

# 130<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Central Conference

of the Evangelical Covenant Church



Central Conference Ministerial Association Annual Meeting
April 28 - 29, 2016
Central Conference Annual Meeting
April 29 - 30, 2016
First Covenant Church
125 East H Street, Iron Mountain, MI 49801

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# WELCOME FROM CHAIR OF EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Central Conference Mission Friends:

Welcome to First Evangelical Covenant Church and our conference's 130th Annual Meeting. For 130 years our churches have been doing work together that no church could do alone.

Our gathering is far more than a formality. We gather to celebrate the stories of those called by God to serve our churches, to welcome new churches into the Central Conference family, to taste the diversity of the Kingdom of God in worship, to



demonstrate our missional call in how we spend our money, to select our leaders, to listen to the stories of our sisters and brothers in Christ, and to thank God for the opportunity to serve Jesus with so many faithful people.

I hope you will be encouraged by the work that our Central Conference staff, camp leaders, and other denominational leaders are doing on our behalf and that you will share about God's efforts through them with your local churches when you return.

Thank you for making our work together a priority and joining us this week. God continues to present us with amazing opportunities and we need the talents and gifts of every Central Conference church to "do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to God's power that is at work within us."

Thank you for being here!

Blessings,

Dan Teefey

Delegates	per Church
Church Members	Delegates
Up to 99	2
100 to 224	3
225 to 449	4
450 to 699	5
700 to 999	6
1000 or more	7

# WELCOME FROM FIRST COVENANT CHURCH

# First Covenant Church

An Evangelical Covenant Church

perfect people not allowed



February 23, 2016,

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings from the frozen north. We are really looking forward to the privilege of hosting the 130<sup>th</sup> Central Conference Annual Meeting, April 28030, 2016. We are looking forward to making ourselves and our facilities available to you so that your annual meeting experience will be one of the best ever.

We would like to encourage you to make plans to come north to the beautiful and welcoming Upper Peninsula of Michigan. The snow may have melted and the ice (possibly) will have gone off the lakes providing you a brief and relaxing respite from the stress and busyness of life.

For many of you this may be your first visit to the UP and First Covenant. We have a long storied history as a church, 134 years. The natural beauty and recreational resources of the area provide year round activities. We have a unique blend of restaurants offering a broad range of eating experiences.

Our prayer is that God's Spirit and the power of His Word will challenge and inspire you, even as we do business and we look forward to seeing you in April.

Say Yah to dah UP eh.

Pastor Pete Erickson

# WELCOME FROM CHAIR OF CENTRAL CONFERENCE MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

February, 2016

Dear Colleagues in Covenant ministry,

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I write to you today on behalf of our Central Conference Ministerial Association (CCMA). It is our task to care for our **fellow-ship**, our **continued education**, and our **ordination**.

We care for our **fellowship** in many ways but in part by planning two meetings a year: our annual meeting in the spring and our retreat in the fall. We care for our **continued education** in part by setting aside time at both of our gatherings to have local and national speakers teach on subjects pertaining to our call to ministry. We care for our **ordination** in part by administering our association and by forming our Committee on Ministerial Standing from the current members of our association.

If you are a credentialed minister in the Central Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church (licensed, commissioned, or ordained) you are a member of the CCMA with both **privileges and responsibilities**. We attend our gatherings if at all possible, especially the spring annual meeting. We pay dues. We serve on committees. We both give and receive care for our fellowship, our continued education, and our ordination.

If you can not attend our spring meeting, please send **written greetings** to your colleagues through our secretary Karen Brewer, whose email address is listed below.

Please take time to **ensure your \$125 yearly dues are paid**. These dues fund the ministry of both our local and our national ministerial associations. This payment, along with updating your *Covenant Profile* at least once every three years, yearly completion of the *Vocational Growth Tool*, and maintaining collegial relationships, is all mandatory as a credentialed minister in the ECC. Any questions about your dues should be directed to Jason Mach, whose email address is listed below.

...

With all this in mind, it is time once again to gather for **our spring annual meeting**—April 28-29, 2016 at First Covenant Church, Iron Mountain Michigan.

Care for our Continued Education: For our continued education session on Thursday evening we welcome Dr. Ross D. Peterson, Executive Director of Midwest Ministry Development and ordained pastor in the ECC. Topic: "Beyond Surviving: Flourishing in Ministry." Research on pastors and their wellbeing in ministry seems to give a confusing picture, because pastors are reporting both high levels of stress and high levels of satisfaction in their ministry! How do we understand this seeming contradiction and, more importantly, what can we learn from it? This presentation will explore the research data and incorporate the experience gleaned from the hundreds of pastors with whom Midwest Ministry Development has consulted in recent years.

We will identify key strategies which have been shown to help pastors experience stress relief and more day -to-day happiness, as well as deeper levels of fulfillment and purpose. A model for "flourishing" in ministry will be offered, which can help pastors develop consistent practices to support their personal and vocational wellbeing. Common obstacles to flourishing, both practical and attitu-



Care for our Ordination: In our Friday business session we will have an opportunity to hear the testimonies of our 2016 Central Conference commissioning and ordination candidates. We will vote to move these mission friends forward in the process. THIS IS IMPORTANT WORK. After we have the opportunity to hear of God's grace in their stories and call on their lives, these candidates, on our recommendation, will be recognized during the conference annual meeting.

Care for our Fellowship: If simply being together isn't enough, there will be ample time set aside on Thursday after our business meeting and before our continued education offering for you to fellowship with colleagues.

### **Our CCMA Annual Meeting Schedule:**

### Thursday, April 28

11:00 AM Registration begins (Dues can be paid at the time of registration.) Lunch is available at local restaurants.

1:00-3:00 PM CCMA Annual Meeting Business Session

3:00-3:30 PM Coffee Break

3:30-5:00 PM CCMA Annual Meeting Business Session

5:00-7:00 PM Dinner on own at area restaurants.

7:00-9:00 PM Continuing Education with Dr. Ross Peterson A time of fellowship and refreshment will follow the service.

### Friday, April 29

7:30-9:00 AM Registration

8:00 AM Coffee available at First Covenant Church

9:00 -12:00 PM CCMA Annual Meeting Business Session—Ordination testimonies and final voting on credentialing by the CCMA membership.

We look forward to seeing you at First Covenant Church, Iron Mountain Michigan. Our hope and prayer is that our gatherings in April will provide you with an opportunity to be refreshed in Christ, reconnected with your colleagues, and included in the ongoing work of our ministerial association.

Grace & Peace,

Rev. Philip Staurseth

On behalf of the Central Conference Ministerial Association Executive Committee

Rev. Jason Mach, Treasurer, jasonm@northparkcov.org Rev. Karen Brewer, Secretary, pastorkaren1@yahoo.com

# WELCOME FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH



Rev. Gary Walter

President of the ECC

April 2016

TO: Annual Meeting of the Central Conference

Rev. Jerome Nelson, Superintendent

Rev. Daniel Teefey, Conference Chair

Grace and peace to you as you gather in the bond of Christ.

Moving the Needle for the Kingdom of God. That's our hope every day.

There are five mission priorities around which we seek to follow the heart of God into the world. Together, we start and strengthen churches, make and deepen disciples, develop leaders, love mercy and do justice, and serve globally. That mission is only possible because of the combined efforts of the congregations in your region, together with all of the 875 churches that make up the ECC today in the United States and Canada.

Because of our strong partnership in our shared mission, we accomplish much. We invite you to visit <a href="www.CovChurch.org">www.CovChurch.org</a> for information, stories, videos, and resources on all that is happening with the ministries and initiatives of the Covenant all around the world. While you're there, be sure to check out the 2016 Mission and Ministry video (<a href="http://covchurch.tv/2016-mission-and-ministry/">http://covchurch.tv/2016-mission-and-ministry/</a>). It's an inspiring look at the compelling Kingdom impact through our combined efforts.

In addition to this regional gathering, we'd love to have you join with hundreds of other Covenanters for **Gather 2016**, June 23-25, to participate in the Evangelical Covenant Church's annual business meeting, with additional options including mission and service projects as part of Explore Phoenix, as well as the annual meeting of the Ministerium.

I am grateful to serve this movement in partnership with people like you. With God's help, may we continue to *move the needle* in our shared mission and ministry.

In It Together

Gary B, Walter,

Ling & Walter

President

8303 West Higgins Road, Chicago, Illinois 60631 PHONE 773-784-3000 FAX 773-784-4366 www.covchurch.org



# CENTRAL CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE

# CENTRAL CONFERENCE MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

# THURSDAY, APRIL 28

11:00 am Registration begins.

Dues can be paid at the time of registration.

Lunch is available at local restaurants 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Business Session 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm Coffee Break

3:30 pm - 5:00 pm Business Session 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Dinner on own at area restaurants.

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm Continuing Education with Dr. Ross Peterson

Fellowship and refreshment will follow the service.

# FRIDAY, APRIL 29

7:30 am - 9:00 am Registration

8:00 am Coffee available at First Covenant Church 9:00 am - 12:00 pm CCMA Annual Meeting Business Session

> Ordination Testimonies and final voting on credentialing by the CCMA membership.

Central Conference Annual Meeting delegates are invited to attend this session as observers in order to hear the ordination testimonies.

### Local Restaurants in Iron Mountain, MI

Holiday Kitchen (American fare) 1605 S. Stephenson Ave (906) 776-3287

Storheims (Members of 1st Cov are owners)

141 US-2 (906) 779-9580

151 Thai Bistro 1607 S Stephenson Ave (906) 774-2462

Maple Creek Rest 1052 S Stephenson Ave (906) 774-1777

1800 Š Stephenson Ave (906)779-0921

Antonio's Pizza Pasta & Pasties 400 S Stephenson Ave (906) 828-1818

**KFC** 

1200 S. Stephenson Ave. (906)774-6700

Peking (Asian buffet)

1439 S Stephenson Ave (906) 779-5588

# CENTRAL CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING

# FRIDAY, APRIL 29

10:00 am - 1:00 pm **Registration begins** 

11:00 am - 12:00 pm **New Delegate Orientation** 

12:00 pm - 1:00 pm Central Conf. Executive Board Meeting

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm Opening Lunch & Fellowship

2:00 pm - 3:45 pm **Breakout Sessions** 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm **Business Session 1** 

Chairperson, Rev. Daniel Teefey presiding

1. Call to Order

2. Greeting and Prayer: Pastor Pete Erickson

3. Welcome, Recognitions, and Acknowledgements

4. Organization of Meeting

Adoption of Standing Rules

• Adoption of Agenda

Appointment of meeting committees &

5. Approval of 2015 Annual Meeting minutes

6. First Credential Report

7. Presentations from the **Evangelical Covenant Church** 

8. Recognition & Award Presentations

5:30 - 6:45 pm

7:00 pm

Worship Service: Holy Communion **Dessert & Fellowship afterwards** 

# SATURDAY, APRIL 30

7:30 am Continental Breakfast

8:30 am Worship & Devotions: Pastor Pete Erickson

**Business Session 2** 9:00 am

9. Final Credential Report

10. Nomination Commission—Presentation & Vote

11. Presentation of 2016 revised and 2017 Budgets

12. Recommendations of Churches

13. Superintendent & Staff Reports

## **Central Conference Annual Meeting Suspended**

Harbor Point Ministries Annual Meeting

**Central Conference Annual Meeting Resumes** 

14. ECC Resolution

15. Report on Election Results

16. Appointment of Delegates to the ECC Annual Meeting

17. Old Business

18. New Business

19. 2017 Annual Meeting Announcement

20. Resolution of Appreciation

21. Adjournment

22. Lunch & Fellowship

# **CANDIDATES FOR ORDINATION**



Rev. Willie G. Comer Jr. OWSa

Masters of Art L

Religion in Biblical Studies

Liberty Theological Seminary

Senior Pastor/Church Planter at

Berean Covenant Church,

Champaign IL



Rev. Chris McKnight OWSa

Masters of Divinity

Grand Rapids Theological Seminary

Pastor at

Zion Covenant Church,

Sheboygan, WI



Rev. Lance L. Davis Trans
Studies, North Park Theological Seminary
Certificate, Covenant Orientation
Senior Pastor at
New Zion Covenant Church
Dolton, IL



Rev. David Swanson OWSa

Masters of Educational Ministries

Wheaton College Graduate School

Pastor at

New Community Covenant Church

Chicago, IL



North Park Theological Seminary

In transition
after serving as a Lead Pastor
Re-entering the call process
Chicago, IL

Rev. Jennifer Gillan OWSa

Masters of Divinity



Masters of Divinity

North Park Theological Seminary

Lead Pastor at

Immanuel

Evangelical Covenant Church
Chicago, IL

Rev. Mark Tao OWSa



Rev. Sarah Henry OWSa

Masters of Divinity

North Park Theological Seminary

Associate Pastor at

Faith Covenant Church

Wheaton, IL



Rev. Allison Wible OWSa

Masters of Christian Studies

Denver Seminary

Re-entering the call process

St. Louis, MO

# **DELEGATE ORIENTATION**

Welcome to the Annual Meeting of the Central Conference churches! Each year we come together to discern God's plan for our collective ministry, and as a delegate, you have a very important role in that task:

## Two Roles of a Delegate:

Participate – attend the business session, discuss the initiatives and issues, and cast your vote. Report – note the actions taken, and update your home church on the decisions and ministries.

