

ECUMENICAL LINKS

The Korean Christian Church in Japan has formal relationships with several church bodies in Japan, Korea and elsewhere, including:

Bilateral mission accords with:

The Methodist Church in Korea
The Korea Evangelical Holiness Church
The Presbyterian Church of Korea
The General Assembly of Presbyterian Church of Korea (Hap-Dong, Dae-Shin, Baek-Seok, Ko-Shin)
The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea
The United Church of Christ in Japan
The Church of Christ in Japan
The Presbyterian Church in Taiwan
The Presbyterian Church in Canada
The Korean Presbyterian Church Abroad
The United Church of Christ
The Uniting Church in Australia
The Presbyterian Church (USA)
National Council of Korean Presbyterian Churches (USA)
The Reformed Church in America

Bilateral and Multilateral cooperation with:

National Christian Council in Japan (NCCJ)
National Christian Council in Korea (NCKC)
Christian Conference of Asia (CCA)
World Council of Churches (WCC)
World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC)

The United Methodist Church (UMC)
The United Church of Canada (UCC)



The KCCJ crest: Christ's cross rises from the Korean community/church (white circle) in Japan (red circle) and through the blue dove of peace.

KCCJ GENERAL ASSEMBLY-ASSOCIATED AGENCIES:

Korean Christian Center (Osaka)

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Seinan Korean Christian Center

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Center for Minority Issues and Mission

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Homes for the Aging

1. Ei-sei Home (Nagoya Church)
2. Ei-sei Home Shin-mei (Nagoya Church)
3. Ei-sei Home Toyohashi (Toyohashi Church)
4. The House of Setton (KCCJ Church Women's Association)

Church-Related Nursery Schools

1. Kawasaki Church, Sakuramoto Nursery (1969)
2. Yokohama Church, Uchikoshi Nursery (1974)
3. Nagoya Church, Ei-sei Nursery (1985)
4. Kyoto Church, Kojosha Nursery (1934)
5. Osaka Church, Ai-shin Nursery (1979)
6. Osaka KCC, Ikaino Nursery (1983)
7. Mukogawa Church, Sakae Nursery (1979)



The Korean Christian Church in Japan



KCCJ's 110th Anniversary (Aug. 15, 2018)

The motto of the 110th Anniversary
"Spread the Tent of Inclusivity!"

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Koreans in Japan

The history of Koreans in Japan is linked to the Japanese colonization over the Korean Peninsula. In 1910, when Japan annexed Korea, there were approximately 700 Koreans in Japan, most of whom were students. By 1945, when the Allied Powers defeated Japan, there were approximately 2.3 million Koreans in Japan. Some of them came to Japan for survival because of the dispossession of their lands by the Japanese Government. Some were forcibly conscripted and brought to Japan to work in mines and factories, and to serve in the Japanese military.

Soon after the war, 1.7 million people returned to Korea. About 600,000 Koreans remained in Japan due to the outbreak of the Korean War (between 1950 and 1953) and other reasons.

From the beginning, Koreans have been discriminated by the Japanese society and government. One lasting effect of this is the usage of Japanese name by Koreans in Japan. Over 90% of Koreans in Japan use Japanese names to hide their ethnic background.

According to statistics of 2021, there are currently about 440,000 Koreans in Japan (Japanese nationality is determined by bloodline, not the place of birth like the United States and Canada). Of these, about 314,000 are those who came to Japan before 1945 and their descendants (2019 statistic). If we add those who have become naturalized Japanese citizens, as well as children of Korean and Japanese parents, the total number of people living in Japan whose roots can be traced in Korea is over 1 million.

History of the Korean Christian Church in Japan (KCCJ)

The KCCJ traces its history to 1908, when Korean students began worshiping together in the Tokyo area. In 1912, Korean Presbyterian and Methodist Churches combined their efforts to work together for mission among Koreans in Japan. The ecumenical character of the KCCJ today reflects this early history. From 1927, The Presbyterian Church in Canada started to support this mission work.

During the wartime, the KCCJ was forced to join the United Church of Christ in Japan. But in 1945, it became an independent denomination again.

In 1968, the KCCJ observed its 60th Anniversary under the motto, "Forward, Following Jesus Christ into the World." From that time onward, it began to incorporate human rights and other social issues in its mission engagements.

Since its establishment, the KCCJ has grown to encompass approximately 100 churches and preaching points with 7,000 members located in five districts throughout Japan. Today, the KCCJ continues its mission work toward its 120th anniversary, and commits itself to establish peace and justice for all God's creatures and people in Japan, Asia and the world.

Three Characteristics of the KCCJ

1) The KCCJ as an ecumenical church

From the beginning of its mission, the KCCJ has been formed by cooperative mission by

the Presbyterian and Methodist Churches of Korea. Today, the KCCJ has received missionaries who have Presbyterian, Methodist or Holiness traditions. Additionally, the KCCJ has borne the theme of mission as a member of ecumenical bodies such as the NCCJ, CCA, WCRC and WCC.

2) The KCCJ as a minority church

The KCCJ is the ethnic-minority church, where many Koreans in Japan (Japanese, South- and North Korean nationals) gather together. KCCJ strives to do its mission from the perspective of minorities

3) The KCCJ as a diversified church

The KCCJ membership includes immigrants to Japan. Even before World War II, newcomers from Korea, Japanese citizens, and people of mixed marriages (known as "double"). There are also many languages spoken within the KCCJ community, as well as many different identities among church members. We consider this diversity a great blessing to our community.



The 3rd International Conference on Minority Issues and Mission (Tokyo, Nov. 2015)