



Communique

130th Anniversary of the Australian Mission to Korea

Sydney
10 October 2019

The Presbyterian Church of Korea (PCK) and the Uniting Church in Australia (UCA) have jointly celebrated our shared history that began with the arrival of the first Australian missionaries in Korea in 1889.

Between October 1889 up until recent times, 131 Australian missionaries including 85 women served in Korea, establishing schools, hospitals and many churches.

The PCK delegation led by Moderator Rev Dr Kim Taeyoung with 30 PCK church leaders travelled to Australia in October 2019 to pay tribute to the Australian missionaries and their descendants, and to reflect on the life-giving mission of Australian people over a century ago.

The Uniting Church President Dr Deidre Palmer welcomed the visitors, who were hosted by UCA congregations in Sydney and Melbourne, and by leaders of UCA presbyteries, Synods, and the National Assembly.

Together we shared deeply on our rich and vibrant history of mission, and discussed the nature of mission in the contexts in our two churches today. Our celebrations remind us of the depth of our connection and further strengthen the relationship between our two churches.

Together we pray that God's grace will surround and uphold the PCK in its worship, witness, and service in Korea and that God will sustain and bless the church and the Korean people as they work for peace and the reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

UnitingWorld and the Uniting Church's Korean National Conference recognise that this celebration supports Korean-speaking congregations in Australia to be part of this mission history and affirm their continuing witness within the multicultural life of the Uniting Church.

On this occasion of the 130th anniversary, we give thanks for the blessings we receive from being part of a global communion of churches. We continue to learn from each other, bear witness to a unity of faith and life in Christ which transcends cultural, economic, national and racial boundaries. and are strengthened by our fellowship in our contexts in Korea and Australia.

Dr Deidre Palmer
President, Uniting Church in Australia

Rev. Dr Kim Taeyoung
Moderator, Presbyterian Church of Korea