

PEOPLE IN PARTNERSHIP PROFILE: **John Egger**

John Egger, from Alberta Northwest Conference, is a **Co-worker in Mission** serving **The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea** from **September 2018 to August 2022**.

DESCRIPTION OF APPOINTMENT: Working in the ecumenical affairs department of the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea (PROK)

INSIGHT UPON ARRIVAL: The deep desire of the Korean people for unification and for peace on the Korean peninsula, and the special role that the church can play in helping to make that desire a reality

INSIGHT ABOUT MY OWN ROLE: How deeply committed the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea is to its relationship with The United Church of Canada, and how my role, first of all, is to embody that relationship just by my presence here as a co-worker in mission, and secondly, to contribute to that partnership by employing my skills to assist the PROK in its ministry with Korean society and the world.



I grew up in Calgary, Alberta; my home congregation is St. Matthew's United Church. I have served numerous United Church congregations in Calgary and Toronto in a variety of youth, educational, and intergenerational ministries, including intercultural experience with Centennial Japanese United Church (now Bayview) in Toronto and Taiwanese United Church of Toronto, as well as ecumenical experience working with the Anglican Church (Christ Church Calgary) and the Presbyterian Church in Canada (Varsity Acres in Calgary). These experiences have given me a great appreciation for the possibilities for intercultural and transformative ministry within congregations, especially through engaged intergenerational education.

I studied political science at the University of Calgary, earned my master's degree in Theological Studies at St. Andrew's College in Saskatoon, and a doctoral degree at the Toronto School of Theology (Emmanuel). My PhD dissertation was on Paul's use of the Hagar/Sarah motif in his letter to the Galatians and how it has been spun in the history of interpretation. This was a kind of case study into how biblical texts have been (i.e., can be) misread in the history of the church and the dangers thereof.

One exciting aspect of this appointment is that it presents possibilities for bringing together my academic interests in the politics of interpretation (and specifically contextual interpretation in the Asian context), and my congregational background working in a variety of intercultural, educational, and multigenerational ministries.



The Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea has a central focus of working for justice and peace. This is defined as justice for all, particularly for those most vulnerable and those who are marginalized, gender justice, justice for the earth, reconciliation and reunification of the divided Korean people, and peace for the Korean peninsula, Northeast Asia region and wider world. Deeply committed to the international ecumenical movement, the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea works in active solidarity with some thirty partner churches and organizations around the world.



The partnership between the PROK and the United Church began in 1955.