### **PARTICIPATE**

Although the business session is limited to Saturday, we encourage you to be present for all the elements that will bring us together to worship, celebrate, work, learn, and share.

The individual delegate is the "building block" of the meeting. You are empowered to receive reports, approve recommendations, and to question or debate the issues. Following are tips to participation as delegate, and a brief overview of parliamentary procedure.

### Tips to participation:

- Arrive on time for the business sessions.
- Listen carefully for both the relevance to your home church, and the collective movement of the ministry.
- Keep your name badge with you this is your "credentials check" for validating your vote.
- Silence may be interpreted as consent and you have a responsibility to speak if you think something is not proper or not wise for the conference.
- During debate, comments should relate to the issue under discussion and focus on the merits of the issue, not the motives of merits of the person.

# Overview of parliamentary procedure:

- Approach the microphone. A distance of two or three inches works well.
- Wait to be recognized by the moderator (in this case, the Conference chairperson serves as moderator).
- Identify yourself. Example: "Jane Doe, Antler Covenant Church, Fawn Lake, Wisconsin".
- Address the moderator about the topic at hand, and speak clearly in you normal tone of voice.
- Conclude your comments within three minutes. You have two opportunities to speak on any one issue.

### **REPORT**

As a representative delegate of your home church, you contribute comments and cast votes on behalf of your local congregation. It is important to report the decisions and direction of the Annual Meeting to them. Use the following ideas for reporting the news:

- Request a "ministry moment" during the Sunday worship service to share your experience and the decisions of the Annual Meeting in relevant areas of ministry.
- Author a brief article for the church newsletter.
- Prepare a bulletin insert that highlights conference ministries and meeting decisions.
- Offer to meet with your church council or board to brief them on regional activities and opportunities to participate.

# A BRIEF GLOSSARY OF COMMON PARLIAMENTARY TERMS

**AMEND, MOVE TO.** Most motions may be amended on the floor of the Meeting, particularly when they deal with the business rather than the procedures of the Meeting. All amendments must be germane to the original motion. Amendments can be made in three (3) ways: addition, deletion, or substitution. When an amendment has been seconded, it must be debated and decided, or otherwise dealt with, before the motion it seeks to amend may be further considered.

**APPEAL FROM THE RULING OF THE MODERATOR.** A delegate is testing the Moderator's ruling against the opinion of the Meeting. The motion to appeal requires a second. An affirmative vote by the Meeting sustains the Moderator's ruling.

**BALLOT, TO ORDER THE VOTE ON A PENDING QUESTION TO BE TAKEN BY.** The Bylaws and Rules specify that certain questions be decided by ballot. Questions other than these may also be decided by ballot if a majority of the Meeting concurs with a request from a delegate for it.

**DIVISION OF THE ASSEMBLY.** This is a vote by rising. It may be demanded by any delegate to verify a vote taken by voice or by a show of hands, or may be ordered by the Moderator when a show of hands or by voice has been "too close to call." If it is still not possible to discern the outcome visually, the Moderator may order a count by the Sergeants-at-Arms. A majority of the Meeting may also order a count.

**INFORMATION, POINT OF.** Asking a question about the business at hand.

MR. OR MADAME MODERATOR. The traditional form for addressing the Moderator from the floor of the Meeting.

**ORDER, POINT OF.** A delegate calls the Moderator's attention to a possible breach of the Rules. If the delegate is not satisfied with the Moderator's subsequent explanation, he or she may appeal if the point has been raised concerning an actual ruling of the Moderator.

PARLIAMENTARIAN. An advisor to the Moderator and Members of the Assembly on Parliamentary Law.

**PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY, POINT OF.** Asking a question about the application of the Rules in the business at hand.

**PERSONAL PRIVILEGE, POINT OF.** A delegate believes that his or her rights or the rights of another are being infringed upon.

**POSTPONE TO A CERTAIN TIME.** A delegate may move to postpone the item under discussion until a later point in the Meeting. The motion requires a second and is debatable.

**PREVIOUS QUESTION, MOVE THE.** A motion to cut off debate on an issue which requires a second, and a two-thirds majority. An affirmative vote merely cuts off debate and is not a vote on the motion under debate.

**PUTTING THE QUESTION.** Taking a vote.

**RECONSIDER, MOVE TO.** A Motion to reconsider an item previously voted on may be made at any time, though it may have to wait until other business has been dealt with before it can be taken up. If a majority decides that the item previously voted upon will be reconsidered, debate on it re-opens, and another vote is taken or it is otherwise disposed of, by referral, etc.) The motion to reconsider has unique characteristics: it may be made only by a delegate who originally voted with the prevailing side on the item; it may be made no later than the day following the original vote; it cannot apply to an item when provisions of it have already begun to be carried out (such as the signing of a contract); and it cannot be itself reconsidered.

**REFER, MOVE TO.** (Not to be confused with a motion to table.) A referred motion goes to a Board or Committee as designated by the Motion to Refer. It requires a second and is debatable.

**SECOND.** A seconder need not agree with the motion or vote for it. The seconder need only agree that the motion deserves the attention of the Meeting.

**SUSPEND THE RULES.** It is possible to suspend a rule that is standing in the way of accomplishing what the Meeting clearly wants to do either by motion or by unanimous consent. Bylaws may not be suspended unless they are in the nature of "rules of order." This is a complex issue, with each instance subject to the interpretation and ruling of the Chair.

**TABLE, MOVE TO.** (Or "LAY ON THE TABLE.") Unlike a referred motion, a tabled motion goes nowhere. No one considers it, or studies it, or does anything with it until a motion passes to "take it from the table." If this does not happen at this Annual Meeting, the motion is dead; i.e., we could not move to "take something from the table" that was put on the table at a previous Annual Meeting.

----- Adapted from "Delegate Orientation for the 2005 Covenant Annual Meeting"

# MEETING STANDING RULES OF THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE

### **Governing Documents**

The Conference-adopted written authorities that govern the Annual Meeting of the Central Conference are the Conference Constitution and Bylaws and the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*. The Conference Annual Meeting is additionally governed by applicable rules of the Evangelical Covenant Church and the Illinois Nonprofit Corporation Act.

### **Standing Rules**

*Robert's* provides, however, that a given meeting of delegates may establish its own standing rules of order to meet its specific needs. These standing rules supplement the written authorities. The general provisions of *Robert's* apply in every situation not specifically addressed by or superseded by the standing rules or other governing documents.

### **Obtaining the Floor**

Only persons wearing appropriate credentials as delegates, advisory delegates, or resource persons may be present on the floor of the Annual Meeting or request speaking privileges. With the exception of points of order, points of personal privilege, and other such items, which require urgent attention, only those persons who approach a microphone shall be recognized by the Moderator.

### **Voting**

Voting on a motion brought by a delegate will typically be by voice vote. Any delegate may request a secret ballot, which when supported by a seconding or ten percent of the delegates, will be implemented. The Moderator may call for a secret ballot at any vote.

### **Time Limits**

- Reports that contain no proposal for action by the meeting shall be limited to five (5) minutes, including the questions period, with the exception of conference staff and the conference treasurer.
- Debate of any main motion, including its subsidiary motions, will be limited to thirty (30) minutes except as otherwise specified in the agenda. No amendment or other subsidiary motion to a main motion shall be allowed until after the first 10 minutes of debate of the main motion.
- No speech in debate may exceed three (3) minutes, though a delegate desiring to extend remarks may seek permission of the meeting to do so.
- Time limits may be extended for a specific period by a two-thirds majority vote.

### **Debate**

Delegates may speak once to an issue, and not again on the same issue as long as someone else, who has not yet had a turn, is seeking the floor. Once a delegate has spoken a second time the delegate has used up rights of debate on that issue.

### **Submission of Motions**

All main motions and amendments shall be submitted in writing to the secretary. Motions arising from the floor during the course of the approved agenda are in order as long as they pertain directly to the business at hand. All other items must be prepared in writing and submitted in advance to the Moderator who may or may not ask permission of the Meeting to add them to the agenda in the order to be received.

### Nominations from the Floor

Persons placing names in nomination shall obtain the prior permission of the nominee and shall so state at the time of nomination. A brief biography, similar to that provided by the Nomination Commission nominated candidate(s), may be presented to the Moderator prior to the vote, and read to the delegates at the discretion of the Moderator.

### **Honorary and Advisory Delegates**

Honorary delegates shall have the privilege of voice but not vote in the assembly. The Moderator may recognize resource persons designated by the Executive Board to make reports or address delegate questions.

### Non-Business Agenda Items

With respect to the adopted agenda, the Moderator has discretion to revise the order of agenda items at appropriate times to accommodate scheduling needs and the inclusion of no-business good news updates.

# MINUTES OF THE 129TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE CENTRAL CONFERENCE APRIL 24-25, 2015

CENTRAL CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING
MEETING MINUTES
Batavia, IL April 24, 2015
Business Session 1
4:00-5:00 P.M.

- 1. Call to Order Chair Cheryl Borgeson presiding
- 2.Greeting and Prayer
  - Host: Pastor Glen Morden, Pastor at Batavia Covenant
  - Response: Pastor Dan Teefey, Vice Chair of Executive Board
- 3. Welcome Recognitions Acknowledgements (none were received)
- 4. Organization of Meeting Cheryl reminded delegates of their responsibilities: to engage in meetings, to report to churches
  - · Adoption of Standing Rules MMS & Passed
  - Adoption of Agenda MMS & Passed
  - Appointment of meeting committees & officers
     Come as motion by Exec. Board, no second needed.

     Each category voted on separately.

Tellers: Bill Orris, Bruce Bruns -

Sergeant-at-Arms: Tom Ek, Tom Beckstrom, Terry Marks

Parlimentarian: Dan Teefey

Credentialing Committee: Norma Ramos & Ryan Cooper

All passed.

