

In 1884, William Scranton, a doctor living in Cleveland felt called by God to serve as a medical missionary in Korea. This calling also became the calling of his mother Mary Scranton, who had moved to Ohio to be near her son after her husband's death. Mother and son were commissioned as missionaries and in 1885 – supported by their Methodist Episcopal Church congregation in Cleveland, Ohio – arrived in Korea.

Despite many challenges the mission of William and Mary Scranton flourished. Their lives modeled the Wesleyan tradition of the Methodist movement that had been introduced in the peninsula country the year before their arrival. Together, they worked tirelessly in helping establish churches, schools and clinics in Korea, laying groundwork that continues to impact lives today more than a century later.



Scan the QR code above to join the Ohio Episcopal Area in supporting the construction of the Scranton Memorial Mission Center and Church.



"Supporting the construction of the Scranton Mission Center in Seoul is not simply financial support or participation. It is an act of honoring our spiritual heritage and renewing our responsibility for mission. It is a statement of faith in which we declare, 'we remember the missionaries we sent, and we continue the work they began,'" Bishop Jung declared.

Construction on the 2,200-square-foot Scranton Memorial Hall and Memorial Church should be completed in 2027. When opened it will offer training in spiritual formation to pastors and laity, teach and collaborate with students and scholars on mission strategy, and nurture multicultural and international partnerships.

The Scranton legacy became the seed of Korean Methodism. More than that, it established a model of mission where the gospel and education grow together. That seed took root in Korea, bore much fruit, and now continues to spread to new places. Inspired by their faith, I am committed to sharing the love of Jesus Christ, the gospel, and the gift of education in the two churches and communities where God has called me to serve.

Rev. Byunghee Lee
Pastor
Morral & Marion Oakland UMCs

Mary Scranton's commitment to education and service, coupled with William Scranton's pioneering missionary efforts and commitment to healthcare for all, helped lay foundations that continue to shape Korean Christianity today. As the Korean Methodist Church prepares to build the Scranton Memorial Center honoring Mary and William Scranton and highlight the profound Ohio connection, I pray that each of us will give what we are able, so that this center may stand as a testament to faith, mission, and the enduring partnership between our churches.

Rev. Laura White
Superintendent
South Forest District







Delegations of clergy and laity from Ohio and Korea have visited one another's country and celebrated the legacy of Mary and William Scranton. Bishop Hee-Soo Jung and Seoul Annual Conference Bishop Seong-Bok Kim signed the Ohio-Korea Covenant of Ministry Partnership, which states, "We acknowledge and celebrate the rich history and diverse cultural contexts within which we serve. We affirm our mutual respect and desire to learn from one another, enriching our understanding of God's grace and the global church."

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Bishop's Missional Appeal
for the

SCRANTON MEMORIAL MISSION CENTER AND CHURCH

"This story is not a chapter frozen in the past. It is a living testimony to what courageous faith can accomplish. And now, once again, we hear the Holy Spirit inviting us to join that journey."

- BISHOP HEE-SOO JUNG

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