REPORT OF THE RESEARCH COMMITTEE
ON “SCRIPTURAL REASONING AND COMPARATIVE LITERATURE” (2014-15)

From August 2014 up to now, the Research Committee on “Scriptural Reasoning and Comparative Literature” has held the following activities to foster and support the spirit and thinking of Scriptural Reasoning (SR) among Chinese scholars.

1. September 22-25, 2014, the Committee organized the 10th “Theology and Humanity” Summer Institute and a roundtable in the 20th Congress of Chinese Comparative Literature. The theme of the roundtable and Summer Institute was “Comparative Literature and Religious Studies”. About twenty-four scholars from the UK, USA, France and mainland China presented their papers and discussed them in Yanbian, Jilin Province.

2. October 15, 2014, a special seminar was organized by the Committee in honor of German theologian Jürgen Moltmann, who dialogued with Chinese and British scholars on political theology and hope theology.

3. April 20-22, the Committee co-sponsored an international symposium with the School of Arts of Renmin University of China on “East-West Art: Contemporary Development”. The symposium seeks to practice Scriptural Reasoning in the arts, philosophy, and literature by gathering artists and philosophers with different faith interests and presenting diverse artistic forms and lively academic dialogues on spirituality and art. An exhibition entitled “Between Worlds: East-West Contemporary Art & Research Exhibition” was held simultaneously. One session of the symposium was even held in the gallery. The topics of the symposium covered a wide range, from literature to religious traditions, to contemporary Chinese art and philosophy. The exhibition contained different forms of art, from photograph to oil painting, installation art and sculpture. Works of four foreign artists and five Chinese artists were on display. The papers presented at the symposium will be published in two languages, and a 3D record of the exhibition will be kept in the University archive.

Possible: A Theological Reflection on *Secret Sunshine*” (LIU Wenjin).

The Committee will keep promoting inter-disciplinary, inter-religious and inter-cultural studies in the future. In the next academic year, the committee will host at least three major conferences. July 5-9, 2015 the Committee will hold the 11th Summer Institute, focusing on the crises we are facing today and leading a discussion about the different traditions and resources that people today may draw from. October 18-20, 2015 the Committee will help host the Executive Council Meeting for World Sinology Conference and a small seminar on the past and future of sinology. In March or April 2016 another symposium on Art and Literature will be held in Beijing. As for publication, issues 34 and 35 of the *Journal for the Study of Christian Culture* will focus on the following two topics - “The Significance of Hope” and “Post-modern Theology”. The Committee will also work with Brill on some of the best articles published in the past issues of the Journal and translate them into English. Besides, Baylor University Press will publish the essays of the conference in March 2014 under the title of “A Poetics of Translation”.

Drafted by
YANG Huilin, Chair (yanghuilin@ruc.edu.cn)
ZHANG Jing (Cathy), Secretary (jing.cathy.zhang@ruc.edu.cn)
Renmin University of China

**List of Research Committee Members:**

YANG Huilin, Renmin University of China, Chair
ZHANG Jing (Cathy), Renmin University of China, Secretary
   David Ford, Cambridge University, member
   GENG Youzhuang, Renmin University of China, member
   Andrew Hass, Stirling University, member
   John LAI, Chinese University of Hong Kong, member
   LI Bingquan, Renmin University of China, member
   LIU Yunhua, Shanghai Normal University, member
   David Jasper, Glasgow University, member
   David Jeffrey, Baylor University, member
   Peter Ochs, Virginia University, member
   Chlöe Starr, Yale University, member
   WANG HAI, Renmin University of China, member
   ZHANG Hui, Peking University, member
   ZHANG Hua, Beijing Language and Culture University, member
   ZHANG Longxi, Hong Kong City University, member
   Eric Ziolkowski, Lafayette College, member