

# Chinese Spiritualities & The Episcopal Church USA The State of the Conversation

On the official level (that is, at the level of the Office of Ecumenical and Interfaith Relations), the notion of establishing and maintaining Episcopal-Taoist or Episcopal-Confucian Relations has yet to become a reality. However, for some Episcopalians, such conversations are a daily fact of life. Consider, for example, the Church of Our Savior in Manhattan's Chinatown (Diocese of New York), or the Episcopal Church's sisters and brothers in Taiwan (who are included in Province IX). Significantly, the interfaith resolution issued by the 1978 Lambeth Conference of Anglican Bishops included Taoism and Confucianism in the list of religions in the midst of which some Anglicans were acknowledged to be ministering.

During the 1990s steps were taken to launch official Episcopal-Buddhist Relations. However, while Episcopal-Buddhist dialogue has yet to be sustained at the national level, it is must be acknowledged in advance of such an eventuality that it is fairly impossible to understand the breadth and complexity of Buddhism without understanding its interconnectedness with Taoism and Confucianism—and, certainly a number of Episcopalians have dabbled with Buddhism. Therefore, the Interfaith Education Initiative has included education about Taoism and Confucianism on its agenda

In coming weeks, the IEI will develop a four-page folio "quick-guide" to Chinese Spiritualities (such as are available now on this website for most of the other religions about which we teach). We will also be adding more entries to each of our "Materials You Can Use" categories. For now, we urge you to take a look at what we have assembled already. Admittedly, it is a sparse selection, but we do think each item is useful. Furthermore, if you have something to contribute to any category of the Chinese Spiritualities portion of the IEI website, please contact us.



"love  
your  
neighbor  
as  
yourself"

