# 2024 Long Island Abundant Life Church Chinese and English Joint Retreat

Since the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, different ministries and activities of the church have needed to make corresponding adjustments and changes, such as the church retreats that were often held in the past need to be suspended. As the church enters its 50th anniversary, the church decided to hold the retreat again this year.

The church hopes to use this retreat to reflect on God's grace in Abundant Life Church on the one hand, and on the other, to strengthen each brother and sister's faith and growth in Christ through God's Word, helping us build a better relationship with God and His people. In this retreat, not only can we study God's Word together and serve one other, but we can also share about our spiritual life, the insights from our devotions with others in our small groups, hence influencing one another's lives. We hope that brothers and sisters will value and grasp this great opportunity to grow in Christ and bless one another.

This year's Chinese and English joint retreat will be held from the evening of 6/28 to the noon of 6/30 at the Great Commission Training Center of the Ambassadors for Christ Inc., 21 Ambassadors Dr., Paradise, PA 17562.

You are cordially invited to join us.

This time we are very grateful to have three servants of God, Pastor Su Guicun , Preacher Tsun-En Lu, Pastor John Heald, Pastor Su is our plenary speaker; Preacher Lu will share with us on Saturday's Chinese seminar and Pastor John Heald will share on Saturday's English seminar. The theme of this retreat is:

## Ascending the higher ground together

**Registration**: Due to limitations of the venue and facilities, the church will first accept applications from church members and their immediate family members. Other non-members or friends who are interested in participating can fill in the application form first; the church will accept their applications after calculating the vacancies based on the number of people it can accommodate.

**Accommodation**: This year's registration fee is based on room occupancy. The venue provides a room with a double bed for two nights for $140. A room occupied by a family of four, a couple, or one person will all incur a cost of $140.

**Meals**: The retreat will provide breakfast and lunch for Saturday and Sunday, and dinner on Saturday; please make your own arrangements for dinner on Friday. Cost is $30 per person (free for children under 3 years old).

**Examples of total expenses**: (1) A couple sharing a room, the total participation fee is $200 (140 + 30x2); (2) A family of 5 (including a 1-year-old child) per room, a total of $260 (140 + 30x4); (3) Individual participants can invite roommates to share the room cost.

**Retreat Schedule:**

6/28 Friday night: Retreat opening ceremony - joint worship and keynote message with English translation;

6/29 Saturday: Chinese and English congregation will each have their separate message and seminar;

6/30 Sunday worship: Chinese and English joint worship and message, with English translation; there will be livestreaming of the worship. There will be no physical worship at the Hicksville sanctuaries.

LIALC Board of Deacons

# Brief introduction of the retreat Speakers:

## Pastor Su Guicun (Plenary Speaker)

Pastor Su Guicun grew up in Pingtung, Taiwan, and entered Tamkang University in 1967, majoring in history. After graduation and service (1973), he immediately joined the Taiwan Campus Gospel Fellowship and participated in student campus gospel ministry. Later, he also participated in the training of full-time coworkers until July 1990. A total of 17 years, including three years to further his education at the Christian Witness Theological Seminary in Berkeley, California.

On September 1, 1990, he accepted the invitation of the Reformed Church of Newtown in New York and came to New York from Taiwan to pastor the church until he retired on December 31, 2017.

He's currently serving independently, supporting churches and gospel ministries in various places, caring for young preachers and writing. In recent years, he has published two books "Reading the Text, Sketching the Message, New Testament" and "Journeying through the Old Testament: A Schematic Tour". He serves together with his wife, Sister Su Fu Lixiu, and have two sons, Su Bolun and Su Boli. They are already married and well-established, live in New York, attend and serve in the Reformed church of Newtown. He has seven lovely grandchildren.

## Preacher Tsun-En Lu (Saturday's Chinese Seminar)

Master of Divinity from Westminster Theological Seminary, Philadelphia. He once served as the director of the student ministry of Hsin-Yi Friendship Presbyterian Church in Taipei. He has a doctorate in New Testament exegesis from the Westminster Theological Seminary and is a speaker of AFC, specializing in topics such as evangelism, apologetics, counseling, post-90s student ministry, discipleship, and others.

## Pastor John Heald (Saturday English Speaker)

Pastor John was born in Princeton and grew up in Swartmore, PA. When he finished High School, he moved to NYC to study Fine Arts. After much searching, the Lord appeared to him and dramatically altered the course of his life. The Bible became alive to him and his daily delight.

He left New York and spent one year at Fellowship Bible Institute. Liberty Corner, NJ. During that year he attended a Missions Conference where he dedicated his life to serving in a cross cultural context. Then he entered Moody Bible Institute in Chicago. Later he completed a M.Div. at Alliance Theological Seminary.

The Lord blessed him with a wonderful wife Melody to share the ministry together. For the past 30 years they have been serving churches in New York and New Jersey. By God's grace they have seen many lives impacted and transformed by the Word of God. To Jesus be all the glory and praise.