

From Knowledge to Action:

REFLECTIVE- COLLABORATION IN DIASPORA CHURCHES

Rev. Jonathan Chan

Chairperson of CGST Toronto
Senior Pastor of the Toronto Chinese Christian Church

CGST is celebrating her 50th anniversary this year. This milestone invites us who care about the church's mission to ask how our teaching, learning, and partnerships can better serve today's congregations and communities across North America.

What Is "Reflective-Collaboration"?

Reflective-Collaboration centers on one main purpose: forming contextual knowledge so that the biblical text speaks with relevance to our present world. By "Reflective-Collaboration," we mean "learning and doing together": listening to Scripture and our local contexts, discerning as congregations, and taking small, practical steps from which learn. This approach seeks relevance by turning knowledge into fresh insight and action, and thoughtfully reflecting on what is known. Such work is methodologically challenging, but it is necessary for the gospel to speak to the contemporary world.

CGST Toronto seeks to embed this approach – practical, reflective ministry – directly into the life of real congregations. Our goal is to learn from the past, repent where needed, and move faithfully into a future that is shaped by Scripture, prayer, and engagement with our neighbourhoods. We measure progress not by a single definitive answer but by an open, collaborative process: listening, piloting, learning together. The next question, then, is where this matters most for the churches we serve.

Our Context: Diaspora Chinese Churches in Canada and Beyond

Across Canada and the wider Chinese diaspora, churches

face complex realities: finding a shared identity, developing contextual theologies, living a multicultural reality within our congregations, sustaining gospel relevance, and meeting ministry needs across languages and generations. Within this context, some features of the Canadian setting are especially relevant.

Building on this, Chinese-heritage congregations share common features with other immigrant churches. Influences from the United States shaped many English congregations; the Cantonese congregations, in part, have often reflected Hong Kong church models, while the Mandarin congregations carry house-church influences. At present, while the Cantonese congregations remain the largest and most established stream, the Mandarin congregations are growing, and the English congregations are finding their own identity. Churches that operate in three languages are becoming more diverse and face coordination challenges — patterns that parallel other immigrant churches. With this landscape in view, how can we walk toward the future in faithful and practical ways? This "learning-and-doing together" approach provides both language and a pathway for practical responses, keeping the gospel central.

The Church's Role Toward the Coming Kingdom

Looking ahead with our partner churches, we seek a future marked by the coming Kingdom of God – an extension of Christ's first coming two thousand years ago and the in-breaking work of the Holy Spirit in this world. The church is the agent of this coming reality, bearing witness to it in anticipation

of its full realization. Any attempt to move the church into the future that departs from the coming Kingdom is futile. The Kingdom of God is the compass that sets our direction and measures our progress. Our calling is a pilgrimage towards the coming Kingdom, from which we shall chart our plans, ambitions, and endeavour.

We therefore move one faithful step at a time – small, measurable, and transparent – so that hope is formed in real congregational life. To support that kind of steady movement, we need a collaborative way of working.

How CGST Toronto Will Walk with Churches

The methodology that CGST Hong Kong has been using, Reflective-Collaboration, will be our core approach. A church that embraces the coming Kingdom must possess a humble spirit to apply its teachings and to experiment with them in the local context. Such a church must answer three questions: 1) What is the coming Kingdom saying to the contemporary world? 2) What is our church's calling under the coming Kingdom? 3) What relevant methods will we use to answer

these questions? In answering, we neither ignore our past nor abandon our tradition. Integration with history and calling guides the work: we preserve what we have received; rather than discarding the past, move into the future.

This joint project will involve CGST Toronto professors and local church practitioners and theoreticians. For this journey, we humbly invite churches to join us on a path aligned with the coming Kingdom, in both direction and values. We accompany churches in a cycle: listen, discern, try, reflect, and repeat. Practically, this means guided listening, shared biblical reflection, small pilots, and gracious evaluation – all oriented to the coming Kingdom.

An Invitation

If your congregations or your network desire companionship in this "learning-and-doing together" journey, we would be honoured to connect. We welcome a conversation about what a modest, time-bound pilot could look like in your setting. Let's explore a first, small step toward the future God is calling us to serve.

