for which we are herein asking.

Thanking you for this courtesy, I am,

Yours sincerely,

R. J. McMullen, Acting Pres.
Hangchow Christian College

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RALPH C. WELLS
Chairman
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February 14, 1941

Dr. R.J. McMullen,
Hangchow College

Dear Dr. McMullen:

We have just received your letter of January 30th, 1941 with reference to an option for Hangchow College on the Tah R Yang property in Hangchow. I was in error in suggesting that you address us in this matter for as yet the disposal of this land is in the first instance the responsibility of the East China Mission. However upon discussion we think it is not necessary for you to take the matter up with them at the present time. We should not know how to fix any kind of price in view of the special market and we should not want the college to be obligated to pay any kind of an option or to even consider the matter of buying until the future is more certain.

I am assured by members of the East China Mission that they have no thought of selling it to undesirable tenants and that you will be given what amounts to an option in case desirable tenants should appear which does not seem likely to us during the next few months. To most inquiring purchasers the answer will doubtless be that the land is not now on the market. Should we be surprised by a really bona fide offer, in which we were interested, we will still be able to tell them that the college has asked for an option and that will be given consideration you may be sure.

While in the first instance recommendation for this sale must come from the East China Mission such recommendation must have the approval of the China Council and of the Board. I think that you need have no fear that the college's interest in the matter will be overlooked.

I am not now placing your letter to us before the East China Mission because if in spite of this assurance, informally given, you feel that you should address them it would probably be better for you to do so directly.

Sincerely yours,

F;c

Margaret A. Frame

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The Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions

(Ralph M. White)

December 1943

Hangchow College Church

Here's a glimpse of one church, the growth and life of which has brought thrills of enthusiasm and high purpose to those of us who have had contact with it.

As you may know, Hangchow Christian College refugeed in Shanghai after 1937, using crowded unsuitable quarters in two different downtown office buildings. Along with the college was transplanted the College Church, primarily for students and staff. So many valuable features of college life had to be abandoned or seriously restricted - student organizations, music, library and laboratory facilities, athletics - the outlook seemed dark for the church to continue as a separate unit, but various homes were found.

But in spite of obstacles, the church grew and flourished. It began to draw also students from our own and other mission middle schools - from other refugee universities. It became the natural church home for many of the college alumni established in the city and for Hangchow families refugeeing in the Settlement. Growing in popularity, it expanded into a worship center for a large body of progressive-minded young Shanghai landers engaged in professional and business life. Substantial and attractive modern families, apparently with no definite church home, or newly awakened to their spiritual needs, became regular attendants. Regular Bible classes, and numerous groups for instruction and training in preparation for church membership, were well attended.

Much credit is due Dr. R. J. McMullen, acting president of the college and pastor of the church. He, with his team of church elders, struggled with and overcame many obstacles, but the problem of a suitable place of worship seemed baffling. Then it came - a leap from the cold, unattractive, 250 seat classroom, to one of Shanghai's best modern theaters, a dignified, air-conditioned auditorium seating 1200. Truly prayers were answered and the doors of Christian opportunity opened. The Roxy Theater is located near a busy intersection on Bubbling Well Road, out of the downtown district, yet convenient. The owners, young Chinese business men, are not Christians themselves, yet had the necessary sympathy and goodwill to make the theater available each Sunday morning, entirely rent free.

There were some misgivings lest the congregation might appear dwarfed in such spacious surroundings, so it was decided to use as an attraction, the magic appeal of the ministry of music. The same Providence that afforded the church home now provided the musical leadership. Professor Chai Mei Pa of the National Conservatory of Music also refugeeing in Shanghai from Nanking, was inspired to undertake the task. Himself a product of Christian schools, trained in Europe and America, with a wide reputation and many private pupils, he soon built up an inspiring gowned choir of sixty voices, rendering the best sacred music in a manner which would command attention anywhere. For Christmas, Easter and other special services the whole auditorium, gallery and aisles were filled, fully 1500 people, with many turned away. Naturally every effort was made to coordinate the service of song with the Christian Gospel message in one common act of worship.

The average attendance was about 750, with a membership roll of about 450. Membership was necessarily shifting, due to conditions, but there was always joy in knowing that most of those who left were not lost, but were new seed in other communities, as the great dispersion into Free China continued. About 300 were baptized in four years, probably 90% of them students - over 50 at one glorious Easter service.

1346

The communion services were particularly dignified, reverent and inspiring. One is recalled at which 520 of the congregation of 900 communed.

As the church grew, came also the problem of finding a thoroughly qualified pastor for the increasing flock. For two years the pulpit had been supplied by various invited speakers. But the sought-for prophet finally appeared in the person of Dr. Benjamin Zi, formerly president of the Theological Seminary and pastor of the Young People's Church in Swatow - a man with theological training and a Ph.D. in the U.S. The misfortunes of war cast him up in Shanghai where praying hearts and waiting arms joyfully received him. Under his able and devoted leadership the College Church carried on after the college itself was suspended and after it became necessary for the missionaries to cease attendance and break off public association with Chinese friends.

We have confidence and faith that a church like this, built up in a period of crisis and unrest, will continue its ministry to the spiritual needs of those who feel their need as never before - and that it still carries on.

Frankly, the Hangchow College Church is not typical - it is a special case. But it does illustrate the power of the Gospel message - the appeal of Jesus, Lord and Master of our lives, to grip and hold the better class Chinese in these days, those who are or will become leaders. Moreover, it is the realization of what most of us have cherished as an ideal - an educational institution both the field for evangelism, and the active agency, the means of building up the Church.

Please put Hangchow College Church on your private prayer calendars.