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主旨: For your information

Dear Mr Tsang

The Ministerial Session of The Methodist Church, Hong Kong, has made a declaration expressing our views on the political development of Hong Kong and it has been printed in Ming Pao and Apple Daily on Thursday, 1st April 2004. The English version of the same has been printed (with modifications made by SCMP) in "Letters to the Editor" in the SCMP on Sunday, 4th April 2004. We are enclosing our original versions for your easy reference.

Please rest assured that we will pray earnestly for you and for your important task,

For and on behalf of  
The Methodist Church, Hong Kong

Katherine NG (Ms)  
Executive Secretary



## 我們對政制發展的意見

香港政制發展方向及步伐仍在討論之際，中央政府宣布全國人民代表大會常務委員會（以下簡稱「人大常委會」）將於四月上旬就香港特別行政區基本法（以下簡稱「基本法」）第四十五條、附件一第七段及附件二第三段作出釋法，本部有下列意見——

1. 香港社會對政制發展未有共識，市民仍在熱烈表達意見，人大常委會突然宣布以釋法之方式去澄清基本法中關於香港政制發展之有關條文，此舉令人極為詫異，使人懷疑中央政府對港人缺乏信任。本會牧師部同寅確認基本法之解釋權屬於人大常委會，惟現階段貿然中斷特區政府諮詢港人之原定計劃，高姿態地倉卒釋法，其合理性及必須性均難令港人信服。
2. 回歸七年以來，香港特區之管治情況，令人憂慮，市民之怨氣甚深，缺乏表達意見及參與社會事務之有效途徑。故為香港社會之長治久安，特區政府之有效管治，一個提供香港市民能負責任地積極參與之政制實屬必要；只有透過全民普選特首及立法會才可增強特區政府之認受性和權威性。香港社會的經濟、法制、教育等條件及市民之民主素質業已具備進行普選之條件，故人大常委會在釋法時，應積極考慮二〇〇七年、二〇〇八年普選之可能性。
3. 香港政制之進一步發展，對香港之穩定、繁榮、公義及有效管治，對香港與中央之和好關係皆影響深遠，港人應負起表達立場及參與行動之責任，積極發表意見，不應閉口不言。
4. 我們對香港之前途充滿期望及信心，是次釋法並非解決香港政制發展之適當方法，惟仍盼望釋法之結果合乎公義、民主、法治及社會安定的原則，能促進香港有效管治及整體之利益，而港人與中央政府應彼此信任，同心合力建設香港，對國家作出更大之貢獻。

我們呼籲每一個香港市民均積極及負責任地參與建設香港成爲一個充滿信、望、愛，民主、公義、自由、安定的社會。

香港循道衛理聯合教會  
牧師部 謹啓  
二〇〇四年四月一日

## Our Opinions Concerning Political Reform

Dear Editor,

At a time when the direction and pace for political reform are under public discussion, the Central Government has announced that the Standing Committee of the NPC will make known its interpretation of certain provisions in the Basic Law of HKSAR with respect to the method for the selection of the Chief Executive and the method for the formation of the Legislative Council. The Ministerial Session of The Methodist Church, Hong Kong, submits the following opinions.

1. Before Hong Kong society reaches any consensus in regard to political reform, with the citizens still expressing their opinions, it is announced by the Central Government that the Standing Committee of the NPC will make its interpretation of the relevant provisions in the Basic Law. Such an approach comes as a surprise to a great many people, and it leads them to suspect that the Central Government does not trust the Hong Kong people. We recognise that the Standing Committee has the right to interpret the Basic Law but question the reasonableness and urgency of doing so at this time. By intervening in this way, there is a disruption to the SAR Government's original plan to consult the people, and this high profile approach has the effect of potentially riding roughshod over people's views.
2. Since returning to China for the past seven years, the SAR government's governance is a great worry to the people, accumulating deep dissatisfaction, and there is a lack of effective channels for fair expression of people's opinions as well as avenues for positive participation in public affairs. For the sake of SAR's effective governance in the long term and the real peace of mind of the people, it is essential to have a political structure which enables the people to participate actively and responsibly in public affairs for the common good. Thus only if the Chief Executive and the Legislative Councilors are elected by universal suffrage will the government's acceptability and authority be enhanced. Hong Kong society already has the economic, legal, and educational levels of development, and the quality of democratic culture is already developed enough to make the SAR ready for greater democratization. We hope that when the Standing Committee interprets the Basic Law, the possibility of universal suffrage in 2007 and 2008 will be considered.
3. In our opinion, progress in political reform in the direction of greater democratization will definitely contribute toward the stability, prosperity, justice, and effective governance in Hong Kong. Furthermore, it will be conducive to better relations between the SAR and the Central Government in the long run. It is our belief that the Hong Kong citizens should exercise their civil responsibility to express their opinion by words and by deeds on such important matters as political reform.
4. We are optimistic about Hong Kong's future. Although the Standing Committee's decision to interpret the Basic Law at this point is not the best approach to deliberations on political reform, we can only hope that what interpretations will be made will be in line with the principles of democracy, rule of law, and social stability, so as to promote better governance in Hong Kong and for the sake of the interest of all. Hong Kong people and the Central Government should progress to the point that

they trust each other, and it is our hope and belief that Hong Kong people are united in their effort to build up Hong Kong and to make their contributions to the country.

We appeal to every citizen to take responsibility and to actively participate in making Hong Kong a city full of faith, hope and love, and a society where democracy, justice, freedom and stability will reign.

The Ministerial Session  
The Methodist Church, Hong Kong  
9/F Methodist House  
36 Hennessy Road  
Wan Chai  
Hong Kong  
2<sup>nd</sup> April, 2004