從知識到行動： 離散教會中的 反思協作

陳華恩牧師

中神多倫多董事會主席
多倫多華人基督教會主任牧師

中國神學研究院今年慶祝成立50周年，這個里程碑促使所有關心教會使命的信徒，一同反思我們的教導、學習和合作關係如何能更有效地服事當今北美的教會和社區。


甚麼是「反思協作」？

反思協作聚焦一個主要目標：建構具處境性的知識，使聖經文本能與我們現今的世界有關聯。反思協作是指「共同學習與實踐」：聆聽聖經和我們在地處境，與教會一起辨別，並以微小的行動開始實踐，從中學習。這種方法將固有知識轉化為新的洞見和實際行動，並讓人重新反思一切已知之事，從而尋求聖經的當代相關性。這是一項具挑戰性的工作，但為了讓福音能回應現今社會處境，卻是必不可少的。

中神多倫多致力於將這種務實及具反思性的事工融入會眾的生活之中。我們的目標是從過去汲取教訓、隨之悔改，並忠心地邁向一個由聖經、禱告及與社區互動所塑造的未來。我們不以單一答案作為衡量事工進度的標準，而是透過一個開放和協作的過程，就是傾聽、試行，以及共同學習。那麼，下一個問題就是，對於我們服事的教會而言，反思協作在哪方面最為重要？

我們的處境：加拿大及海外的離散華人教會

加拿大及海外的華人離散群體 (diaspora) 當中，教會均面對著複雜的現實處境：尋找共同身分、發展處境化的神學、在多元文化中共處、維持福音的適切性，以及滿足跨語言和跨世代的事工需求。而加拿大的情況在這個處境中尤其值得關注。



具華人背景的教會與其他移民教會都有著一些共通特徵：許多英語堂深受美國的影響；粵語堂某程度上承襲了香港教會的模式；而國語堂則帶有家庭教會的影響。雖然目前粵語堂仍是規模最大、基礎最穩固的群體，但國語堂亦正在增長，英語堂也正在尋找自己的定位。採用三語運作的教會日益多元化，同時也面臨協調上的挑戰；這些現象與其他移民教會的發展模式相似。面對這樣的景況，我們該如何以忠誠而且務實的方式，同行邁向未來？而「共同學習與實踐」的方法，既提供了語言框架，亦開闢了實踐回應的途徑，使福音始終居於核心的地位。

教會與將臨天國

我們與夥伴教會攜手，尋求一個以神國降臨為標記的未來——這是基督兩千年前初臨的延續，也是聖靈在世界中不斷更新、突破的工作。教會是這將臨天國的見證者，在其完全實現之前要為此作見證。任何試圖引導教會走向偏離神國降臨的路，都終將徒勞。神的國是指引我們方向、衡量我們進步的指南針。我們的召命是一段朝向上帝國度的信仰旅程，所有的計劃、理想與努力，皆應以此為出發點。

我們因此選擇憑信一步一腳印地前行，每一小步都具體透明，使盼望能在會眾真實的生活中成形。為了支援這種穩步前進的方式，我們便需要一種協作的事奉模式。

中神多倫多與教會同行

中國神學研究院一直採用的「反思協作」方法論，成為我們的核心方向。一間擁抱上帝國度的教會，必須懷著謙卑的心，在本地處境中實踐並驗證其教導。這樣的教會必須回應三個問題：一) 將臨的上帝國度正在向當代世界說甚麼？二) 在將臨的國度下，我們教會的呼召是甚麼？三) 我們將使用哪些方法來回答這些問題？在回應這些問題時，我們既不忽略過去，也不拋棄傳統。與歷史及召命的結合成為我們工作的導引：我們要持守所領受的；與其拋棄過去，不如迎向未來。

這個合作計劃將由中神多倫多的教授以及本地教會的同工和神學家共同參與。我們邀請教會加入這趟旅程，踏上一條在方向和價值觀上都與將臨天國一致的道路。我們將陪伴教會經歷一個循環：傾聽、辨識、嘗試、反思；具體而言，就是引導聆聽、共同的聖經反思、小規模的試行計劃，以及在恩典中反省、評估——這一切都將以神國降臨為中心。

邀請您：

若 貴教會或所屬網絡渴望在這段「共同學習與實踐」的旅程中與我們同行，我們誠摯地希望能與您聯繫，並討論在 貴教會的處境中，一個適度、具時限的試行計劃可以如何展開。讓我們一同探索第一步，踏進上帝所呼召我們服事的未來。

News and Prayer Requests 消息及代禱

■ LTE Courses Launching — Pray for Church Impact

CGST Toronto's Lay Theological Education (LTE) courses began in October 2025. Please pray that these courses will meaningfully support churches across various contexts. May participants grow in theological understanding and apply what they learn to real-life contexts. Pray that the instructors will teach with clarity and cultural sensitivity, and that God would use these offerings to build up believers and strengthen local churches. May the LTE initiative help bridge biblical truth with the daily challenges faced by overseas Chinese congregations.