- Approval of 2014 Annual Meeting minutes corrected name Rev. Chris Pickett MMS - to adopt as corrected. Carried.
- 6. Presentation from the Evangelical Covenant Church
  - Paul Hawkinson Treasurer & Executive Director of Finance, ECC
     Greetings from ECC, shared the following, encouraging us to:
    - 1. Watch the new Mission & Ministry Video see website
    - Time of Transition Exec Ministers
       LMDJ Cecilia Williams
       Serve Globally Al Tizon
    - 2014 Budget Coordinated budget should be good
       Local church giving up slightly

# CONTINUES...

Individual giving - up over 35% Together, these represent 65% of budget

- 4. CHIC over 4000 registered, need more adult volunteers
- New Grant App to Lilly Endowment up to \$1 million for implementation of training and needs of those preparing for pastorate. Life cycle preparation.
- 6. Bethany Benefits pleased to announce a 4% reduction resulting in Premium holiday this June Minister's Pension well funded
- 7. How do we better support the ministries of the Covenant? How do we better support you?
- Emily Bourne- Admissions, NPTS
  - Seminary relaunched promotional campaign Master of Divinity - 79 acad. hrs. "Right Size, Right Time" Degree
  - 2. Two new certificates: Cert. in Church Planting
    Cert. in Congregational Vitality
  - Highlights about NPU Johnson Center is up and running!
     New Hires have come New Provost,
     VP of Development
- Rob Hall Vice President, Real Estate Services, NCP (free mugs 3rd edition)
  - 1. Lending arm of the ECC

Loans

Investments

Real Estate Services

- 2. Thanks for all churches do to share Gospel
- Bob Olson Board of Nominations of ECC
  - Letter handed out to all delegates re: Board of Nominations of the ECC
  - 2. Shared looking for names of people for ballots maintaining balances
  - 3. Particular needs women for NP Board, lay people
  - Cheryl Borgeson is succeeding Bob; she can be contacted at <u>cborgeson5631@gmail.com</u>

# **CONTINUES...**

7. First Credential Report -

Elected Board Members - 8; Delegates from churches - 63; Total General: 71 Non-Elected Exec Bd - 0; Guests - 4; Covenant Organizations - 8; Staff - 4; General Attendees - 24; Total Additional Attendees: 40

Total Attendees: 111 Total Churches Represented: 53

8. Recognition & Award Presentations:

(Pastor Glen Morden - lead us in Hymn #78 & Jesus Loves Me)

Compassion, Justice & Mercy Award 2015 - Debbie Griffiths Samuel, presenter Mrs. Mary Davis - Program Director for Jo' Sto' (Joseph's Store) at New Zion Christian Covenant of Dolton, IL

Ryan Cooper - Chair of the Commission - read & presented the plaque

9. MMS & Carried to suspend meeting until tomorrow morning.

(suspend meeting for evening dinner & communion @ The Holmstad, worship & dessert @ Batavia Covenant.)

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CENTRAL CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING MEETING MINUTES Batavia, IL April 25, 2015 Business Session 2 9:00 A.M.

9. Final Credential Report

Elected Board Members -8; Delegates from churches -64; Total General: 72 Non-Elected Exec Bd -0; Guests -4; Covenant Organizations -8; Staff - 4; General Attendees -33: Total Additional Attendees: 49

Total Attendees: 121 Total Churches Represented: 54

10. Nomination Commission—Presentation & Vote - Rev. Dave Green presenting Ballot presented as printed; no other nominations for any offices/members Officers: Chair - Daniel Teefey; Vice-Chair: Rebecca Nakamura Members: Carl Hammer, Cherie Harris, Cheryl Ek, Deani Jordan. Harbor Point Ministries Board: Erik Brorson, Sarah Snow, Brian Zahasky

Question: Brian Zahasky's nomination is valid although he serve outside of our denomination as a representative to our camps from other churches, allowed by the HP Constitution. Brian's credentials are held in the Covenant, and he does bring his youth to our camps. He is still a member of Libertyville Covenant.

Suggestion was made to not have two people from same church on Exec. Board (Although there were 2 names from the same church on the ballot that was passed, it was corrected later to reflect that Cherie Harris was formerly a member of Community Cov Calumet Pk, but now a member of City of Truth, Orland Park.

Motion made and seconded to vote on ballot on one piece. Carried

Vote - Accepting Ballot as printed. Ballot passed.

- 11. Presentation of 2014 Final, 2015 Revised, and 2016 Budgets Keith Perkins
  - a. Keith opened report with comments on the importance of churches giving
  - b. Balance Sheet as of 12/31/2014 Ending Fund Balance: \$141,472.52

# **CONTINUES...**

c. Income Statement for 2014

Total Revenue: \$551,791.09

Variance: (\$156,133.91) - largely due to devaluing of property

awaiting sale to City

Total expenses: \$676,167.56

"Other Operational Expenses" - high due to closed properties costs

Actual Loss (\$114,684.00)

Budgeted loss - (\$23,323.04) - without those closed properties costs,

we would have made that number.

Keith made the following corrections to handout:

Miscellaneous Expense - Variance - (\$7394.99)

Total Expenses - Variance - (\$55,080.49)

Net Surplus (Deficit) - Variance - (\$91,360.96)

Question re: Occupancy Expenses - Keith explained that this is more than

just rent; it includes approx. \$36k in rent, plus insurances,

cell phones, etc.

Question re: Loans Payable & Accrued Liabilities - have to do with closed

properties (\$668,752.21)

Keith explained NCP loans (Our Savior \$176k, Agape \$492K)

As guarantors of the loans, the Central Conference owes this to NCP

Superintendent Nelson explained the Agape property foreclosure;

timeline is yet to be determined in negotiations with NCP/Rob Hall.

Hope to have some resolution by next meeting in June.

Note: Full audit is available on the Central Conference Website

Note: Central Conference did receive an "Unqualified Opinion" from our auditors.

### 2015 Revised Budget:

- 1. Contributions adjusted down to \$583,500
- 2. Adjusted Net Loss (\$40,339.84)

Encouragements were offered to all delegates to go back to their churches and request a 10% increase in giving to Conference.

# **CONTINUES...**

- 1. Motion to Receive 2014 Reported Budget Passed.
- 2. Motion to Accept Revised 2015 & Proposed 2016 Budget Passed.

### 12. Recommendations of Churches

### Churches Deleted:

- Cross Fellowship, Inc. (Chicago, IL) closed Recommendation made by Superintendent Nelson to remove Cross Fellowship - Passed
- St. Luke Covenant Church (Morton Grove, IL) withdrawn Recommendation made by Superintendent Nelson to remove St. Luke Covenant - Passed

Pastor Mike DeLong prayed for these two churches.

### Churches Adopted:

- Centro Cristiano El Poder Del Amor (Berwyn, IL)
   Recommendation by Superintendent Nelson to adopt into Central
   Conference Passed
- The Ninth Hour Covenant Church (Chicago, IL)
   Pastor Richard Kohng shared info about this church
   Recommendation by Superintendent Nelson to adopt into Central Conference Passed

### Churches Joining (new):

- City of Hope Covenant Church (Bolingbrook, IL) Pastor Andreton Jones shared info about this church
   Dave Swanson, Dir. of Church Planting, recommended to
   adopt into Central Conference Passed.
- Berean Covenant Church (Chicago,IL) Pastor Willie G. Comer, Jr. shared into about this church
   Dave Swanson, Dir. of Church Planting, recommended to
   adopt into Central Conference Passed.
- The Rock Covenant Church (Dekalb, IL) (Adoption)
   Pastor Jerry Wright shared info about this church
   Dave Swanson, Dir. of Church Planting, recommendation by to adopt
   into Central Conference Passed.

Pastor Rick Allman prayed for these five churches.

# **CONTINUES...**

# Churches Merged:

Peter Sjoblom - Dir. of Congregational Vitality - Celebration! - Parkwood (Villa Park, IL) & Villa Park (Villa Park, IL) intentional work culminated with vote this passed Sunday to move forward to merge! Pastor Kenton Johnson shared process and praise. Peter lead us in prayer for this exciting work!

# 13. Superintendent & Staff Reports

- 1. Superintendent Jerome Nelson Slide Deck
  - a. Pastoral changes
  - b. Current Churches open now
  - c. Quarterly update brief notes about what is happening
  - d. 11 Districts
  - e. Human Sexuality Conversations district meetings to be done to help pastors better minister to their communities
  - f. Develop a Deborah women ministers list (bios) to encourage our churches to invite them to serve
  - g. Bi-Vocational Ministry 30% of our churches have this in some way
- 2. Covenant Youth Collision Josh Hiben CovTalk Video
- Convictions & Culture Video Central Conference upcoming tools to be sent to all of our churches, to be used in small group settings, etc. to encourage us to live into our shared convictions and culture.
- 4. Church Planting Rev. David Swanson maps to identify places for new works. People at meeting moved to maps of their particular regions, and then one or two people in each region/map prayed for eyes to be opened, wisdom and vision to become reality to plant new churches in each of these regions.
- 5. Alberto Galvan prayed for our Conference Staff.

Central Conference Annual Meeting Suspended Harbor Point Ministries Annual Meeting Central Conference Annual Meeting Resumes

# **CONTINUES...**

14. Vote on Proposed By-Law Changes- Superintendent Jerome Nelson presented

Clarification was given re: purpose of proposed changes: to eliminate the requirement to have chairs of permanent commissions elected; allow the Executive Board to appoint chairs of permanent commissions and to reduce the number of Executive Board members.

Note: because the language re: permanent commissions is spread throughout the By-Laws, there are many sections to the proposed change; all changes are to be voted on as a unit.

Coming as a recommendation from the Executive Board, therefore no second needed.

Vote called for, passed without objections.

15. ECC Resolution on Clean Water - comes from the ECC; no action to be taken Request is that we examine and make any comments, suggestions on this resolution.

Byron Miller - suggested that local churches ask how will local community be involved in the well project?

16. Appointment of Delegates to the ECC Annual Meeting -

Recommendation from Exec. Board that Dan Teefey and Mike DeLong be our Conference Delegates

Motion approved.

17. Old Business -

Recognition of and thank you to out-going Exec. Board Members - Superintendent Nelson

Cheryl Borgeson Pat Adaranijo Mae Hong

18. 2016 Annual Meeting Announcement -

Pastor Peter Erickson invites all Central Conference churches and members to come to the Upper Peninsula for the 130th Annual Meeting of the Central Conference at First Covenant Church at Iron Mountain, Michigan!

20. Resolution of Appreciation - Dan Teefey presenting to Batavia Covenant Church & Pastor Glen Morden and his team - Jeninne Doenges & Evie Johnson!

# **CONTINUES...**

22. Adjournment - Pastor Glen prayed for our meal, our travel home, our families.

Motion Made and Seconded. Passed! (12:00 Noon)

23. Lunch & Fellowship

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Michael D. DeLong

# 2016 CENTRAL CONFERENCE ANNUAL MEETING CREDENTIALS REPORT

| GENERAL                             | 1 <sup>st</sup> Report | Final Report |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|
| Elected Executive Board Members     |                        |              |
| Delegates from churches             |                        |              |
| Total Credentialed Delegates:       |                        |              |
| ADDITIONAL                          |                        |              |
| Non-elected Executive Board Members |                        |              |
| Guests                              |                        |              |
| Covenant Organizations              |                        |              |
| Staff                               |                        |              |
| General Attendees                   |                        |              |
| Total Additional Attendees:         |                        |              |
| TOTAL ATTENDEES:                    |                        |              |
| CHURCHES REPRESENTED:               | _                      |              |

# SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

# 130TH ANNUAL MEETING

# **CENTRAL CONFERENCE**

The following is a synopsis of my activities from March 1, 2015 through March 1, 2016

### Pastoral & Congregational Care/Support

### Worked with the Pastoral Search Committees of the following churches:

Riverside Covenant, West Lafayette, IN Community Covenant, Kirkwood, MO Country Covenant, Crampton Hills, IL First Covenant Rockford, Rockford, IL Parkwood Community, Villa Park, IL Libertyville Covenant, Libertyville, IL St. Paul Covenant, Franklin Park, IL Glen Ellyn Covenant, Glen Ellyn, IL Community Covenant, Chicago, IL Immanuel Covenant, Chicago, IL Fellowship Christian, Oak Park, IL

North Park Covenant, Chicago, IL Winnetka Covenant, Wilmette, IL Mission Covenant, Blue Island, IL Millard Community, Elkhorn, WI Zion Covenant, Sheboygan, IL Batavia Covenant, Batavia, IL Bethel Mission, Wallace, MI Faith Covenant, Wheaton, IL United ECC. Ishpeming, MI ECC Portage, Portage, IN ECC Paxton, Paxton, IL



### **Installed 5 Pastors**

Met with 28 Pastors or Staff Members Worked with 11 other churches on a variety of issues Preached at/attended/visited 31 churches

# **Denominational Activities**

Chaired and attended 3 Council of Superintendent's Meetings Attended Covenant Trust Company Board Meetings **C**o-Chaired Task Force on Human Sexuality Issue Attended Annual Ministerium Annual Meeting

**A**ttended Annual Meeting **Attended Midwinter Conference** Involved with 3 other ECC meeting

# Other Conference Activities and Responsibilities

Carried out my daily Superintendent's duties and responsibilities Attended Pastors & Spouse Retreat Attended 3 Covenant Children's Ministires Board Meetings Attended Conference Ministerium Annual Meeting Attended several District Pastors Meetings

**H**osted 2 Workshops for Pastors **S**taff Retreat

Respectfully submitted,

Jerome Nelson Rev. Jerome Nelson

# DIRECTOR OF CHURCH PLANTING Report to the Annual Meeting of the Central Conference

Over the past few years, we have been saying that in the Central Conference, we plant churches *together*. By this, we mean that church planting is not a solitary call. It takes a team of called and equipped people, including the church planter, who will respond in faith to the church planting call in a particular context. We also mean that, as a conference, every one of our churches has an essential role to play in seeing new churches reach more people with the gospel. I'm happy to report that this vision to plant together is playing out in some exciting ways.

