

IMAGINING A NEW WAY FORWARD

Leadership, Identity, and Mission
in The Korean American Church

코리아안 아메리칸 교회의 리더십, 정체성, 그리고 선교



Mon. April 13th - Wed. April 15th, 2026
THE KOREAN CHURCH OF BOSTON, PC(USA)
32 Harvard Street,
Brookline, MA 02445

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Roger S. Nam, Ph.D.

Professor of Hebrew Bible, Candler School of Theology, Emory University

Soojin Chung, Ph.D.

Director, Overseas Ministries Study Center, Princeton Theological Seminary

David Chao, Ph.D.

Director, Center for Asian American Christianity, Princeton Theological Seminary

Hosted by
The Korean Church of Boston, PC(USA) - English Ministry

In Partnership with
Center for Asian American Christianity,
Princeton Theological Seminary

Co-sponsored by
NCKPC Jubilee Committee
Northeastern Korean Presbyterian Council



www.eventcreate.com/e/kcboston2026

For Information : kcbweb70@gmail.com

Invitation Letter

May grace and peace be with you.

We warmly invite you to the Boston Korean Church Symposium 2026. Join us for a time of learning from the past, reflecting on the present, and faithfully imagining the future together with pastors and lay leaders serving churches across the United States.

Through this gathering, we hope to share meaningful fellowship, spiritual renewal, and a renewed vision for our ministry.

[Registration Link To Join In Person](#)

[Registration Link To Join Virtually](#)

[Symposium Website](#)



Contact us: kcbweb70@gmail.com

PLENARY SPEAKERS

Learn from the Past

Dr. Soojin Chung (Historian)
Princeton Theological Seminary

Examine the Present

Dr. David Chao (Theologian)
Princeton Theological Seminary

Imagine the Future Faithfully

Dr. Roger S. Nam (Old Testament Scholar)
Emory University



The Korean Church of Boston Symposium
IMAGINING A NEW WAY FORWARD

-Leadership, Identity, Mission in the Korean American Church -

4/13-15, 2026

Symposium Schedule

Time	4/13 Monday	4/14 Tuesday	4/15 Wednesday
9 – 12pm		Session II: 9 – 10:30am “Three Worlds, One Church: Rethinking Leadership, Identity, and Mission” Keynote Speaker: Dr. David Chao , The Center for Asian American Christianity at Princeton Theological Seminary Q & A Panel Discussion: 10:30am – 12pm Keynote Speakers and Korean American Pastors Moderator: Dr. Eunil David Cho , Assistant Professor of Spiritual Care and Counseling, Boston University School of Theology	Discussion Session or Group Meeting: 9 – 11am
12 – 1pm		Lunch	Lunch
1 – 4pm			Dismiss
4 – 5:30pm		Registration	
5:30 – 7pm	Welcome Dinner	Dinner	
7-8:30pm	Session I: “Korean American Churches’ Belonging, Identity, and Agency: A Lesson from History” Keynote Speaker: Dr. Soojin Chung , Director of the Overseas Ministries Study Center at Princeton Theological Seminary Q & A	Session III: “Rethinking Community: A Surprising Lesson for the Korean American Church” Keynote Speaker: Dr. Roger S. Nam , Professor of Hebrew Bible at Candler School of Theology at Emory University Q & A	
8:30pm	8:30-8:45pm Message from Rev. Jihyun Oh , The Stated Clerk of the GA and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Life and Witness	8:30-9pm Small Group Discussion	

Plenary Sessions Title & Abstract

Session I	
Speaker	Dr. Soojin Chung
Title	Korean American Churches’ Belonging, Identity, and Agency: A Lesson from History
Abstract	The merger of Christianity and migrant nationalism during the first wave of Korean migration created a synergy that provided a sense of liberation and belonging to Korean American churches. In this presentation, I argue that Christianity played a pivotal role in fostering nationalist sensibilities away from home. Conversely, migrant nationalism propelled the spread of a contextualized Christianity based on Korean migrant ethnic identity that was distinct from the dominant White American Christianity during the early 1900s. Korean migrant churches functioned as repositories of national pride as Koreans negotiated their sense of belonging, identity, and agency in a foreign land.
Session II	
Speaker	Dr. David Chao
Title	Three Worlds, One Church: Rethinking Leadership, Identity, and Mission
Abstract	What does it mean to follow Christ across generations shaped by migration, racialization, and digital life? Drawing on powerful oral history interviews from Korean American Christians, this presentation explores how faith is lived, felt, and passed on within three distinct yet connected worlds. The first generation learns to trust God’s providence while rebuilding life after migration. The second generation wrestles with identity, belonging, and grace within English-speaking and racially complex environments. The younger generation navigates faith in a digital age where attention is fragmented and the presence of God must be rediscovered in new ways. Rather than treating theology as abstract ideas, this talk invites us to see doctrine as something we live. Providence is not just a belief, but a way of surviving and trusting God in uncertainty. Grace becomes real in the healing of shame and the search for belonging. Presence emerges as a sacred gift in a distracted and fast-moving world. This session will help pastors, leaders, and church members better understand the spiritual lives of their communities across generations. It will offer a fresh vision for ministry that attends to language, emotion, and everyday experience as places where God is already at work. Ultimately, it invites the church to discern how the gospel is being lived—and how it might be more faithfully embodied—within the changing realities of Korean American life.
Session III	
Speaker	Dr. Roger S. Nam
Title	Rethinking Community: A Surprising Lesson for the Korean American Church
Abstract	This presentation argues that the Korean American church can learn a surprising lesson about community from the post-exilic context of Nehemiah 8: true communal life is sustained not by resolving every conflict or achieving ideal cohesion, but through shared practices that continually form and shape the people. In Nehemiah 8, a multigenerational immigrant community gathers around the public reading of Torah, responding collectively with joy and determination. At the same time, the narrative reminds us that communities are rarely perfect: tensions, generational challenges, and ongoing struggles are part of the process of formation. For the Korean American church, this suggests a liberating perspective: community can grow and thrive through shared engagement and faithful practice, even amid ongoing tension.