

AUTHOR: Rev. Dr. Matthew Y.S. Sin

SEMINARY: Christian Ministry Institute

TITLE: An Imagination of a New Missional Church Paradigm for Transforming Theological Education in Hong Kong.

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ABSTRACT:

This paper aims to develop a new missional church paradigm for transforming theological education in the training of future church leaders in Hong Kong. Due to the significant cultural and societal changes for the past decades, most local churches of Hong Kong are exhibiting the similar characteristics of a post-Christendom society as reflected in the Western churches in terms of ageing problem and a prominent loss of the young adherents. Apart from facing the cultural challenges of a postmodern and pluralistic society, Hong Kong churches are also experiencing an unprecedented political crisis that has drastically changed the ministry, societal, and political context. The citywide demonstrations and riots throughout the city has led to more than five thousands protesters being arrested. The City of Hong Kong will never be the same again, and churches of Hong Kong have no exception. Based on David Bosch's historical paradigms of mission, particular attention will be given to "the apocalyptic paradigm of primitive Christianity" (the Pre-Christendom era) and "the emerging ecumenical paradigm" (the Post-Christendom era) as these two historical periods share a lot of similarities with present Hong Kong churches in terms of the ministry challenges. The new missional church paradigm imagined, including the interrelations and dynamics among the key components of missional identity, ecclesiology, leadership, spirituality, witness, and cultural engagement, will provide a theological and theoretical framework for evaluating the rationale and design of the current theological education curriculum, thus aiming to transform theological education of Hong Kong in a radically new ministry context.