



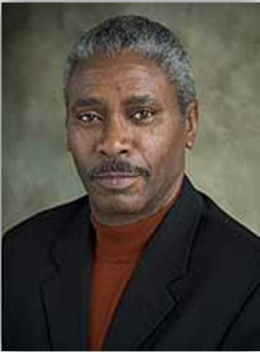
# central conference of the evangelical covenant church

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## November 2015

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### From the Superintendent: A HOLY CALLING



What does it mean to say that we are called of God? What does it mean to say that we have a ministry, lay and clergy? The Scriptures tells us "For God saved us and called us to live a Holy Life. He did this, not because we deserved it, but because that was His plan from before the beginning of time--to show us his grace through Christ Jesus." (2 Timothy 1:9) A calling is a special job God gives us. Every believer has a calling to serve Jesus Christ in God's Kingdom. God has a calling for each of us. When we are trying to accomplish what God has given us to do. We discover that God is working through us. God may not give you a calling out of a burning bush, but He surely speaks to your heart. And be assured that God will never ask you to

live out someone else's calling or to achieve with someone else's gifts. We are to respond to the calling we have and to invest in life with the gifts we have.

*Our call is by grace.* Our call has nothing to do with what we have accomplished. It is by grace that you are saved, not by works; it is the gift of God. We are called, not because we have greater gifts than anyone else or we are more privileged than anyone else. We are called through the grace of God. God has called us according to His presence, not according to our works, what we've done or left undone. We have ministry together.

*Our calling is to Christ's power.* One of the evidences of our calling is that Christ has given us the power to do something. The spirit of fear and powerlessness is replaced with the spirit of power. God has given us something to do, not everything; a place to be, not everywhere; and God has given us gifts to give.

*Our calling is also to a spirit of love.* If we have a spirit only of power it is not enough. The spirit of power must be tempered with a spirit of love. We are called to love other as ourselves.

Our calling is a "High" calling. (Phil. 3:14)

Our calling is unchangeable. (Rom. 11:2)

Christ has chosen us to be His representatives on earth. In light of this truth, the Apostle Paul challenges us to live lives worthy of the calling we have received--the awesome privilege of being called Christ's very own. This includes being humble, gentle, patient, understanding, and peaceful. People are watching our live. Can they see Christ in you? How well are you doing as His representative? (Eph. 4:1-8)

By: Rev. Jerome Nelson



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## Millard Community Covenant Church calls Kristen Nelson as Their Senior Pastor



Millard Community Covenant Church in Elkhorn, WI called Kristen Nelson as their Senior Pastor. She was installed on Sunday, October 18, 2015 by Superintendent Jerome Nelson.

Pastor Kristen said, "I am so blessed to be ministering at Millard Community Covenant Church in Elkhorn, WI! The road to get here has been paved with prayer, determination, quietly listening to God's voice, and faithfulness to God's call--for both herself and her new church family. What an honor it is to serve this wonderful church family as we work together to do God's work in this small

country church in the hills of Wisconsin. I am excited to see what the future holds for us all. In our church, there is a sense of anticipation, as we await God's leading. We know that He is "moving and shaking," and we stand on the ready to see and hear what He will call us to next! Sometimes, God make us wait. I know that the congregation at Millard Covenant waited for just the "right" pastor to come that would be the missing "puzzle piece" for their fellowship. For myself, I waited two years for God to call me to a ministry that was just the right fit--a place that felt like "Home." Our hearts are filled with mutual joy, as we have found each other. Whatever comes next, we know that God will be guiding us just as He guided us to find each other. Please pray for our little country church, as we work to be faithful to what God has called us to do and be. And pray for me, as I lead and guide with God's help." Praise be to God!



By: Joanne Nelson



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## **In keeping with our Conference initiative "Developing A Deborah"**



On September 27th, 2015, Rev. Michaile Broadnax, Senior Pastor of Evangelical Covenant Church Portage, Indiana blessed the members of Fellowship Christian Church of Oak Park with a powerful sermon from the book of Exodus entitled "The Golden Calf and gods at war." Emphasizing how we need to avoid making our family, jobs and even ourselves gods.

Also, beautiful gospel music was performed acappella "Master Key" a gospel trio who has been singing together for over 35 years. Our Worship time together culminated in a delicious food fellowship and more music.



By: Rev. Debbie Griffith- Samuels



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## **New Online Giving Solution provided by the ECC**

Many of you already utilize the services of our online giving vendor partnership. This is a wonderful way to enhance local giving to both directed and unrestricted ministry. While market data suggests great and increasing effectiveness of online giving mechanisms, the reality is that transaction costs continue to present a barrier to greater deployment.

Our team has been very active in negotiating with multiple vendor partners to create an innovative and much more attractive value proposition for online giving. Specifically, we are now able to offer an online giving solution that charges the following processing rates...

**0.00% for ACH/Echeck**

**1.5% for Credit/Debit Card**

You can learn more about the solution <http://www.covchurchgiving.com/OnlineGiving-2015.pdf>. Also, you can see examples of how other ECC churches are using the solution <http://www.covchurchgiving.com/t-samples.aspx>.

I can assure you that this solution is now one of the lowest cost programs you will find, anywhere! If you are interested, please call Jeremy Boston at (847) 463-2931 (or email, [jboston@covchurchgiving.com](mailto:jboston@covchurchgiving.com)) and he can answer any questions you may have about implementing the solution.