移動中的中國青年世代
從移民理論與教會論探索
美國華人教會的身分與實踐

Chinese Emerging Adults on the Way
Exploring the Identity and Practices of
American Chinese Churches through
Migration Theories and Ecclesiology

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Abstract

This paper seeks to explore the practices of American Chinese churches toward Chinese emerging adults in America through a four-stage practical theology method. The first part of this paper will identify the current practices of the Chinese churches in America in their ministries to Chinese emerging adults in America through literature reviews. The second part of this paper will then turn to studies on contemporary Chinese society and migration theories to examine how the migration experience of Chinese emerging adults in America shape them and how they respond to the challenges that migration poses on them as subjects. The third part of the paper will reflect upon a theological theme: the church as the people of God, and to explore the identity of local Christian communities in America and their relationships with Chinese migrants among them. The last part of this paper will explore how the new perceptions toward Chinese emerging adults in America and the identity of American Chinese churches presented in this paper could renew the church’s ministry toward this people.

Keywords: American Chinese churches, practical theology, migration theories, ecclesiology, contemporary Chinese society
摘要

本文以 Mark Branson 的實踐神學方法为主要架構，透過四個步驟探索美國華人教會對在中國出生，現居住美國十八至二十九歲的青年（美國的中國青年），應有的牧養和回應。第一部份透過回顧社會學家對美國教會和移民之關係的研究和理論，指出美國華人教會對待新移民的現況。第二部份則透過分析當代中國社會和移民理論，來探索這樣的理論如何塑造這些新移民，以此理解美國的中國青年所面對的挑戰和適應策略，以及他們作為行動主體的回應。第三部份以教會作為上帝的百姓這個主題來反省教會的身分，並依此身分探討美國華人教會在牧養和接待在美中國青年之實踐。最後，本文將對美國華人教會提出更新當下實踐的三個建議，並指出美國華人教會和台灣教會在接待中國青年，處境類同。

關鍵詞：美國華人教會、實踐神學、移民理論、教會論、當代中國社會