

# The United Work of Protestant Denominations in Modern China: A Case Study of the North China Christian Rural Service Union

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Too many denominations came into being during the development of Protestantism in modern China, which was a misfortune for the Christian enterprise, but the union and cooperation among them never stopped. This paper takes the North China Christian Rural Service Union (NCCRSU) as a case study to explain the motivations, the process and the contributions of denominational cooperation in the Christian Rural Reconstruction Movement during the 1930s. NCCRSU was a leading organization and created many new programs within this movement in northern China. A more important contribution of this movement was that it promoted a new model for establishing Chinese indigenous churches through emphasis on churches or fellowships in village settings and, not in market towns. This paper mainly deals with one successful experiment in the villages of Fan in Hebei province before the Sino-Japanese War interfered. However, because the NCCRSU was a very loose organization, the cooperation between denominations was done mostly in spirit and within a few concrete programs. It was more functionally successful than structurally strong, and so suffered often from a shortage of personnel and finances. Many programs, consequently, remained only on paper and were unrealizable.