

## **RELIGIOUS INSPECTION REGULATIONS**

*Translation by UCANews*

*(The winter 1996 issue of "Religions in China," a quarterly published by the Religious Affairs Bureau (RAB), carried the text of new regulations on mandatory annual inspection of religious premises.*

*"Method for the Annual Inspection of Places of Religious Activity" was issued by the RAB, under China's State Council, on July 29, 1996.)*

The complete text of the regulations follows:

Article 1 : In order to protect the legal rights of places of religious activity, strengthen the management of places of religious activity according to law, and advance the systemization and standardization of the self-management of places of religious activity, this Method is established according to the relevant regulations of the Management of Places of Religious Activity Ordinance and the Method of Registration for Places of Religious Activity.

Article 2: This Method applies to places of religious activity registered according to the law with the Religious Affairs Bureaus of People's Governments at county level or above.

Article 3: The department responsible for the annual inspection of a place of religious activity is the department which is responsible for the registration of that place of religious activity.

Activity 4: The main criteria of the annual inspection of a place of religious activity are :

- a. The situation as to obedience to national law, regulations and policies;
- b. The situation as to the establishment and implementation of management regulations;
- c. The situation regarding the main religious and foreign-related activities;

- d. The situation regarding important matters of financial management, income and expenditure;
- e. The situation regarding any changes in the conditions of registration;
- f. The situation as to the changes and management of any business, enterprise or estate (belonging to the place of religious activity);
- g. The situation as to any other relevant matters.

Article 5: The departments responsible for the annual inspection shall carry out the annual inspection of management situation of the places of religious activity according to law in the first quarter of the year.

The departments responsible for the annual inspection shall inform the management organizations of the place of religious activity in writing and in advance of the content, time and concrete requirements.

Article 6: The management's organizations of the places of religious activity shall obtain a Place of Religious Activity Annual Inspection Form from the departments responsible for the annual inspection and fill it in according to the requirements set out in the Notice of Annual Inspection. The completed forms shall be returned to the departments responsible for the annual inspection after comments have been entered and signed by the Township People's Governments or the urban Street Committee Offices.

Article 7: The departments responsible for the annual inspection shall examine the management situation in places of religious activity and enter and sign their comments on the Place of Religious Activity Annual Inspection Forms in accordance with the Management of Places of Religious Activity Ordinance and the Method of Registration for Places of Religious Activity, as well as the relevant stipulations of other laws, regulations and policies.

Article 8: The annual inspection evaluation is either "pass" or "fail".

Article 9: Places of religious activity which fulfill the following requirements shall be classified as having passed the annual inspection:

- a. Obeying the law, regulations and relevant policy regulations;
- b. Not conducting any religious or foreign-related activity which is illegal or against the rules;
- c. Conducting activities in accordance with all the rules and regulations in existence at the place of religious activity;
- d. The financial system is in good shape and the income and expenditures are in accordance with relevant national regulations;
- e. Having proceeded on time with the formalities of putting on record any changes in registration and establishments;
- f. Operating seriously in accordance with democratic procedures;
- g. Accepting annual inspection within the specified time limit.

Article 10: Places of religious activity involved in any one of the of following situations shall be classified as having failed the annual inspection:

- a. Breaking the law, regulations or relevant policy regulations;
- b. Conducting religious or foreign-related activity which is illegal or against the rules;
- c. Conducting activity which is not in accordance with the rules and regulations in existence at the place of religious activity;
- d. Breaking the relevant financial regulations;
- e. Not having gone through the formalities of putting on record any changes in registration and establishments;
- f. Important activities lacking democratic procedures;
- g. Not accepting annual inspection within the specified time limit without reasonable excuse;
- h. Falsification in the annual inspection;
- I. Breaking other relevant regulations.

Article 11: Places of religious activity which pass the annual inspection shall have their Place of Religious Activity Inspection Certificates stamped with the annual inspection stamp by the departments responsible for the annual inspection.

Article 12: Places of religious activity which fail the annual inspection shall receive a written explanation from the departments responsible for the annual inspection and shall be given a time limit to rectify the situation.

Article 13: Those places that rectify their situation within the given time shall have their Place of Religious Activity Inspection Certificates stamped with the annual inspection stamp by the departments responsible for the annual inspection.

Article 14: Regarding any place that does not accept annual inspection, fails to rectify its situation within the given time, or breaks the law, the department responsible for the annual inspection may ask the responsible person of the place's management organization to take responsibility for the matter, and, according to the seriousness of the situation, punish the place by issuing a warning to the place, ordering it to cease its activities or canceling its registration. Where the situation is especially serious, the department may ask the People's Government at (the appropriate) level to close down the place in accordance with the law.

Article 15: If the management organization of a place of religious activity disagrees with the administrative decision concerning it made by the department responsible for the annual inspection, it may apply for reconsideration or make an administrative appeal in accordance with the stipulations of the relevant laws and regulations.

Article 16: The departments responsible for the annual inspection shall forward the results of the annual inspection to the Religious Affairs Departments at the next higher level for the record. The Religious Affairs Departments at provincial level should make a general report on the provinces' annual inspection to the State Council Religious Affairs Bureau.

Article 17: The Place of Religious Activity Annual Inspection Form and the Place of Religious Activity Inspection Certificate shall be printed by the Provincial Autonomous Regional or Municipal Government religious affairs departments in accordance with the design set out by the State Council Religious Affairs Bureau.

Article 18: Provincial, Autonomous Regional or Municipal Government religious affairs departments may, in accordance with the

Method, set out suggestions as to its implementation according to actual local conditions. These shall be reported to the State Council Religious Affairs Bureau for the record.

Article 19: The State Council Religious Affairs Bureau shall supervise the implementation of this Method

Article 20: The responsibility for interpreting this Method lies with the State Council Religious Affairs Bureau.

Article 21: The Method enters into force on the day of promulgation (July 29, 1996).

