

## **Asian American Strategic Plan**

Persons of Asian origin make up approximately 2% of the population of Kansas in the 37 counties that make up the Kansas East Conference. While persons of other races have either language or culture in common, persons of Asian origin come from a variety of countries and cultures and speak a wide variety of different languages. Therefore, no one church start will adequately be able to serve all persons of Asian origin even in the same community.

The following demographics may help illustrate the point. Of the 1,503,234 persons counted in the 2000 census in eastern Kansas, 30,739 self-identified as being in part or whole of Asian origin. Of these, 90% were living in seven of our counties: Johnson (14,261), Douglas (3,632), Wyandotte (3,030), Riley (2,422), Shawnee (2,122), Geary (1,360), and Lyon (825).

Within those counties the majority of such persons come from widely different countries and cultures:

Johnson – Asian Indian (4,469), Chinese (3,069), Korean (1,701), Filipino (1,287), Vietnamese (1,207), Japanese (769), Laotian (742), and all others under 500 persons per country or culture.

Douglas – Chinese (1,113), Asian Indian (574), Korean (506), and all others under 500 persons per country or culture.

Wyandotte – Hmong (999), Laotian (544), and all others under 500 persons per country or culture.

Riley – Chinese (686), Korean (507), and all others under 500 persons per country or culture.

Shawnee – Asian Indian (544), and all others under 500 persons per country or culture.

Geary – Korean (605), and all others under 500 persons per country or culture.

Lyon - all are under 500 persons per country or culture.

Congregational Growth and Development will continue to monitor Asian American population changes in the bounds of our Conference. If, in the future, they believe we should move forward in the creation of new faith communities or churches they will consider those as a part of our entire effort to create new churches in the bounds of our Conference.

In the meantime, support will continue for our two Korean congregations, in Overland Park and Junction City. And we will monitor the new Korean faith community that has been given birth at Topeka: First UMC under the leadership of Associate Pastor, Kibum Kim.