

Chungdong First Methodist Church and Claremont School of Theology (CST): A Historic Partnership Connecting Generations

Chungdong First Methodist Church, Korea's first Methodist church, and Claremont School of Theology (CST) share a profound historical legacy extending back to the beginnings of Methodist mission in Korea. To commemorate this special relationship and carry it forward to future generations, Chungdong First Methodist Church established a scholarship.

The Foundation of Methodist Mission and Maclay College of Theology

Missionary Robert Maclay received authorization from Emperor Gojong to undertake educational and medical ministries, paving the way for Henry Appenzeller and other Methodist missionaries to begin their work in Korea. After returning to the United States, Maclay served as dean of Maclay College of Theology, founded by his brother Charles Maclay, dedicating himself to theological education and the formation of future leaders.

The Founding of CST and Its Connection to Korean Methodism

The educational legacy of Maclay College of Theology continued through the School of Religion at the University of Southern California and ultimately became Claremont School of Theology, established in 1956. CST thus shares historical roots with the Methodist mission in Korea and has educated generations of Korean students, preparing them to serve as leaders in the church and society.

A Renewed Partnership Through Scholarship

To commemorate and continue this distinctive historical relationship, Chungdong First Methodist Church established the Appenzeller–Chungdong First Methodist Church Scholarship. Through its annual support of CST, the church helps Korean students develop the theological competence and spiritual leadership needed to become future leaders of the church. More than a source of financial assistance, this scholarship symbolizes a meaningful partnership between Chungdong First Methodist Church—the birthplace of Methodist mission in Korea—and CST, an institution that carries forward that historical legacy. Together, across generations and national boundaries, they are preparing leaders for the future.



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