

Chinese Christian Church of Milwaukee
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April 23, 2018

Chinese Christian Church of Milwaukee also Connects to:

- Fourth Church of Christ, Scientist building.
- Brown Deer Baptist Church
- Trinity Community Church

Historical Overview:

In 1974 Wang Changming, also known as Peter Wang, a Chinese graduate student at Wheaton College, led a student retreat to Milwaukee. After his graduation he established a Chinese Missionary Association in affiliation with the Southern Baptist Church. In 1976 he left the Chinese Mission and began a Chinese Christian Fellowship at the Brown Deer Baptist Church in Milwaukee. In 1978 this group decided to change their name to the Chinese Christian Church of Milwaukee, and in 1981 they were officially registered under that name. The congregation continued to grow, necessitating a move to a new and larger location; in 1987 they held their first services at Trinity Community Church, also in Brown Deer. Starting in 1995 the church executives began discussing building their own church to accommodate the growing congregation. During the congregation's time at Trinity the congregation continued to grow and there was an increase in English-speaking Chinese joining the congregation. In the early 1990s the church began its first English ministry. In 1998 Pastor Wang Changming retired. A group of elders and deacons filled in as the preaching team during the search for a new pastor, until Andy Tso was hired later that same year. In 2000 they found their new place of worship at their current location, 2519 East Kenwood Blvd. in Milwaukee, the former home of the Fourth Church of Christ Scientist. On January 01, 2001 the congregation held an inauguration service in their new space, with regular Sunday services beginning a couple months later. In 2002, the church held the first summer bible school and also began a ministry for those in the food and beverage service industry, meeting Sunday nights at 10 p.m. to accommodate the work schedules of those individuals. In 2003 they celebrated their 25th anniversary. Since coming to their new home, the congregation has continued to grow and develop. Weekly services are offered in both English and Chinese, with simultaneous translation from Mandarin to Cantonese during the Chinese service. Once a month there is a combined worship service, with translation from English to Mandarin and vice versa. There are numerous language classes, religious education classes, bible studies that meet across the greater Milwaukee area, and a weekly congregational meal. The church celebrated its 40th anniversary in May of this year.

Timeline

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| 1974 | Reverend Wang Changming is studying at Wheaton College and leads a student retreat to Milwaukee. |
| 1975 | Pastor Wang graduates and is accepted at the Southern Baptist church; he establishes the Chinese Missionary Association. |
| 1976 | Pastor Wang leaves the Chinese Mission to lead Chinese students at the Brown Deer Baptist Church. |
| 1977 | "Prestige," the church newsletter, begins to be published monthly in January. In February, Pastor Wang establishes Chinese Student Bible Study Class at UWM. |
| 1978 | The Chinese Christian Fellowship is established at the Brown Deep Baptist Church. |
| 06/1979 | The fellowship changes their name to the Chinese Christian Church of Milwaukee. |
| 08/21/1981 | The Chinese Christian Church is officially registered. |

10/22/1981 Children's Sunday School begins.

01/1982 English Bible study begins.

02/1984 Choir is established.

1985 Chinese school begins.

03/1986 Children's English worship begins.

01/18/1987 The congregation meets for the first time at their new location, renting from the Trinity Community Church

03/1988 Translation headphones introduced for English-speaking congregants.

05/01/1988 Tenth anniversary of the church is celebrated.

05/28/1988 The first spring festival is held in Lake Geneva.

12/09/1990 English worship begins.

1992 First youth group retreat.

01/1993 First Cantonese bible study class, held in church member home.

04/1993 Fifteenth anniversary of "Prestige," the church newsletter publication.

07/17/1994 The first reading of the Church Charter.

1994 Meal after first Sunday (local Chinese). English translation services on the third Sunday of the month. Simultaneous translation from Chinese and Cantonese on the other Sundays.

1995 Executive Meeting discusses the topic of church construction.

1997 English bible study for Chinese students at Medical College of Wisconsin

01/1998 Pastor Wang retires.

05/1998 20th anniversary of the church. Pastor Wang returns to celebrate with the congregation.

09/1998 The Executive Council hires the first minister of the English Department.

05/2000 The Kenwood site is found and passed bids to the seller through the executive committee and the general assembly.

08/06/2000 General assembly dedicates itself to the purchase of the site's new chapel.

11/10/2000 Officially own the new space.

11/18/2000 The congregation goes to the new space to begin renovations, including painting.

01/01/2001 Inauguration ceremony and the first baby dedication ceremony.

03/2001 First regular Sunday worship in the new space.

08/2002 First summer bible school.

10/2002 Started Sunday night ministry for those who work in the service industry.

2003 25th anniversary of the church.

03/2005 The church organizes an extended theology course for the first time.

10/2006 "Prestige" church newsletter begins digital publication and email distribution

05/2007 Church hosts first "Study Day," opening its doors and providing meals to UWM and Marquette students studying for finals

- 05/2008 CCCM members donate \$30,000 and the church allocates \$10,000 for earthquake relief in Wenchuan, Sichuan, China.
- 06/2008 30th anniversary of the church is celebrated, with Pastor Wang returning to preach.
- 05/05/2013 35th anniversary of the church is celebrated.
- 7/30/2016 Dragon Boat race
- May 2018 40th anniversary of the church.

Annotated Bibliography

Church History provided by Pastor Daniel Shu, (Milwaukee: Chinese Christian Church of Milwaukee, 2018)

This was a 30-page long document in Chinese provided to us by Daniel Shu. He had created the document in preparation for the church's 40th anniversary. He used all the past issues of "Prestige", the church's newsletter to pull out the turning points of their congregation's history.

Chinese Christian Church of Milwaukee, cccm.net/. Accessed 14 May 2018.

Their website can be found in English or Chinese. The Chinese site has past issues of "Prestige", which we were able to use. The English site has photos from past events, their own short history is outlined, and has descriptions of all the current Pastors.

Chinese Christian Church of Milwaukee "40th Anniversary Special Issue."

This 120-page booklet was printed to commemorate the church's fortieth anniversary, celebrated May 5, 2018. In it are stories and recollections from current and past members of the church, including lay-people and clergy. Most of the entries are written in Chinese, though some are in English. The booklet also has reproduced images of historic church documents, including membership numbers, bulletins and newsletters.

Shyu, Daniel. Personal interview. 16 Apr. 2018.

We met with Pastor Daniel Shyu on April, 16 2018. He described how the church works, he talked about their history and about what he hopes for the future of the church.