1. A Century of Endeavour:

1880s - Foundation of Domestic and Foreign Missionary Soc. Little outreach before. Not till 20th Century did enlargement really come, with spread of USA culture.

Great Awakenings of 1740s & 1800s. End time was beginning. Suffer for God in spreading news. Western frontier expansion attractive. Missionaries not attracted by Anderson’s hope for self-supporting, self-governing, self-propagating missions.

James Dennis at end of 19th cent. sought Liberal mission, change in social order. Pre-Millenialists wanted conversions. 1890 34 women’s missionary soc’s with 926 in field. By 1900, 41 women’s agencies supporting 1200 women missionaries. 1910 membership of 2 million.

ECUSA saw mission as business of whole people, other denominations advanced on the back of specialists. Even the Missionary Society was voluntary unit although an official organ of ECUSA. Greek missions were in trouble through lack of strategy.

1829 crisis in support for missions. 1832 George Washington Doane Bp of New Jersey, and Board of Directors of Dom. And Foreign Missionary Soc. He brought catholic theology of mission - every member mission through baptism. Missionary Bishops were now ordained as new chief missionaries.

Liberia, China, Japan. emphasised “civilising activities”. 1859 Mission to Brazil. Funding troubles so went to evangelical Am.Ch.Miss. Soc.

Women’s Auxiliary: 1850 Bp Pooter suggested women help missionary giving. Boxes. The Relief Association did not flourish so the Auxiliary was formed and Mary Emery its secretary 1872. Brilliant administrator - Supply Boxes Plus sisters, Susan & Margaret. United thank Offering: Deaconesses in 1889.

2. The National Church Ideal:

Merging of Social Gospel and Anglican establishment tradition birthed National Church Ideal. = build up national churches ministering to social and spiritual needs plus maintenance of universal catholicism. Bestowing the American society ideals. Richard Hooker Laws of Ecc. Polit discern will of God in context of a particular nation. ECUSA could be a de facto national Church but independent.

Muhlenberg and Hungtingdon:


YMCA lead to Student Volunteer Movement SVM, again social emphasis. American Presidents addressed the Mission Conferences!

SO: fusion of Church’s new-found mission and identity plus American zeal for itself. Mission was on the up!
Social mandates and gospel together in the work of Muhlenberg (-1877) and Maurice. But women actually did it!


Missionary Society was only organisation representing national church so it was drawn into questions of Church polity. 1910 Presiding bishop’s responsibilities etc.

3. Our Expanding Church. 1919-1946
Fundamentalist/modernist controversy continues. 1919/20 new central National Council and Presiding Bishop, and fund-raising programme. Mission of Church was now: religious education, social service, Church extension. Post war optimism short lived because of fundamentalist strengthening,, whereas Fleming was into comparative religion etc. (Rethinking Missions very radical)

After war triumph excited the call to mission to spread the triumphant USA culture. Wm. Sturgis: The Church Awake: 1927 = National Church missiology: Church’s mission is within the Missio Dei. Thus he decried the word ‘missions’. Mission was the Church Catholic in ‘extension’ mode. But as American Protestants became more critical of USA so the ECUSA under pressure. It called for the Christianisation of the Monroe Doctrine.


Women’s Auxiliary continued well under Tucker and Grace Lindly. Church Service League. Canon 60 (1934) gave women place on National Council. 1940s Supply Boxes ceased and United Thank Offering.

4. American Supremacy. 1946-63
Righteousness and peace have kissed each other. (erotic power of metaphor) Truth shall spring out of the earth and righteousness shall look down from heaven.” Psalm 85. Kingdom mission of Missio Dei.

However, if whole church is called upon to proclaim mission, what is there distinctive in the rôle of the missionary?

In 1961 WCC merged with International Missionary Council, showing Unity of the Church and the Mission of the Church both belong to the essence of the Church. World setting the agenda.