

A Korean Missional Church as a Public Companion in the Korean Civil Society

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A missional church has received increasing attention to in Korea, as well as in many other countries including the US at the local and ecumenical level. Although there are different and diverse understandings and definitions of it, I regard a missional church as a Spirit-led church to participate in the triune God's mission in its local context. Recently increasing interest in a missional church in Korea has something to do with reforming the existing Korean Church as the so-called self-centered church. Relatively speaking, although the Korean Protestant Church has enjoyed its explosive growth in numbers over the last century since its official introduction to Korea in the 1880s, it has been little concerned with its neighborhood. In addition, some Korean churches have provided social services for their neighbors; many of them have been criticized for using those services only as means for their church growth. In this situation, some churches have been emerged as one of the alternatives to renew the Korean Church. However, not all of them are actively engaged with other civil society organizations, although they all pay careful attention to and get involved in their neighborhoods.

With this in mind, I will explore what a Korean missional church as a public companion looks like in a Korean civil society. To do so, I will utilize a case study with a local church known as a missional church in Korea which has played a role as a public companion in its local context.