Rev. David Swanson
Director of
Church Planting

A few years ago Pastor Bruce Bruns of Anchor Covenant Church in Lake Geneva, WI approached me. On behalf of the church, he told me that God has been stirring

up a desire to see the growing Spanish-speaking community in their city reached with the gospel. A few months later I met Gregorio Martinez, a leader at Iglesia del Pacto Renacer in Carpentersville who was discerning a call to reach the Hispanic community in Lake Geneva! Over the ensuing years we've worked with Pastor Javier Baron of Igelsia Renacer and the leadership at Anchor and, God willing, Gregorio will begin the work in Lake Geneva later this year.

David Washington has long had a passion for Roseland, the Chicago neighborhood where he grew up, met Christ, and received his call to ministry. After completing his M.Div. at NPTS, David and his wife were discerning a church planting call as he worked as the youth pastor at Oakdale Covenant Church. David and Vernee passed through the Church Planting Assessment Center and have been working on their plan to reach Roseland with the gospel through Kingdom Covenant Church. Meanwhile, multiple conference churches have come alongside this church plant as financial and relational partners. Led by their pastors, ECC churches in Princeton, Glen Ellyn, Calumet Park, and Winnetka will play important roles in helping this church plant flourish.

Marion, Indiana has the tragic distinction of the being the city with the last lynching in the United States. This is where Andrew Morrell grew up, came to Christ, and received his call to plan the first multi-ethnic church in the city. Through Pastor Shaun Marshall of Community Covenant Church, Andrew begin getting to know the ECC and eventually attended the Assessment Center. Shaun continues to coach Andrew and his launch team as they do the important work of building the launch team and reaching into their community with the message of God's reconciliation through Jesus.

All of these new projects are happening in large part because of churches and individuals who are committed to planting churches *together*. Please keep these church plants in your prayers, along with those like Alberto Galvan in Streamwood, IL who are a bit farther in the process and the many others who are a few years in.

Gratefully,

**David Swanson** 

# **DIRECTOR OF MISSION AND OUTREACH**

Compassion Mercy and Justice Commission - Ministry Grants were awarded to 12 conference churches totaling over \$12,000.00. Churches reached out into their communities by offering various youth summer events, Mentor & Tutoring Programs, Back to School Events and Monthly Family Meals. The 2015 Central Conference Compassion Mercy and Justice Award was presented to Mary Davis a member of New Zion Covenant Church in Dolton, IL. for her many years of service to the community as Program Supervisor for the Joseph Storehouse Food Pantry. This ministry is responsible for providing groceries, clothes and health screenings to over 130,000 individuals over the past two years. Mary and her team work tirelessly delivering and picking up items from the food depository and from various donors of clothing.



The Commission members worked in collaboration with North Park University and the department of Love Mercy Do Justice to present **The Love Mercy Do Justice Conference** on February 5th and 6th at North Park University. Members were very active with the march and rally in partnership with Communities United. Many of our Central Conference Churches; Vida Plena, Emmanuel Covenant Fellowship Christian Church, Community Covenant Church, Hinsdale Covenant, New Zion Covenant, and many other churches from other denominations came out to support the conference and the Rally.

I am grateful for the many years of hard work and dedication of Vicki Tsui who completed her term last year. I am also thankful for the hard work and commitment of Commission members Ryan Cooper, Drusilla McLeland, Evelymn Ivens, Lance Davis, and Marc Tao.... *Thank you so much!* 

**Other Ministry Activities in 2015-** Participated in a luncheon hosted by Marge and Baxtor Swensen for pastor Otto Ernvk a Missionary from Thailand to discuss ways to reach out to refugees. Participated in Sankofa Journey July 30th thru August 2nd. Hosted a one day Compassion Mercy and Justice Retreat at Fellowship Christian Church on July 25th. Provided Spiritual Direction and Mentor sessions throughout the year. Developing Deborah meetings with Michaile Bronax Lansing IL. which were hosted at Fellowship Christian Church throughout the year. Developed and delivered a 6 hour workshop on "Spiritual Disciplines" on October 2nd and 3rd at Evangelical Covenant Church in Menominee Michigan.

I was the Pastor of Transition at the Fellowship Christian Church from September 2014 through January 2016 conducting Bible Study, Prayer Services and Special events. I provide Pastoral Counseling, Spiritual Direction and Counseling to members, regular attenders and the community. Responsible for the day to day activities held within the building. I am a board member for Building Our Own Community (BOOC) and member of the Multi-Ethnic Advisory Commission of the Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park. Secretary and member of Fellowship Community Services, President African American Ministers Association, and Ethnic Commission Member.

**Finally**, I am grateful for our Central Conference Executive Board, who are great encouragers and supporters of the ministries of the Central Conference and my dedicated and gifted colleagues; Jerome Nelson, David Swanson, Norma Ramos, Peter Sjoblom, and Mary Wolf.

"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Romans 12:4-5

Peace,

Rev. Debbie Griffith Samuels Director of Mission and Outreach

# DIRECTOR OF CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

# Report to the Annual Meeting of the Central Conference April 2016

"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm then and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery". Galatians 5:1

The goal and the means toward the goal seem to be the same. The purpose is in the process. As we pursue Christ the goal is accomplished within us. The only thing that seems to stand in our way is the entanglement (yoke) which continues to hold us back.

In our pursuit of Vitality freedom is a must. In **Veritas**, telling the truth about our own vitality is a starting point, both in identifying where God is moving and where we are being held back. Jesus said that we, "will know the truth and the truth will set us free". In **EPIC**, Empowering People Inspiring Change, we face the truth of the need for change. The conversation points us toward productive ways of leading change. **PULSE**, our survey helps a congregation face the truth with comprehensive data, allowing us to set a course on the journey



of vitality. **One**, the strategic ministry planning process, sets us free toward the imaginative journey of renewed vision. These four touch stones of input represent the core of the Congregational Vitality Pathway. They give opportunity for congregations to enter into a healthy conversation about their own state and their desire to move forward constructively.

To this date, over half our congregations have engaged Veritas. Twenty six have held an EPIC workshop and a dozen have had their PULSE taken. I have had significant interaction with 73 of our churches, discussing ideas of vitality as it relates to their current state. Several church plants entering into year 4 are seeing the necessity of connecting with some of the vitality material as they seek to move forward.

Over the last couple of years I have been certified in a process called Bridge Builders. This process is designed to help congregations engage "freedom" by addressing the "yoke" (congregational anxiety) that so easily entangles us. This is proving to be an important addition to the congregational vitality tool kit. It is an involving process designed for highly conflicted or "stuck" congregations suffering from imaginative gridlock. In many cases we need to be set free to pursue a new path toward vitality and wholeness.

North Park Seminary is finishing the first cohort of our Congregational Vitality Certificate. It is proving to be a significant addition for both the seminary and the denomination with enrollment in the mid twenties, surpassing expectations for a first round. I teach a cursory class on "Congregations as Family Systems". We are now open for the second round of enrollment for this certificate.

This year's Navigate churches include Sojourner Covenant in Evanston, Hinsdale Covenant and the Rock Covenant Church in DeKalb. These churches have increased their focus this year on their own vitality looking forward. Each has particular issues that they face in the near future.

On a personal note, I wish to thanks the many people and congregations who have been praying for us as my wife, Joanna, has faced treatment for cancer. She is responding well and we continue to be hopeful for the future. I am humbled by the care and notes of concern from so many.

I am also deeply grateful to the churches of the Central Conference for allowing me the opportunity to serve in this capacity. If your church would desire a conversation about facing their future in vital ways, feel free to contact me through the conference office.

Sincerely,

Peter Sjoblom
Director of Congregational Vitality

# HARBOR POINT MINISTRIES BOARD REPORT

# **HARB** POINT

MINISTRIES

Connecting Camps & Churches

"Ravenswood has embraced and been embraced by the Central Conference's two camps for generations. Almost everyone in our congregation has a story of sending a kid to camp for the first time. ...the stories all circle back to growing in faith and deeper relationships with God, God's creation and each other. If Harbor Point Ministries was wiped off the face of the earth tomorrow would I want to put it back? Absolutely! Not just for the sake of our ministry, but for the sake of the Kingdom of God."



—Phil Staurseth Pastor, Ravenswood Evangelical Covenant Church, Chicago

Two camps sharing one focus on ministry! That's Covenant Harbor and Covenant Point Bible camps, and that's Harbor Point Ministries!

Harbor Point Ministries is your church's connection to Covenant Harbor and Covenant Point. As an owner congregation of both camps, you have access to many opportunities to enhance and support your own ministry, including:

- Leadership development for young adults who serve on staff
- Spiritual growth for men, women and families
- Intentional sharing of the gospel message with youth campers
- Nurture in discipleship for youth and adults
- Worship, service and fellowship for your own people

Rest, retreat and recreation for pastors, youth pastors, lay leaders, members and friends of your congregation.

In 2015 we continued to witness the power of camp to build community, reveal God in creation, grow friendships and share the gospel. Our programs touched more than 7,500 people, including hundreds of Covenant families, and many others from throughout the Midwest:

- 3,209 summer youth campers
- 1,074 youth retreat campers
- 47 families at family camps

2,163 Sunday worship service guests

### Of these people:

About 250 made first time decisions to follow Christ
 More than 600 others made significant spiritual decisions

### The camps also:

Trained 150 summer staff

are eager to serve you.

Hosted 140 church rental groups

Served 25,000 other guests in a Christian environment

As your partner in evangelism and discipleship, Harbor Point Ministries is grateful for every congregation and every person who prays for our camp staffs, provides financial support, volunteers, sends campers and shares camp with others. Thank you! We

In 2016, plan to go to camp. We'll see you there!

Beth Fredrickson, Chair Harbor Point Ministries Board of Directors





# NOMINATING COMMISSION

This is my last report as the chair of the Central Conference Nominating Commission, having served for 6 years. It has been a privilege to serve the Central Conference in this role, as well as to interact with many people all over the conference and to be a part of the Executive Board. There are some very committed and faithful people who care about doing the Lord's work. It is a joy to match those who are willing to serve in this way with places for service in the conference.



The primary task of the Nominating Commission is to find people from within our conference to serve on the Executive Board and the Harbor Point Ministries Board. Serving on the Nominating Commission this past year were Daniela Flores, David Green, Sally Pierce and Debbie Griffith-Samuels. Since our conference is so blessed with diversity on several levels, we have many people to draw from as we seek representation across generations and ethnicities, lay and clergy, male and female, on our boards and commissions. We also seek to have representation from each of the districts around the entire conference, and look for diversity of professions among our churches.

The Nominating Commission maintains a list of persons who have a passion and a willingness to serve as well as leadership skills that have been recommended by you, the members of our Central Conference churches, as well as by those already serving on boards and commissions and from our conference staff. We always welcome recommendations for our running list. Since there are only a certain number of openings on our boards each year, we can only use those persons who fit the demographics needed in any particular year, but the running list is consulted each year we begin the process of assembling the ballot.

On the Central Conference website, (<u>www.centralconf.org</u>), you will find a listing of the boards and commissions currently serving, as well as the present chairs of those groups. In addition, on the website is a volunteer application that can be downloaded, filled out and mailed to the Central Conference office. You can also receive an application by calling or writing the Central Conference office.

Thank you for the privilege of serving you, and I would ask for your prayers for the work of this commission and the new chair, Sally Pierce.

