

Summary

In the light of the dynamic societal changes that have occurred in the last few decades, the difficulties encountered by the church in her proclamation of the Good News of the coming of God's reign and in meeting the challenges posed by contemporary culture, the crisis of the missionary identity of the church and the inadequacy of its inherited ecclesiologies has been fully revealed.

The Gospel and Our Culture Network (GOCN) in North America aims at the renewal of the church's missionary identity in order to help her to grasp better her task of witnessing in the world. GOCN argues that this goal cannot be achieved without thorough reflection on the gospel and culture and their dynamic interaction. This thesis *Missional Church: The Characteristics of the Gospel and Our Culture Network's Conception of Missional Ecclesiology* will acquaint its readers with GOCN, its historical development, its understanding of the gospel and the analysis of its context. However, the main purpose of this study is to present GOCN's concept of missional ecclesiology itself and assess it in relation to *missio Dei* and its contextual character.

The church, according to GOCN, is an alternative community of witnesses called by God to participate in God's mission; the church shares in this mission as a representative of the reign of God to which she testifies in the power of the Holy Spirit by her being, doing and proclamation before the whole world in the anticipation of the future consummation of God's rule over all creation. Despite certain limitations of this concept, GOCN's missional ecclesiology might be a welcome partner in the discussion regarding the identity and task of the church also in the context of Central Europe.