Executive Director’s Annual Report, 2015

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The main activity of the Japanese Society of Christian Studies (JSCS) is the academic conference generally held in September. The 62nd conference of JSCS was held at Kwansei Gakuin University in Hyogo Prefecture on the 11th and 12th September of 2014. According to the official records of the Executive Office 175 members have attended the conference.

On the first day of the conference the previous President of JSCS, Professor Emeritus Mizugaki Wataru of Kyoto University, gave a keynote lecture entitled “Christianity as a biblical tradition”. On the second day there was a public symposium on “Perspectives of Christian Studies in Japan.” Questions of Christian theology and Christian studies in Japan constituted the fundamental issue of this symposium, and it’s purpose was to provide information and suggestions to the participants regarding theology and Christian studies in Japan. Three panelists presented their own views from different viewpoints. The President of the Japanese Association for Religious Studies, Professor Keta Masako of Kyoto University, gave a talk on “The viewpoints of philosophy of religion and Christian studies.” The speech of Professor Fukai Tomoaki of Kinjo Gakuin University was on “Prospects of Christian studies: Christian studies and the Market”, and Associate Professor Yanagisawa Tami of Kwansei Gakuin University presented reflections on the topic of “Christian Thought and the viewpoint of the human body: Expressing Christian behavior.” There were also 38 presentations of research results given in the morning, whereas in the evening a social gathering took place. The conference ended on a successful note.

The local chapter’s activities in 2015 were as follows.

The Kanto chapter held a conference on March 20 at Sophia University with a public symposium entitled “The modern State and Christianity: Activities of Protestants and the Roman Catholic Church in Education and Public Welfare in Japan in the past 150 years”. The symposium was chaired by Professor Kawamura
Shinzo of Sophia University, and the panelists were Professor Inagaki Hisakazu of Tokyo University of Social Welfare (Protestant) and Professor Miyoshi Chiharu of Nanzan University (Roman Catholic). On March 26 the Kinki chapter held a conference at Kobe College with a symposium under the title “The Funeral Liturgy Today”. It was presided by Professor Li Ken of Kobe College and the panelists were Professor Nakano Keiichi of Kobe College, Professor Kondo Go of Kobe International University and Pastor Hori Tsuyoshi of Itami church of the United Church of Christ in Japan. The commentator was Professor Nakamichi Motoo of Kwansei Gakuin University. On March 30 the Kyushu chapter held a conference with a public lecture entitled “The spirituality of the Eastern Church.” Chaired by Professor Emeritus Mori Yasuo of Seinan Gakuin University, the presentations were given by Professor Emeritus Tani Ryuichiro of Kyushu University and Professor Hisamatsu Eiji of Ryukoku University. On June 6 the Hokkaido chapter held a conference with a symposium entitled “The Bible as classical literature and the Bible as the canon of the church.” The symposium was presided by Professor Emeritus Tsuchiya Hiroshi of Hokkaido University. The panelists were Professor Tsuji Manabu of Hiroshima University and Professor Toda Satoshi of Hokkaido University. On June 20 the Tohoku chapter held a conference with a public lecture entitled “The political and theological heritage of Ernst Troeltsch” by Professor Fukai Tomoaki of Kinjo Gakuin University.

On October 2014 the Executive Office of JSCS has moved from Rikkyo University to Kwansei Gakuin University. Since then the School of Theology of Kwansei Gakuin University has taken over the concerns of JSCS.