In His service,

David Green, Chair

# **COMPASSION, MERCY AND JUSTICE COMMISSION**

The CMJ Commission promotes ministries and education among churches of the Central Conference related to compassion, mercy and justice. We understand compassion ministries as efforts that work to help hurting people by meeting felt needs, and justice ministries as efforts that address the systemic and structural causes behind what hurts people. We affirm the giftedness of all members of the Body of Christ, acknowledging that class, gender, race and other factors have often sinfully separated us from each other and from others in our communities; therefore, we intentionally support congregations as the location to embody and repair these realities. Using the Bible as our source and inspiration, we advocate that local churches become involved in public witness through CMJ ministries, and we come alongside and empower churches already engaged in CMJ ministries. (*Mission Summary*)



Since the last Central Conference Annual Meeting the CMJ Commission has continued the task of listening, learning, partnering and empowering CMJ ministries throughout our conference. Beginning

last year, we intentionally made space to listen to our local churches regarding their context. Being experts in your communities we learned useful tools and ministry 'best practices' giving us the opportunity to share those in other communities. In an effort to devel-



op the local congregations toward the reconciling and restoring ministries of compassion and justice we have been able to disperse approximately \$11,000.00 to churches throughout Illinois, Indiana, Michigan and Wisconsin. Through these funds we have empowered local congregations to develop food pantries, English as a second language classes, youth tutoring programs, ministries that clothe those in need and care for the spiritual development of adults with special needs...and much more. We are gratefully that our conference churches are passionate about be present in the communities in which they dwell. We are honored to serve in this conference where we continually affirm and promote ministries of compassion, mercy and justice. Thank you for your part!

In addition to dispersing funds through the CMJ Grants our commission actively promotes and participates in regional and global partnership of ministries. This past year has brought a significant amount of transition for our denomination and conference. The denomination reorganized its various department and developed new mission priorities, one of which is 'Love Mercy Do Justice'. This denominational shift included transitioning executive leadership from Rev. Dr. Debbie Blue to Rev. Cecilia Williams. Under this development we were able to partner with the denomination, North Park University and Communities United to host the *Love Mercy Do Justice Conference (Chicago, IL)* in February. This two day conference combined scholarship and advocacy toward ministries of Mercy and Justice. For two days we were immersed in seminars, prayer, worship, discussions and community rallies with the emphasis of joining in God's mission in our communities. The CMJ commission served in a variety of roles during planning and implementing this vital conference.

I personally want to extend my appreciation to this team of people. The CMJ Commission is made up of very gifted and passionate people. These people are active practitioners in their churches and communities. Additionally, they serve voluntarily, putting in many hours of effort to partner and promote ministries of compassion, mercy and justice in the conference. Grateful for the direction of the conference Executive Board and staff, I especially want to thank Debbie Griffith Samuels for her continued pursuit of mercy and justice in and through our congregations and her leadership of this commission.

Together in ministry,

CMJ Commission members:

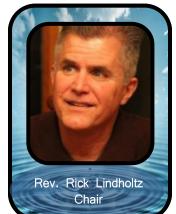
Ryan Cooper, chairperson

Dru McLeland – Pastoral Intern of Hinsdale Covenant Church, Hinsdale, IL Evelmyn Ivens – Christian Community Development Association, Chicago, IL Lance Davis – Sr. Pastor of New Zion Covenant Church, Dolton, IL Mark Tao – Sr. Pastor of Immanuel Covenant Church, Chicago, IL Ryan Cooper – Sr. Pastor of Evangelical Covenant Church, South Bend, IN

# **EVANGELISM COMMISSION'S ANNUAL REPORT**

March 9, 2016

Covenant Churches and Covenant people love the message of Jesus Christ. They have a huge heart to see that message spread – to see it take root in more communities, in more families, in more marriages, and in more lives.



Covenant Churches and Covenant people often struggle to live out the reality of that love and of those desires. To paraphrase Covenant Pastor Eugene Cho, we are often more in love with the idea of connecting people

to Jesus Christ than with actually doing it. Even Pastors. Even Evangelism Commission members. Even me.

There are many reasons why. We are busy people. We are driven by and enriched by relationships, and as a result, fear that offense taken might injure relationships. We have few healthy examples of what it looks like to live in a way that connects people to Jesus. And we are impatient with a task that often takes a very long time.

The Evangelism Commission exists to help Covenant Churches and Covenant people to become more comfortable and effective in sharing the love of Jesus with their world.

The Commission's efforts have been challenged by circumstances both unexpected and undesired. If we were to say that the wheels fell off, we wouldn't be too inaccurate.

2016 is a year in which we hope to re-capture momentum and begin new efforts to offer our services to Conference churches. Those services will include events for individual churches or to regional gatherings of Covenant Churches.

Pray with us that our efforts in 2016 and beyond will result in new encouragement and greater capacity to connect the world around us to Jesus.

Rick Lindholtz, Chair

# YOUTH NETWORK REPORT

### **Annual Report for the Central Conference Youth Network**

We give thanks to God for His work in the midst of our Youth Ministry Network. We are happy to report that Youth Ministry is healthy and thriving here in the Central Conference, serving as a pace setter for youth ministry in our denomination with lots of room to grow and become healthier. We are thankful for the support of the conference office and individual churches. Here are a few highlights for Central Conference youth ministry in the past year.

 Record numbers at CHIC 2015. God moved in amazing way in the lives of students and leaders, and the speakers, bands, and offerings were greeted with a lot of positivity. The Central Conference had 754 participants, representing a 6% increase of over our 2012 numbers. We also gave out over \$15k in scholarship money to Central Conference churches and students, sending numerous churches to CHIC for the very first time.



- We have had full and healthy monthly lunch gatherings. We meet on the third Thursday of every month during the school year. This year we have averaged 15-20 youth workers at these gatherings. We spend these times helping youth workers to feel known, connected, and resourced.
- We had a full year of retreats at our fantastic camps, Covenant Point and Covenant Harbor: the Junior High Fall Retreat, 3 One-Life High School Retreats, 4 Deep Freeze Retreats, and 1 Winter Fest retreat. God is always faithful to show up in big ways in the lives of our students at these retreats.
- We had another successful year of Adventures in Leadership (AIL), our leadership development week in June up at Covenant Point. This program continues to receive excellent feedback from students and the youth pastors who send them.
- We made a lot of progress in connecting with churches who haven't participated in our network and have the most comprehensive database that we've had in years.
- We are excited about the model of collaborative youth ministry being set forth by North Side Youth Collision. Josh Hiben's work with Collision has been a blessing to many churches and gives us hope for similar collaborative efforts.

In 2015, Covenant Youth Collision continued to explore and live into a collaborative model of youth ministry in the city of Chicago where we collaborate with 17 churches, with the majority of those churches being Covenant. In 2015 we tripled our programming to have 2 monthly events and 3 weekly leadership development programs for students in order to create an overall more well rounded program for students in Chicago.

With this program expansion, we also expanded our staff from 3 to 10 staff & interns. Outside of loving and building up students for Christ, we are wrapping up our 2 year research project that examined the culture and climate of church youth ministry in Chicago by surveying and analyzing 1,000 churches on the North Side of Chicago. We have been accomplished all of this on a 2015 budget of \$53,500. As we look into the next 3 years of ministry, we desire to become more financially sustainable through church contributions, donors, and grants. Please prayerfully consider joining financially in what God is doing with Covenant youth ministry in Chicago. Thank you very much.

We encourage churches to continue pray about how you can invest further in youth ministry in your churches. Might you increase your youth budget by 10%? Might you add 10 hours of youth ministry staff hours a week? Might you take on an intern this year? Our prayer is that churches would always be looking for creative way to go deeper in youth ministry, for youth are, and will always be, the future of the Church. Lastly, I want to thank my team for their creative, selfless, and faithful efforts. God bless you Diana Shifflet, Jake Bradley, Christy Bouris, Colby Mecher, Chad Harrison and Josh Hiben.

Respectfully submitted-

eno y . Aluly

Lars Eric Stromberg, Hinsdale Covenant Church, Network Coach

# CENTRAL CONFERENCE MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

# Report to the Central Conference Annual Meeting April 24-25, 2016

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

On behalf of the Central Conference Ministerial Association (CCMA), greetings to the delegates of the 2016 conference annual meeting.

It is the task of the CCMA to care for the **fellowship**, **continued education**, and **ordination** of our credentialed pastors and staff in the Central Conference.

We care for our *fellowship* in many ways but in part by planning two meetings a year: our annual meeting in the spring and our retreat in the fall. We care for our *continued education* in part by setting aside time at both of our gatherings to have local and national speakers teach on subjects pertaining to our call to ministry. We care for our *ordination* in part by administering our association and by forming our Committee on Ministerial Standing from the current members of our association.



If your pastor is a credentialed minister in the Central Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church (licensed, commissioned, or ordained) they are a member of the CCMA with both privileges and responsibilities. Please note that all credentialed pastors and staff are responsible for the following: pay dues of \$125 to the CCMA yearly; complete the *vocational growth tool* yearly; update their *Covenant Profile* once every three years; maintain healthy collegial relationships. When they have done all this they are considered to be "in good standing." The dues they pay fund the ministry of both our local and our national ministerial associations. The vocational growth tool is a tool that helps our pastors remain in good standing as they care for their continued education, fellowship with colleagues, and their ordination. Please encourage your pastors to be in good standing.

We gathered for the annual meeting of our association last year on April 23-24, 2015. We did the business of our association including distributing a reading list pertaining to the conversation of human sexuality and the church, which included submissions by Dr. Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom, Dr. Rebekah Eklund, Rev. Aaron Johnson, and Dr. Klyne Snodgrass. At this meeting our continued education component was led by Dr. Klyne Snodgrass under the title, "Participation in First Corinthians." A joyful part of this meeting was to hear the testimonies of the 2015 class of ordinands. We as an association voted to recommend these future pastors and staff ministers to the Central Conference Annual Meeting.

Our annual CCMA pastor and spouse retreat took place on October 5-7, 2015 at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. This was a time of worship, continued education, and fellowship. Our main speaker was Dr. Chap Clark. Dr. Clark is Associate Provost and professor of Youth, Family, and Culture at Fuller Seminary, and president of ParenTeen, Inc. at Fuller. He has authored/co-authored more than 20 books, including the award-winning *Hurt 2.0: Inside the World of Today's Teenagers; Sticky Faith*; and the forthcoming 21<sup>st</sup> Century Youth Ministry and Adoptive Youth Ministry: Integrating Emerging Generations into the Family of Faith. Chap led us in worship and sessions of continuing education and conversation drawing from his books.

# **CENTRAL CONFERENCE MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION**

# Report to the Central Conference Annual Meeting April 24-25, 2016

# **CONTINUES...**

At this fall retreat our ministerial association was also led in a discussion around two papers that came from the ECC Board of Ordered of Ministry: Guidelines for Covenant Pastors and Congregations Regarding Human Sexuality; Freedom and Responsibility: Dissent and Covenant Clergy. This discussion was led by Superintendent Jerome Nelson and a panel that included Dick Lucco, the ECC Executive Director of Ministry Development, and Pastor Greg Mesimore, representative from the Board of Ordered Ministry.

We as an association are grateful for the work of our conference staff: Rev. Jerome Nelson, Rev. Deborah Griffith-Samuels, Rev. Peter Sjoblom, Rev. David Swanson, and Norma Ramos. They care for our conference well.

We as an association are grateful for the ongoing work of the Committee on Ministerial Standing—a committee formed by and from within our whole ministerial association. We have been led this year by Rev. Denise Anderson, who has done excellent work in insuring the integrity of our credentialing process. We appreciate her leadership, wisdom, and discernment.

I am grateful for the faithful leadership of our executive committee. Our chair, Rev. Glen Morden, resigned in July. We appreciate the input he gave to our association while he served. Our treasurer is Rev. Jason Mach. His attention to detail has been a real gift to our gathering of pastors. Our Secretary is Rev. Karen Brewer. We are so thankful that she is on board. I have served for four years as vice-chair of our ministerium with the primary responsibility of administering our fall retreats. With that in mind I would be amiss if I did not mention how much we appreciate the care of our Covenant bible camps—Covenant Harbor and Covenant Point. They have hosted our fall retreats with grace, generosity, and hospitality for years. Thank you so much. I conclude my term as vice-chair/chair of the CCMA this year and am grateful for the opportunity to have served my colleagues in ministry—together we have cared for our fellowship, our continued education and our ordination.

Please continue to pray for our pastors in the conference. We are grateful for each one and trust that our ministry to them will carry over to be a blessing to you, the congregations and people of the Central Conference Evangelical Covenant Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Philip M. Staurseth
Pastor, Ravenswood Evangelical Covenant Church, Chicago, IL
Chair, Central Conference Ministerial Association

# REPORT FROM APPROPRIATED CHURCH Report to the Central Conference Annual Meeting

# Iglesia Del Pacto Evangélico Jerusalén (Jerusalem Covenant Church)



March 2016

Grace and peace to you in this 130th Annual Meeting of the Central Conference from Jerusalem Covenant Church, we pray for God's continuance blessing upon the Central Conference and all Covenant Churches.

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Rev. Alberto Galvan Church Planter

Jerusalem Covenant Church has had a lot of changes during this last year. It's been almost three years of planting this new church in the northwest suburbs of Chicago IL, (Streamwood).

In 2013, the church started with only three families, the Orellana family, Parga family and ourselves (the Galvan family). We started with small bible studies in our houses. During this time, other families joined the bible study and we decided to have Sunday service. The question was where could we have our small Sunday service? Finally after looking for a place, we decided to fix our home's garage to make it look like a small sanctuary. That's where we started and had our first small Sunday service. Our small Sunday services in our garage gave the new church order and discipline; now we have a clear understanding of how to direct the church, and how it works and our purpose. Even though, the church was in our garage, we saw it as our sanctuary.

After several Sunday services in our garage, our small church was ready for the next step and it was to move into a better and an appropriate place for our meetings. We prayed for God's will to see whether it was time or if we should wait. On a Friday afternoon driving back home, I pass by the Streamwood Park district and something told me to drive back and introduce myself with the park district manager and I did. I introduced myself and explained our mission and that I wanted to see if the park district will be available to us. After a long conversation, the manager answered, "Yes", I would like to help, I want to help Jerusalem, now my second question was how Jerusalem was going to pay the expenses? Since we were a new church plant and we really didn't have money or any idea of how much it will be or if we will be able to afford the expenses, to our surprise the manager gave us a great deal, he let us use the big room for our services and two small rooms for our kids bible studies for \$100.00 every Sunday. At this point, we knew that God was opening a new door for Jerusalem and that it was a clear confirmation from God that is was time to move.

During our time in the park district, new people joined the church and Jerusalem was starting to develop more and more as an actual church. The teaching, preaching, worship, tithes and offerings were more disciplined and orderly. Our worship team, bible Sunday school material, the adult and children's ministry were all as ready. We even helped a Church in Guanajuato Mexico with an offering. It was clear to us that Jerusalem grew in many difference ways.



# REPORT FROM APPROPRIATED CHURCH Report to the Central Conference Annual Meeting



As our new church was developing, we noticed that our new visitors came but weren't staying nor continue in our church. It became a big concern for the church. We wanted to grow but instead the opposite was happening. We didn't know why, until I respectfully asked a family the reason for leaving and they honestly told me that the place was the problem, we love the worship, we love the teaching and preaching but we just don't feel that we're in church. They were right. The place was not a church building; it was just an empty room from the park district. We were limited of the changes that we can make to make look like a church. So again we started to pray and to look for a church building that was available and open to partnership with a new church plant in their facilities, by this time Jerusalem was well developed and all the activities were taking place in and during our services were completely orderly. It was clear to us that we were ready as a church. All we needed was a church building, but, where can we find an empty church building?, was our question.

On Sunday morning before we started our service I looked through the window and saw the Lutheran church in front of us front the park district and I notice something that I didn't notice before. I noticed that the Lutheran church had two buildings: a big one and a small one, I thought if we could used just the small building, after that I saw a person coming out of the small building I was determined to introduce myself and I did. I went to Grace Lutheran church and introduced myself with Reverend Paul Cutler and explained our mission. He was very happy to hear what we were doing and he offered to help us. He gave us the keys of the building and told us to use it as we please. Since then, we have been meeting there. We have made a lot of improvements, changes, and remodeling.

We believe that God has been developing, directing and moving Jerusalem step by step. Looking back three years ago, Jerusalem was meeting in houses, in a garage, park district and finally God brought the Church to our place of worship. We are going to be here until God lead us to the next step or perhaps buy this facility if it's God's will.

Thank you for your prayers and for all your support. It's been almost three years, a lot of people have visited us, some stayed some didn't. But we are determined to work and be intentional to move forward to the next step in God's time. Today, Jerusalem has a very strong foundation and identity and we can honestly say that Jerusalem is strongly moving step by step to be a solid church.

Planting a church is not easy, but during those difficult and hard times God always remains me thorough Jeremiah 1:4-10 that He call me to this task. It's an honor to be called by God and to be part of this amazing journey. Thank you for your support and prayers. I also like to thank Rev. Jerome Nelson and Rev. David Swanson for your knowledge and advice. They are greatly appreciated. May God Our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ continue to bless and use your lives.

In Christ

Pastor Alberto Galvan

# **CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CHURCHES**

|                              |                                                                       | 2016        | 1                 |                 |                     |                 |                 |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
|                              | H CONTRIBUTIONS                                                       | receipts of | This YR as        |                 | AMOUNTS             |                 |                 |
| as of Decemb                 |                                                                       | 2015 giving | of 12/31/15       |                 |                     | for past yea    | I II CONTRACTOR |
| State & City ILLINOIS        | Church Name                                                           | 2015        | 2015              | 2014            | 2013                | 2012            | 2011            |
| Batavia                      | Batavia Ev Covenant Church                                            | 191         | 4,594             | 5,272           | 5,676               | 5,388           | 5,733           |
| Belvidere                    | Evangelical Mission Covenant Church                                   |             | 2,500             | 2,500           | 2,500               | 2,000           | 2,000           |
| Berwyn                       | Centro Cristiano El Poder Del Amor<br>City of Hope                    |             | 0                 | 300             | 0                   | 500             | 0               |
| Bolingbrook<br>Blue Island   | Mission Covenant Church                                               | 1.0         | 200               | 250             | 0                   | 250             | 250             |
| Calumet City                 | St Peter's Faith Health Covenant Church                               |             | 200               | 0               | 0                   | 0               | 0               |
| Calumet Park                 | Community Covenant Church                                             |             | 6,000             | 6,000           | 6,000               | 6,000           | 7,000           |
| Campton Hills                | Country Evangelical Covenant Church                                   |             | 3,200             | 3,350           | 3,200               | 3,200           | 3,200           |
| Carpentersville<br>Champaign | Iglesia del Pacto Evangelico Renacer  Berean Covenant Church          |             | 2,500             | 2,000           | 1,000               | 2,000           | 1,700<br>901    |
| Chicago                      | Albany Park Covenant Church                                           |             | 1,100             | 725             | 900                 | 1,270           | 2,400           |
| Chicago                      | Assyrian Evangelical Covenant Church                                  |             | 0                 | 0               | 0                   | 0               | 0               |
| Chicago                      | Atonement Covenant Church                                             |             | 50                | 50              | 369                 | 0               | 50              |
| Chicago<br>Chicago           | Beverly Evangelical Covenant Church Calvary Covenant Church           |             | 4,000<br>924      | 3,000<br>1,100  | 3,000               | 3,000           | 3,000           |
| Chicago                      | Cross Fellowship, Inc (CLOSED)                                        |             | 5,283             | 1,100           | 1,000               | 0               | 0               |
| Chicago                      | Edgebrook Evangelical Covenant Church                                 |             | 5,600             | 5,575           | 6,018               | 6,390           | 6,110           |
| Chicago                      | Gospel Way Evangelical Covenant Church                                |             | 300               | 1,000           | 0                   | 0               | 0               |
| Chicago                      | Grace Evangelical Covenant Church                                     |             | 6,000             | 6,000           | 6,000               | 7,626           | 8,386           |
| Chicago<br>Chicago           | Iglesia Del Pacto Evangelico Belen Iglesia Del Pacto Evangelico Grace |             | 0                 | 7,169           | 12,285              | 4,569           | 1,500           |
| Chicago                      | Iglesia Del Pacto Evangelico Grace                                    |             | 4,769             | 2,959           | 2,750               | 2,850           | 4,325           |
| Chicago                      | Iglesia Del Pacto Vida Plena                                          | 500         | 0                 | 950             | 600                 | 900             | 1,130           |
| Chicago                      | Immanuel Evangelical Covenant Church                                  | 500         | 0                 | 500             | 2,250               | 3,400           | 2,500           |
| Chicago                      | Jesus People USA Covenant Church                                      |             | 215               | 465             | 291                 | 555             | 411             |
| Chicago<br>Chicago           | New Community Covenant Church New Community Cov Bronzeville           | 1,628       | 11,228<br>4,884   | 10,000<br>5,776 | 20,356              | 27,047<br>3,159 | 37,641          |
| Chicago                      | Nineth Hour Covenant Church                                           | 1,020       | 0                 | 3,776           | 2,990               | 3,139           | 0               |
| Chicago                      | North Park Covenant Church                                            | 2,841       | 19,117            | 22,769          | 24,849              | 26,128          | 24,777          |
| Chicago                      | Oakdale Covenant Church                                               |             | 2,000             | 0               | 2,000               | 4,000           | 2,000           |
| Chicago                      | Ravenswood Evangelical Covenant Church                                |             | 2,000             | 2,695           | 2,000               | 2,000           | 2,000           |
| Chicago<br>Chicago           | Resurrection Covenant Church The House Covenant Church                |             | 0                 | 2,823           | 7,879               | 9,260           | 4,875<br>250    |
| Chicago                      | Thrive Ev Covenant Church                                             |             | 786               | 530             | 357                 | 0               | 0               |
| Crest Hill                   | Good Shepherd Evangelical Covenant Church                             |             | 4,000             | 4,000           | 4,000               | 4,000           | 4,125           |
| Crystal Lake                 | Hope Evangelical Covenant Church                                      |             | 7,311             | 8,582           | 7,039               | 583             | 8,458           |
| Dolton<br>De Kalb            | New Zion Christian Fellowship Church Hillcrest Covenant Church        |             | 3,600             | 3,500<br>3,600  | 3,500<br>3,924      | 4,440           | 3,850           |
| De Kalb                      | Rock Covenant Church                                                  | 1           | 0,000             | 3,000           | 3,324               | 4,440           | 3,630           |
| Elgin                        | Evangelical Covenant Church                                           |             | 3,250             | 3,000           | 3,500               | 3,000           | 3,532           |
| Evanston                     | Sojourner Covenant Church                                             |             | 2,903             | 3,133           | 3,369               | 3,123           | 1,958           |
| Flossmoor                    | Friends 4 Life Covenant Church                                        |             | 0                 | 0               | 0                   | 0               | 0               |
| Franklin Park<br>Galesburg   | St Paul's United Church of Christ<br>Covenant Church                  | 1,108       | 500<br>8,795      | 250<br>10,664   | 10,435              | 11,004          | 10,678          |
| Glen Ellyn                   | Glen Ellyn Evangelical Covenant Church                                | 1,100       | 35,500            | 34,000          | 33,000              | 32,000          | 31,500          |
| Glenview                     | Glenview Korean Covenant Church                                       |             | 1,200             | 1,100           | 1,200               | 1,200           | 1,100           |
| Hinsdale                     | Evangelical Covenant Church                                           |             | 38,247            | 33,961          | 31,081              | 32,920          | 41,793          |
| Libertyville                 | Libertyville Covenant Church<br>Redeemer Life                         |             | 16,500            | 16,500          | 16,500              | 21,000          | 12,000          |
| Libertyville<br>Lincolnwood  | Community Evangelical Church                                          | _           | 6,108<br>500      | 6,249           | 9,741               | 6,974           | 4,756<br>500    |
| Machesney Park               | North Park Evangelical Covenant Church                                |             | 600               | 600             | 600                 | 1,200           | 1,100           |
| Matteson                     | City of Truth                                                         |             | 1,267             | 1,031           | 909                 | 516             | 413             |
| Moline                       | Elim Covenant Church                                                  |             | 5,049             | 5,138           | 5,049               | 4,840           | 5,435           |
| Moline<br>Morton Grove       | First Covenant Church                                                 |             | 4,040<br>WITHDREW | 4,080<br>1,500  | 4,800<br><b>900</b> | 4,350           | 7,358           |
| Morton Grove Morton Grove    | St. Luke's Christian Community Church Korean Ark Covenant Church      |             | WITHDREW          | 1,500           | 900                 | 0               | 0               |
| Mount Prospect               | Northwest Covenant Church                                             | 2,076       | 14,398            | 12,739          | 23,294              | 25,139          | 25,740          |
| Naperville                   | Naperville Evangelical Covenant Church                                | 111         | 17,669            | 19,693          | 25,266              | 28,359          | 30,296          |
| Northbrook                   | Lakeview - merged w/Antioch Korean Cov                                |             | 0                 | 0               | 0                   | 0               | 550             |
| Northbrook                   | Lakeview Covenant Church                                              |             | 3,750             | 3,500           | 3,250               | 3,000           | 3,000           |
| Northbrook<br>Oak Forest     | Northbrook Evangelical Covenant Church New Beginning Covenant         |             | 10,000            | 9,500           | 9,400               | 9,000           | 10,000          |
| Oak Lawn                     | Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church                                   | -           | 2,100             | 2,100           | 2,100               | 2,100           | 2,100           |
| Oak Park                     | Fellowship Christian Church                                           |             | 1,650             | 500             | 0                   | 0               | 200             |
| Orland Park                  | Hope Covenant Church                                                  | 1,575       | 1,575             | 3,150           | 3,150               | 3,150           | 3,150           |
| Palatine                     | Deergrove Covenant Church                                             | 1,200       | 12,390            | 9,225           | 14,765              | 14,078          | 2,967           |
| Palatine<br>Paxton           | New Life Covenant Church Evangelical Covenant Church                  |             | 2,800<br>1,500    | 2,792<br>3,375  | 3,001<br>2,500      | 3,543<br>2,500  | 1,350<br>2,500  |
| Peoria                       | First Covenant Church                                                 |             | 1,320             | 1,320           | 1,200               | 1,500           | 2,100           |
|                              |                                                                       | 2E          | .,025             | ,,020           | .,200               | .,000           | _,,00           |

# **CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE CHURCHES**

| 2015 CHURO                           | CH CONTRIBUTIONS                             | 2016                    | THE RESERVE OF         |                        | AMOUNTS                | RECEIVED               |       |
|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-------|
|                                      | ber 31, 2015                                 | receipts of 2015 giving | This YR as of 12/31/15 |                        |                        | for past yea           | irs)  |
| State & City                         | Church Name                                  | 2015                    | 2015                   | 2014                   | 2013                   | 2012                   | 2011  |
| Princeton                            | Evangelical Covenant Church                  |                         | 13,215                 | 11,855                 | 11,413                 | 11,165                 | 10,13 |
| Rockford                             | Bethesda Evangelical Covenant Church         |                         | 10,000                 | 10,000                 | 10,000                 | 10,000                 | 10,00 |
| Rockford                             | Broadway Covenant Church                     |                         | 6,699                  | 6,830                  | 7,220                  | 6,966                  | 6,60  |
| Rockford                             | Evergreen Evangelical Covenant Church        |                         | 273                    | 204                    | 273                    | 324                    | 90    |
| Rockford                             | First Evangelical Covenant Church            | 5,850                   | 17,550                 | 23,400                 | 26,000                 | 27,000                 | 27,0  |
| Schaumburg                           | Chicago Woori Church                         |                         | 500                    | 500                    | 0                      | 0                      |       |
| Schaumburg                           | Covenant Church Of Schaumburg                |                         | 4,000                  | 4,000                  | 4,000                  | 3,800                  | 3,5   |
| Stillman Valley                      | Valley Evangelical Covenant Church           |                         | 1,251                  | 4,587                  | 8,413                  | 9,000                  | 8,0   |
| Streamwood                           | Iglesia Del Pacto Ev Jerusalem               |                         | 2,670                  | 1,886                  | 0                      | 0                      | -,-   |
| /illa Park                           | Evangelical Covenant Church                  |                         | 0                      | 0                      | 2,358                  | 1,406                  | 2,3   |
| /illa Park                           | Parkwood Community Church                    |                         | 0                      | 4,000                  | 6,625                  | 0                      | 8,9   |
| Vheaton                              | Faith Evangelical Covenant Church            |                         | 13,098                 | 12,936                 | 12,800                 | 11,040                 | 13,3  |
| Vilmette                             | Winnetka Evangelical Covenant Church         | 842                     | 21,185                 | 29,021                 | 29,700                 | 31,350                 | 33,1  |
| VIIIIIOLLO                           | SUBTOTAL FOR ILLINOIS:                       | 18,311                  | 386,411                | 411,760                | 460,544                | 457,063                | 468,9 |
| INDIANA                              | GOBTOTAL FOR ILLERVOIS.                      | 10,511                  | 550,411                | 411,700                | 400,044                | 457,005                | 400,5 |
| onaldson                             | Evangelical Covenant Church                  |                         | 900                    | 900                    | 825                    | 1,350                  | 1,8   |
| Bloomington                          | Sacred Heart Ev Covenant Church              |                         | 1,000                  | 3,000                  | 1,500                  | 1,350                  | 1,0   |
| -                                    | Church Of Gary Covenant Church               |                         |                        | 3,000                  | 1,500                  | 500                    | 1,2   |
| Sary                                 |                                              |                         | 0                      |                        |                        |                        |       |
| ndianapolis                          | Hope Evangelical Covenant Church             |                         | 3,960                  | 4,170                  | 3,425                  | 4,307                  | 4,3   |
| ndianapolis                          | Manantial de Vida                            | 4.440                   | 0                      | 0                      | 0                      | 0                      | 1,0   |
| afayette                             | Evangelical Covenant Church                  | 4,113                   | 37,202                 | 43,760                 | 42,779                 | 43,436                 | 39,7  |
| Portage                              | Evangelical Covenant Church of Portage       |                         | 1,150                  | 1,380                  | 1,380                  | 1,380                  | 1,3   |
| South Bend                           | Evangelical Covenant Church                  | 682                     | 7,165                  | 5,940                  | 6,955                  | 7,468                  | 6,5   |
| Vest Lafayette                       | Riverside Covenant Church                    | 4 700                   | 19,170                 | 16,755                 | 16,316                 | 15,306                 | 14,4  |
|                                      | SUBTOTAL FOR INDIANA:                        | 4,796                   | 70,547                 | 75,906                 | 73,180                 | 73,847                 | 70,5  |
| MICHIGAN                             |                                              |                         |                        |                        |                        | 1.1                    |       |
| oster City                           | Mission Covenant Church                      |                         | 800                    | 400                    | 600                    | 625                    | (     |
| Sladstone                            | United Evangelical Covenant Church           | 580                     | 5,596                  | 6,627                  | 6,677                  | 6,543                  | 6,3   |
| ron Mountain                         | First Covenant Church                        |                         | 5,270                  | 6,673                  | 5,239                  | 6,329                  | 5,6   |
| ron River                            | Grace Covenant Church                        |                         | 5,000                  | 4,999                  | 9,000                  | 9,175                  | 8,2   |
| shpeming                             | Mission Covenant Church                      |                         | 130                    | 0                      | 1,359                  | 477                    | 2,3   |
| Menominee                            | Community Covenant Church                    |                         | 600                    | 1,334                  | 2,004                  | 1,200                  | 1,2   |
| Vorway                               | Evangelical Covenant Church                  |                         | 4,800                  | 4,565                  | 4,500                  | 4,200                  | 4,2   |
| Skandia                              | Community Covenant Church                    |                         | 800                    | 800                    | 800                    | 800                    | 3     |
| Stephenson                           | Bethlehem Covenant Church                    |                         | 331                    | 476                    | 648                    | 888                    | 9     |
| Stephenson                           | Lost Lake Covenant Church                    |                         | 300                    | 300                    | 600                    | 600                    | (     |
| Vallace                              | Bethel Mission Covenant Church               |                         | 0                      | 0                      | 0                      | 0                      |       |
|                                      | SUBTOTAL FOR MICHIGAN:                       | 580                     | 23,627                 | 26,174                 | 31,427                 | 30,837                 | 30,9  |
| MISSOURI                             |                                              |                         |                        |                        |                        |                        |       |
| lorissant                            | Christ Covenant Church                       | I                       | 1,200                  | 1,200                  | 1,600                  | 0                      | 1,5   |
| (irkwood                             | Community Covenant Church                    |                         | 3,492                  | 3,492                  | 7,900                  | 0                      | 2,8   |
| Saint Louis                          | Outpour                                      | 133                     | 556                    | 615                    | 0                      | 1,019                  | 1,7   |
| THE ESTATE                           | SUBTOTAL FOR MISSOURI:                       | 133                     | 5,248                  | 5,307                  | 9,500                  | 1,019                  | 6,1   |
| WISCONSIN                            | CODICIALI CITIMOCCOM.                        | ,,,,                    | 0,210                  | 0,007                  | 0,000                  | 1,010                  | ٥, ،  |
| Beloit                               | Redeemer Evangelical Covenant Church         |                         | 1,450                  | 1,525                  | 1,300                  | 1,300                  | 1,3   |
| Boulder Junction                     | Community Church                             |                         | 2,500                  | 1,250                  | 3,950                  | 3,200                  | 3,5   |
|                                      |                                              |                         |                        |                        |                        |                        |       |
| Ikhorn                               | Millard Community Church                     |                         | 1,040                  | 1,667                  | 8,552                  | 922                    | 5,0   |
| Green Bay                            | Bay Evangelical Covenant Church              |                         | 257                    | 565                    | 0                      | 0                      | 1,4   |
| ake Geneva                           | Anchor Covenant Church Arbor Covenant Church |                         | 1,659                  | 4,828                  | 1,438                  | 5,000                  | 5,0   |
| Madison                              |                                              |                         | 2,000                  | 2,000                  | 2,000                  | 2,000                  | 2,0   |
| Madison                              | Fountain of Life                             |                         | 4,000                  | 1,500                  | 0                      | 0                      |       |
| Milwaukee                            | Evangelical Covenant Church                  |                         | 3,260                  | 3,260                  | 3,260                  | 3,260                  | 3,2   |
|                                      | Harvest Center Ministries                    |                         | 957                    | 1,014                  | 1,134                  | 608                    | (     |
|                                      | Evangelical Covenant Church                  |                         | 0                      | 0                      | 0                      | 0                      | 1     |
| Park Falls                           |                                              |                         |                        |                        |                        |                        |       |
| Milwaukee<br>Park Falls<br>Sheboygan | Zion Covenant Church                         | 2,500                   | 0                      | 2,500                  | 2,500                  | 2,500                  | 2,6   |
| ark Falls                            |                                              | 2,500<br><b>2,500</b>   | 17,123                 | 2,500<br><b>20,109</b> | 2,500<br><b>24,134</b> | 2,500<br><b>18,790</b> | 24,8  |
| ark Falls                            | Zion Covenant Church                         |                         | 17,123                 | 20,109                 | 24,134                 |                        | 24,8  |

% change over prior year:

-6.73%

2.96%

-3.30%

12.54%

NOTE: Several churches regularly give additional financial support to other Conference ministries.

# 2016 RESOLUTION ON CONCERN FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

It is good and pleasing to our Lord when we are a people who heed the call of mercy and justice (Micah 6:8). A crucial way we do so is by seeking to transform our community into one which can be welcoming to all without barriers. God has created all human beings as image bearers of Himself (Genesis 1:27); disability does not diminish this image. We repent of the all too prevalent sin in our society which sees those with disabling conditions as people of lesser value. We also humbly acknowledge that as we each face unknowns in our futures, we ourselves may become the beneficiaries of the inclusive, barrier free environment we hope to inspire.

We continue to recognize our obligations and opportunities to speak and act in areas of awareness, advocacy, employment and social justice, in cooperation with and on behalf of persons with disabilities.

We recognize that each member of the Body of Christ has unique gifting, and to exclude any one member, regardless of deficits, diminishes the full priesthood of believers affirmed by Scripture (1 Peter 2:9). We also recognize and celebrate the full inclusion in worship of those with disabilities, since as the Apostle Paul instructs us: every one of us has something unique to contribute in worship (1 Corinthians 14:26).

We affirm and commend congregations, organizations and institutions throughout the Covenant that are already pace-setters for us in matters of justice and inclusion for persons with disabling conditions. Such commendation includes, but is not limited to: the work of Covenant Women Ministries who created Covenant Enabling Residences; the policy in recent years enabling youth with disabilities to attend CHIC, the new emphasis on compassion, mercy and justice through the Love Mercy Do and Justice mission priority; those congregations with educational, recreational and social programs for persons with special needs; local churches that have elected persons to boards and committees who in past years might have been overlooked or unable to enter the building; all who have gone to the effort and expense of installing elevators, ramps and assistive listening systems, constructing pew cuts, giving platform access, remodeling bathrooms, etc. We look forward to the endless opportunities that are possible as more take up this concern and lend their creativity to solutions not yet realized.

Our goal is not merely to minister to those with disabilities; rather to realize a shared ministry with those with disabilities. With this in mind, we continue to recognize our obligation and opportunity to speak and act in areas of awareness, advocacy, employment and social justice, on behalf of, and alongside of, persons with disabilities, and to continue to work toward inclusion of those with disabilities in our worship and fellowship. Therefore, as the 1987 Annual Meeting Resolutions on Disabilities affirmed, and as we, the Committee on Disabilities reaffirm, "We pledge ourselves to continue to be the caring community according to 1 Corinthians 12, loving every part of the body as we would love ourselves, paying special attention to the needs and gifts of people with physical, sensory, mental and emotional impairments." Our Lord Himself has said, "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these...you did for Me" (Matthew 25:40).

So, in the name and Spirit of Christ, Who values us all, even with our limitations, we pledge ourselves to leader-ship in these concerns by the example of our common life, employment practices, attitudes, worship, fellow-ship, responsibility, discipline and efforts to support one another on the spiritual journey with an attentiveness to the Spirit who transforms us into Christ's image, a reflection of God's glory.

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### RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES MAY BE FOUND AT: Covchurch.org/justice/disability

Under the disability link are further links: Resources from the M!X (an idea exchange), Ministry Tools (including Resources for Disability Ministry, Websites for Disability Ministry and Accessibility).

# PROPOSED BYLAWS AMENDMENTS FOR 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

|                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Proposed Bylaws Amendments for 2016 Annual Meeting                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Annual Meeting                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                       |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Location                               | Current text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Proposed text                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Change made                                                                                                                                                                         | Reason for change                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Actions                               |
| Bylaws Article XII<br>(section header) | Corporations                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Corporations and Limited Liability Companies                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Proposed text adds "and Limited Liability Companies."                                                                                                                               | Per request of NCP and Finance, to reflect the creation of a new LLC.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Approved by COLT<br>& Executive Board |
| Bylaws Article XII,<br>Section 12.1    | The ECC has established the following corporations: Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation; North Park University, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation; National Covenant Properties, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation; Covenant Trust Company, a chartered Illinois trust company; and Paul Carlson Medical Program, Inc., an Illinois not-for-profit corporation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | The ECC has established the following corporations and limited liability companies: Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, an Illinois not-forporfit corporation; North Park University, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation; National Covenant Properties, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation; Covenant Trust Company, a chartered Illinois trust company, a chartered Illinois trust company, Paul Carlson Medical Program, Inc., an Illinois Imited liability company. | Proposed text adds Bezalel, LLC to the list Per request of NCP and Finance, to of ECC corporations and limited liabil-reflect the creation of a new LLC. ity companies.             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | & Executive Board                     |
| Bylaws Article XII                     | n/a                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Section 12.7 Bezalel, LLC. Bezalel, LLC assists the ECC, the regional conferences, conferences institutions, ECC congregations, and corporations established by the ECC in acquiring and developing real property for ministry as stated in its Articles of Incorporation. The ECC is the sole member of the LLC, and the voting members fo the Executive Board of the ECC exercise the reserved powers of the ECC. Day to day operations are managed by a Board of the ECC.  | Addition of section 12.7.                                                                                                                                                           | Per request of NCP and Finance, to reflect the creation of a new LLC.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Approved by COLT & Executive Board    |
| Bylaws Article XIV,<br>Section 14.3    | The Commission on Pastoral Relations shall have The Commission on Pastoral Relation no appointed members but shall consist of the no appointed members but shall consist of the Pollowing ex-officio members only: the president following ex-officio members only: the of the ECC, all executive ministers, the executive of the ECC, the executive minister of the director of ministry development, the dean of ministry, the executive director of ministry development, the dean of North Park North Park Theological Seminary, and all regional conference superintendents.  Theological Seminary, and all regional conference superintendents. | s shall have<br>ist of the<br>e president<br>the ordered<br>nistry<br>Il confer-                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Proposed text replaces "all executive minister of the ordered ministry."                                                                                                            | Per request of Ordered Ministry: "We Approved by COLT want the makeup of the Pastoral Re- & Executive Board lations Commission to reflect current practice. Right now, the bylaws list all executive ministers as members, but in reality, they have not attended PRC meetings in many years. Mark Novak is the only one who attends." | Approved by COLT & Executive Board    |
| Bylaws Article XV,<br>Section 15.4     | The ECC has recognized the following associations: Association of Covenant Camps and Conference Centers, Association of Covenant Chaplains, Association for Covenant Clergy Women, and Association of Covenant Spiritual Directors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | The ECC has recognized the following associations: Association of Covenant Camps and Conference Centers, Covenant Chaplains Association, Advocates for Covenant Clergy Women, and Association of Covenant Spiritual Directors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Proposed text changes "Association of Covenant Chaplains" to "Covenant Chaplains Association" and "Association for Covenant Clergy Women" to "Advocates for Covenant Clergy Women." | Proposed text updates the names of both associations as listed their governing documents.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Approved by COLT & Executive Board    |

# CENTRAL CONFERENCE DISTRICTS

### **Chicago North**

Assyrian ECC - Chicago

Community ECC - Lincolnwood

Edgebrook ECC - Chicago

Grace ECC - Chicago

Iglesia Albany Park - Chicago

Iglesia Belen - Chicago

Iglesia Grace - Chicago

Immanuel ECC - Chicago

Jesus People USA Cov. - Chicago

New Community - Chicago

New Community Bronzeville -Chicago

North Park Covenant - Chicago

Ravenswood ECC - Chicago

Resurrection Covenant - Chicago

River City Covenant - Chicago

Sojourner Covenant – Evanston

Winnetka ECC - Wilmette

## **Chicago South**

Atonement Covenant - Chicago

Beverly ECC - Chicago

Calvary Covenant - Chicago

Community Cov. - Calumet Park

Friends4Life Cov. - Flossmoor

Gospel Way ECC - Chicago

Iglesia Douglas Park - Chicago

Iglesia Peniel - Chicago

Mission Covenant - Blue Island

New Zion Christian - Dolton

Oakdale Covenant - Chicago

St. Peter's Faith Health Cov - Calumet City, IL

The City of Truth Cov - Oak Lawn

The House Covenant - Chicago

The Nineth Hour Cov - Chicago

Trinity ECC - Oak Lawn

### **Lake Shore**

Glenview Korean - Glenview

Gyu Ja Shee -Elk Grove Village

Lakeview Cov. - Northbrook

Northbrook ECC-Northbrook

Northwest - Mt. Prospect

Peacemakers Korean Cov Church -

Elk Grove Village

### **Fox Valley**

Batavia Covenant - Batavia

Chicago Woori Church - Schaumburg

Country ECC - Campton Hills

Covenant Church of -Schaumburg

DeerGrove Covenant - Palatine

ECC - Elgin

Hillcrest Covenant - DeKalb

Hope ECC - Crystal Lake

Iglesia Renacer - Carpentersville

New Life - Palatine (\*Fellowship)

The Rock Covenant - DeKalb

### **Northern Illinois**

Bethesda ECC - Rockford

Broadway Cov. - Rockford

Ev. Mission Cov. - Belvidere

First ECC - Rockford

North Park ECC - Machesney

Valley ECC - Stillman Valley

## **Western Illinois**

Covenant - Galesburg

ECC - Princeton

Elim Covenant - Moline

First Covenant - Moline

First Covenant - Peoria

### **Western Suburban**

Centro Cristiano El Poder Del Amor – Berwyn

Christ Cov Church – Villa Park

City of Hope - Bolingbrook

ECC - Hinsdale

Faith ECC - Wheaton

Fellowship Christian-Oak Park

Glen Ellyn ECC - Glen Ellyn

Good Shepherd ECC - Crest Hill

Hope Covenant - Orland Park

Iglesia Vida Plena – Oak Park (\*Fellowship)

Naperville ECC - Naperville

St. Paul's ECC - Franklin Park

### Indiana

Berean - Champaign, IL

Church of Gary - Gary

ECC - Donaldson

ECC - Lafayette

ECC - Paxton, IL

ECC of - Portage

ECC - South Bend

Hope ECC - Indianapolis

Riverside - West Lafayette

Sacred Heart ECC – Bloomington

(\*Fellowship)

### **Great Lakes-MI/WI**

Bethel Mission Covenant - Wallace

Bethlehem Covenant - Stephenson

Community - Boulder Junction

Community Cov. - Menominee

Community Covenant - Skandia

ECC - Norway

ECC - Park Falls

First Covenant - Iron Mountain

Grace Covenant - Iron River

Lost Lake Covenant - Stephenson

Mission Covenant - Foster City

Mission Covenant Church - Ishpeming

United ECC - Gladstone

### St. Louis

Christ Covenant - Florissant

Community Covenant - Kirkwood

Outpour - St. Louis

## **Southern Wisconsin**

Anchor Covenant - Lake Geneva

Arbor Covenant - Madison

Bay ECC - Green Bay

ECC - Milwaukee

Fountain of Life - Madison

Harvest Center - Milwaukee

Libertyville Covenant - Libertyville

Millard Community - Elkhorn

Redeemer ECC – Beloit

Redeemer Life - Libertyville

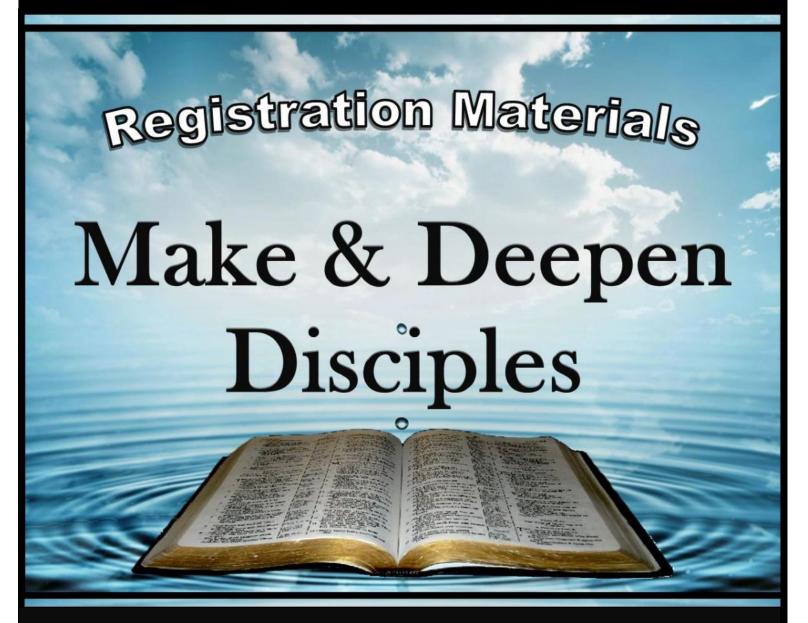
Zion Covenant - Sheboygan

<sup>\*</sup> Fellowship denote New Church Plant



# 130<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Central Conference

of the Evangelical Covenant Church



Central Conference Annual Meeting April 29 - 30, 2016 First Covenant Church in Iron Mountain, MI