■ Rev. Kin Yip Louie's Ministry Connections in Toronto

We give thanks that Rev. Louie has settled into his stay in Toronto. Please pray for his ongoing ministry as he visits churches across the city and beyond. Ask the Lord to bless each conversation and connection, that genuine partnerships may be formed. Pray that pastors and leaders will be able to clearly express their ministry challenges, and that Rev. Louie and CGST Toronto will gain a deeper understanding of how we can meaningfully support their pastoral work. May God grant Rev. Louie wisdom, energy, and sensitivity as he listens, learns, and serves.

■ 為信徒神學教育課程 (LTE) 給教會帶來的實際幫助禱告

中神多倫多的信徒神學教育 (LTE) 課程已於2025年10月開展。祈願這些課程能切合不同教會處境的需要，成為實用的裝備。求主讓學員在神學知識上扎根，並能將所學應用於實際事奉中。願授課導師在教學中能清晰表達，並具有文化敏感度，讓教會在真理與信仰生活上得到堅固與更新。

■ 為雷競業牧師在多倫多建立教會聯繫禱告

感謝主，雷牧師已在多倫多安頓下來。請為他與本地眾教會建立聯繫的事工禱告。求主賜福每一次的會面與對話，讓彼此建立真誠的夥伴關係。也求主讓牧者們願意分享他們在牧養上的挑戰，使雷牧師與中神多倫多能更深入了解我們如何成為教會的實際支援。願主賜下智慧、體力與亮光，讓他的服侍帶來果效。



■ D.Min. Program Development

CGST Toronto is currently designing a Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) program for pastors serving Chinese churches in Western countries. Please pray for the curriculum team as they develop a program that is biblically grounded, contextually relevant, and practically useful. May the Lord grant them wisdom to understand the unique pastoral challenges of diaspora communities. Pray that this initiative will raise up leaders equipped to serve with theological depth, cultural awareness, and renewed vision for gospel ministry.

■ Alumni Retreat and Future Support Platforms

We thank God for the successful completion of CGST's first Alumni Retreat on September 22, 2025. Please pray that the retreat becomes a foundation for ongoing connections among alumni serving in different parts of the country and beyond. May God use this network to foster encouragement, mutual learning, and collaborations. As CGST Toronto explores future alumni initiatives, pray for discernment in building platforms that can tangibly support pastors and leaders in their spiritual lives, ministries, and personal well-being.

■ 為教牧學博士課程 (DMin) 的籌劃禱告

中神多倫多正著手設計一套為身處西方的華人教會牧者而設的教牧學博士課程。請為課程發展團隊禱告，求主賜他們屬天智慧，使課程既有聖經根基，又具處境洞察與實用價值。願課程成為裝備教會領袖的有力工具，使他們能在當代的牧養挑戰中，帶領群體實踐信仰與使命。

■ 為校友退修日感恩與未來教牧支援平台禱告

感謝主！中神首次校友退修日已於2025年9月22日順利舉行。願這次聚集成為校友連結的美好起點。請為「教牧支援平台」代禱，盼望它能成為連結校友、促進彼此關懷、同行與學習的橋樑。求主引領中神多倫多的校友事工，建立一個能真正支援牧者與領袖的平台，使他們在靈命成長、事奉操練及個人生活的各個層面都得著造就與更新。

2026 Financial Needs 2026 財政需要

To respond to the pastoral needs of Chinese churches worldwide, CGST Toronto is fully committed to planning several key initiatives. These include a research project addressing the unique challenges faced by overseas Chinese churches, the development of a networking and support platform for pastors, the design of a Doctor of Ministry program tailored for overseas Chinese church leaders, and the launch of a series of accessible theological education courses (Lay Theological Education). The projected budget for 2026 is CAD 600,000. We warmly invite brothers and sisters to lift this financial need in prayer and to consider supporting the ministry through your offerings, partnering together to bless Chinese churches across the globe.

為回應普世華人教會在牧養上的需求，中神多倫多正全力規劃多項事工，具體包含針對海外華人教會獨特牧養挑戰的研究計畫、創建教牧人員互動交流的平台、設計專為海外華人牧者開設的教牧學博士課程，以及推廣一系列信徒神學教育課程。2026年預計經費為加幣60萬元，懇請各位弟兄姊妹在禱告中記念此項財務需要，並考慮以奉獻支持，共同祝福全球華人教會。

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CGST Toronto office 330 Hwy 7 East, #308 Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3P8, Canada

289-553-6767

info.cgstt@cgst.edu

Publishing Supervisor: Bernard Wong | Editor-in-Chief: Kin Yip Louie | Executive Editor: Maria Chuen