



122nd Annual Meeting

The Central Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church

April 25—26, 2008 Iron River, MI

DELEGATE SUMMARY – a tool for delegates and guests presenting to home congregations about the activities of the Annual Meeting. Complementary to the summary is the **ANNUAL REPORT 2007** display poster. Other materials and details available online or by phone (below). ■

Mission: In response to the Great Commission, the Central Conference, empowered by God's Spirit, through shared ministries plants, strengthens and unites churches to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Friday began with a series of **workshops**: Congregational body building resources, Healthy congregational check-ups, Stretching through conflict to build strong communication, and Strengthening finances; in addition to several affinity group gatherings
- Opening **Worship** featured the choir of Grace Covenant Church and worship team, with the Superintendent preaching a word of “spiritual fitness,” bringing forward the Bringing Our World to Christ prayer cards, and gathering for communion and prayer
- 110 attendees included **81 delegates** representing 45 of 108 churches in the region
- **Elected** to the Executive Board: Russ Knight (Calvary Covenant, Chicago) and Steven Pederson (Zion Covenant, Sheboygan MI)
- **Elected** to the Harbor-Point Ministries Board: Susan Dawson (North Park Covenant, Chicago), Peter Frisk (First Covenant, Rockford IL), and Susan Kauffman (Hillcrest Covenant, DeKalb IL)
- **Thanksgiving** was given for the ministry of two churches that closed this year: Evangelical Covenant Church (Tomahawk WI), and Our Savior's Evangelical Covenant Church (Oak Forest IL)
- **Conference staff** reported on “building the (church) body” through regional ministries including new church plants, conference training and youth events, churches engaged in revitalization, enhanced communications, giving tools, and the pastoral care of churches
- **Relocation** on July 1 of the Central Conference office to: 4055 W. Peterson Avenue, Chicago IL 60646
- Delegates shared **ministry stories** from churches in Machesney Park IL and Menominee MI
- **Special reports** were given by Women Ministries of the Central Conference, Ministerial Association, and Covenant Ministries of Benevolence: Enabling Residences, Wellspring for Hope, and Covenant Children's Home & Family Services (and new memorial sculptures)
- **Financial summary** for 2007: \$1,008,249 budgeted, \$940,713 expensed for ministry with revenues of \$690,265 from churches (85%) and other

sources. Assets of \$1,619,907 are included in investments, various funds, and physical property

- **Questions** explored the Kingdom Growth fund and correlations to ministry expense, along with suggestions from the floor to raise funds for future growth (more information available at www.centralconf.org)
- Vote approved a **2008 budget** of \$669,869 in revenue with \$974,693 in expenses; and a 2009 budget of \$687,368 in revenue with \$992,097 in expenses

- Harbor-Point Ministries (HPM) conducted an **annual meeting** for the regional camping ministries highlighting Covenant Point’s property acquisition, Covenant Harbor’s Activity Center to be completed in June, and their inaugural program for youth with disabilities called Thrive
- Vote during the HPM session approved a **resolution** from the board to appoint David Auker as director of Harbor-Point Ministries

- **Recognition** of retiring clergy David DeVries (Covenant Harbor Bible Camp), and of board members completing terms of service: Janet Borggren (Beverly Covenant, Chicago)
- **Award** honored Kim Johnson (Northwest Covenant, Mt. Prospect IL) for Compassion Mercy & Justice ministries within the Conference
- **Vote** approved 18 candidates for ordination and commissioning
- **New Business** brought “Conference to Conference: An Extraordinary Call for Help” to adopt a remote bush church in the Alaska Conference (Elim Covenant Church)
- **123rd Annual Meeting** of the Central Conference is scheduled for April 24—25, 2009 and hosted by Covenant Harbor Bible Camp and the Southern Wisconsin (Badger) district churches

NOTES:

