

EVANGELISM COMMISSION'S ANNUAL REPORT

Evangelism Commission
Report to the
Central Conference Annual Meeting 2017
and the
Central Conference Ministerial Association Annual Meeting 2017



I am encouraged by the new initiatives that are offered by our church body through the **Make and Deepen Disciples** Mission Priority, and grateful for the Central Conference's participation. **Make and Deepen Disciples** provides the ministry of **Evangelism**, and last year, we were blessed to have as our guest at the Central Conference Annual Meeting **Beth Seversen**, who now serves The Covenant as **Director of Evangelism**.

- ✓ **Learn more about the Covenant's Evangelism Strategies at covchurch.org/evangelism**

In late summer, a number of Covenant Pastors attended **Amplify**, a conference focused on Evangelism. Sponsored by the Billy Graham Center for Evangelism at Wheaton College and the Mission America Coalition, Amplify featured an **Organic Outreach Intensive** attended by many of those Covenant Pastors who attended.

- ✓ **Learn more about Organic Outreach at organicoutreach.com**

Amplify will be held again June 27-29, at Harvest Bible Chapel, Naperville IL. I encourage Covenant Pastors to attend, and encourage their churches to underwrite the cost of your pastors' attendance.

- ✓ **Learn more about Amplify 2017 at amplifyconference.tv**

In the early fall 2016, a **cohort** of ten Covenant Pastors began. The cohort brings these pastors together for study, learning, prayer and accountability as we seek to raise the evangelism temperature in our lives, our congregations, and our conference. The cohort is one of eight cohorts in Covenant Churches across the US, involving some eighty Lead Pastors – approaching 10% of all Lead Pastors in our church body.

I ask your prayers as we (the pastors participating in this year's cohort) strategize how we can build on the good foundation that has begun through the Evangelism cohort and related efforts in our conference.

- ✓ **Learn more about Evangelism cohorts at covchurch.org/evangelism/lead**

By now, I hope your church has heard about, and has perhaps taken some steps in the **BLESS Intentional Evangelism Initiative**. This strategic plan invites Christians to engage with unbelieving friends through these simple steps:

B **Begin with Prayer**
L **Listen with Care**
E **Eat a meal together**
S **Serve in Love**
S **Share your story of faith in Jesus**

- ✓ **Learn more about the BLESS Missional Practices at covchurch.org/bless**

Rick Lindholtz

CENTRAL CONFERENCE MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

Report to the Central Conference Annual Meeting and the Ministerial Association Meeting 2017

The Central Conference Ministerial Association (CCMA) is made up of Pastors and ministers holding credentials (ordination, commission, licensure) in The Evangelical Covenant Church.

The CCMA is led by an Executive Committee elected by its membership. The Executive Committee leads the CCMA as together we provide care in three specific ways:

We care for the Fellowship of Covenant Pastors and Church Ministry Staff, predominantly by planning two events each year: an Annual Meeting in late April, and a Fall Retreat in early October.

And **we care for the ordination** of Covenant Pastors in part by forming a Committee on Ministerial Standing (COMS) from the members of our association. These members interview Pastors as they move towards final, permanent credentialing. As a body, the CCMA votes to recommend these pastors as they move through the process of credentialing.

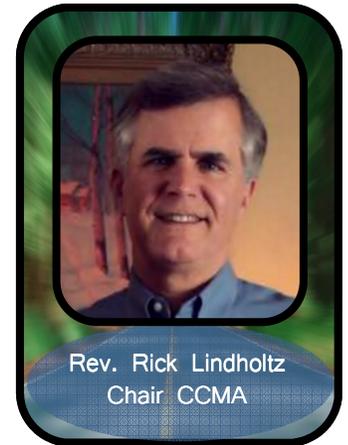
Pastors who hold credentials in the Central Conference of The Evangelical Covenant Church (licensed, commissioned or ordained) are members of the CCMA, with privileges and responsibilities. In order to maintain “good standing”, they are asked to do these things:

- Pay dues of \$125 per year to the CCMA, which is split between our national church body and the conference;
- Complete the annual Vocational Growth Survey;
- Update their Covenant Profile once every three years; and
- Maintain healthy relationships with their Covenant Ministry Colleagues.

Our Ministerial Association met twice in 2016. Our first gathering took place April 28-29, 2016 in Iron Mountain, Michigan. **Dr. Ross D. Peterson**, Executive Director of Midwest Ministry Development and ordained pastor in the Evangelical Covenant Church, spoke to those in attendance on the topic **Beyond Surviving: Flourishing in Ministry**. Our gathering went on to conduct our Annual Meeting at that time.

Our second gathering was our Annual Retreat, which is designed to benefit Lead Pastors, Staff Pastors and Ministers, and Spouses of those in ministry. It took place October 3-5, 2017, at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. This retreat featured two speakers: **Rev. Jerome Nelson**, our Superintendent, attending his final Retreat in that role before stepping into retirement at the end of August; and **Dr. Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom**, who spoke on **“Reading the Bible in a Complex World”**.

The Ministerial Association will gather again for the annual retreat at Covenant Harbor, October 2-4, 2017. Please see the next “Save the Date” page for additional information.



CENTRAL CONFERENCE MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION

Report to the Central Conference Annual Meeting and the Ministerial Association Meeting 2017

Pastors and Ministers, this is for you.
Churches and Church Board members,
it is to your advantage to make it easy
for your ministry staff to attend.

SAVE THE DATE

The Central Conference

FALL RETREAT

for Pastors and Spouses

OCTOBER 2-4, 2017

at Covenant Harbor, Lake Geneva, WI

The goal of our Fall Retreat is to encourage and refresh Pastors and Spouses through rich fellowship, an escape from our schedules for several days, and reflecting together on our spiritual journey as those in a vocational calling.

with Guest Speaker Rev. Byron Spradlin . . .

“Surviving My Public Ministry by Resetting My Personal Worship”

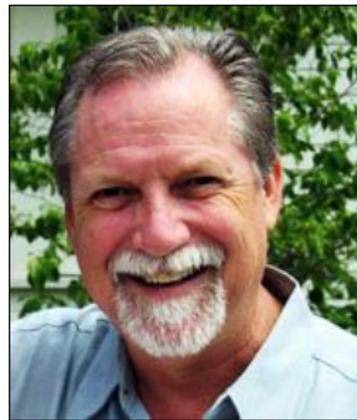
Four Sessions:

- ✓ Worship: Falling in Love with God
- ✓ Worship: Getting Comfortable with my Calling to be with God
- ✓ Worship: Developing a Daily Companionship Worship Walk with God
- ✓ Worshiping Personally: 7 Practices that Liberate My Soul

About Byron Spradlin . . .

God has used Byron, since he surrendered his life to Christ at age 19, as a musician, recording artist, published songwriter (ASCAP & NARAS), youth pastor, worship pastor, evangelist, church planter, senior pastor, Bible teacher, professor, and artists-in-missions strategist.

Byron is the Founder and President of Artists in Christian Testimony Intl. A.C.T. Intl exists to mobilize and equip artistic and innovative ministries and missionaries for Christian work around the world. Byron serves as the international *Senior Associate for the ARTS* for the global Lausanne Committee for World Evangelization. He is professor of Worship, Imagination & the Arts at Williamson College in Franklin TN. He also serves as Vice-Chair of the international Jews for Jesus mission, having previously served 35 years as Founding Board Chair and the performance coach for their first music-evangelism team, *The Liberated Wailing Wall*. Since 2014, he has served on the Board of *World Venture* mission agency based in Denver, CO



His ministry experience ranges through almost 50 nations, and from arts in evangelism, missions and ministry, to Jewish & Muslim Evangelism, to church planting, to worship ministry and coaching, and the theology of worship, imagination and the arts.

REPORT FROM WOMEN MINISTRY CENTRAL CONFERENCE

Report to the Central Conference Annual Meeting

Triennial XV "Quenched" in Kansas City, Missouri - July 2016

We prepared to celebrate 100 Years of women in ministry. In preparation, Presidents from across the national conference connected and served as advisors, and coordinated as a team for this event to take place.

Over 900 women from various cultural background and ages attended. There were also Triennial X Men who attended and were very helpful with some of the heavy lifting and sound equipment. We are grateful for their presence "wouldn't want to have done this without them".

Triennial XVI will be held in Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2019

Upper Peninsula - Great Lakes region in Covenant Point :

- held their Spring Celebration in Covenant Point: 100 women attended
- Held their Fall Retreat "Spiritual Contentment" at Covenant Point Bible Camp 2016: 63 women, but normally 100 women attend
- is preparing for Gather and Works Project for Spring Celebration in April 29, 2017

Women Ministry Central Conference

Fall Retreat 2016

- Hosted By Wisconsin (Badger District)
- Theme: "Fortify" Attendance 2016 276, but normally 300 plus women

August 2016

- Met with WMCC Leadership Team that consist of officers, focus ministry chairs and AVA region coordinator, district liaisons and ministry coaches.
- Formed a team of 6 ladies and myself. We clarified each position and expectations of each role. Completed in February 2017 to be presented in our Spring Celebration '17.
- Updated the Constitution WMCC.

We:

- offer \$500.00 scholarships to women who attend North Park University
- give a stipend to new church plants for women ministry initiatives
- offer Scholarships for Fall Retreat to help women who have financial hardships last year we supported 44 women
- also will come to your church and share why women ministry is important to the life of the church.
- also pick a programs to support for areas we are hosting retreats

EX: Bought dressers for a women and children shelter

- made 100 blankets for a children shelter
- made dresses to send to Cameroon to cloth women and girl

WMCC is Conference Project 2017 We are only able to give due to generous donations from all who support Women Ministry. We appreciate all the contributions whether financial, talent or your time.

WMCC Leadership Team will continue to connect with Churches within their Districts throughout the Conference. We continue with covenant cores of growing leaders through the Word of God to make and deepen disciples.

We are embracing and sharing the "BLESS" Initiative at our Spring Celebrations and Fall Retreats and as we go out to various churches and communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Thelma E. Lawson, President Of WMCC



REPORT FROM APPROPRIATED CHURCH

Report to the Central Conference Annual Meeting

Kingdom Covenant Church 2016 Report

Dear Sisters and Brothers, it is my joy to share with you about the wonderful things God is doing in and through Kingdom Covenant Church. We are in an infancy stage as a church but there is great evidence of God's work among us and clear signs of healthy growth.

In July after two years of preparation, we signed the Covenant Agreement with the Central Conference. We also completed an 11-month Bible study through the entire book of Acts. During which we gathered weekly to study verse by verse through Acts paying careful attention to principles of kingdom expansion into new communities and apostolic church planting. This helped prepare us theologically and developed our understanding of the New Testament Church as it was birthed.



Our aim was to fulfill God's call to start a church in the Roseland/Pullman area on the south side of Chicago. Out of 72 communities in Chicago, Roseland is 6th on the list of the most violent in our cities. It is an under resourced community that is in need of the extra support a community engaged church could provide. However, the challenge to get started was quite burdensome. We wrestled with finding space in the community we felt God was calling us to serve. Just weeks before we were set to launch we had no place in the community to hold our services. Mission Covenant Church in Blue Island, IL opened their doors and allowed us to use their sanctuary on Sundays during the month of August.

We took advantage of this blessing to have prayer services. Every Sunday we prayed for guidance about how to move forward on our journey. After much prayer and labor, the Lord provided for us the Curtis School of Excellence as our worship venue. Curtis is an elementary school located in the heart of the Roseland community (32 E. 115th Street, Chicago, IL 60628). Our services begin at 10am in the auditorium. You may enter through the rear entrance of the school for worship.

We held our launch service on September 11, 2016. The theme, "Nine One One," addressed the emergency our community was faced with and the need for the church we were planting. The message at our launch service came from Amos 9:11 (nine one one), a passage that reflects a time when the Israelites were in a state of emergency. We launched with just around 170 people in attendance. Since launching our average weekly attendance has been in the 60-70 range. There's been many curves and turns along this journey but God has been faithful to us.

The church planting journey is strenuous and very taxing on the body and mind. I have learned how to pay attention to my body and become more disciplined with my devotional life. This has proved to be helpful. It doesn't make it easy but it helps me to keep moving. I have also learned that this work requires more than the church planting team. The body of Christ collectively contributing has made a difference in our journey.



REPORT FROM APPROPRIATED CHURCH

Report to the Central Conference Annual Meeting

Critical to our launch were partnerships with key churches in the Central Conference. I thank God for Pastor Derek Boggs and the Evangelical Covenant Church of Princeton, IL., Pastor Michael Langer and the Glen Ellyn Evangelical Covenant Church, Pastor Shaun Marshall and Community Covenant Church of Blue Island, IL., and Pastor Peter Hawkinson and Winnetka Covenant Church in Wilmette, IL. These ministries helped to make our launch possible, and continue to walk alongside of us collaborating in ministry and providing support on various levels.

Since launching, we have been committed to reaching the lost and building believers through evangelism. Though there's a lack of volunteers, people double up and get the work done and we are grateful. In addition to the immediate community, Kingdom Covenant Church ministered to inmates at the Lincoln Correctional Center in Lincoln, IL. Each month we provide Bible studies and chapel services for 150-200 men in this facility. We have witnessed more than 40 men invite Jesus into their lives to be their Lord.

Kingdom Covenant Church is seeing signs of healthy growth as a church plant. Families from our community are being drawn to worship. Following our launch, we began Kingdom Kids to provide space for children ages 3-11 to worship and learn about God on Sundays. Though there's a need for more volunteers the Children's ministry is thriving.

Adequate volunteers continue to be a challenge for us. Though there's a lack of volunteers around people double up and get the work done and we are grateful. The biggest struggle for us has been the challenge of funding our ministries. Like any new ministry, our church has to depend heavily upon outside contributions. Serving a poor community makes this even more of a need for us. Despite healthy attendance, for a church just starting, the size of our congregation has not grown to a point to handle all the costs of ministry by itself. This has been the most humbling part of our experience. A balance of learning how to pray, trust God and ask people for help when we need it. I thank God for the struggle because I am learning a lot through it and I thank God for the blessings because it reminds us that it is God doing the work more than we are.

Kingdom has been intentional about community outreach and mission. Thanks to the support of many, we were able to provide school supplies for over 100 children in the community. On October 31, we gathered in the community to give out treat bags packed with candy and Christian tracts for the neighborhood children trick or treating. We prayed for the neighborhood and our presence provided a light on Halloween for the community. I was surprised to see the response of our congregation for a clothes and food drive in December. Through their contributions we were able to provide Christmas gifts for disadvantaged children and over 30 turkeys for families in need. I am so thankful to God that our congregation is learning early in our development, the importance of community outreach and service. It is truly a joy to be able to make a difference in this stage of our journey. We are thankful for the support of the ECC and the Central Conference to help us serve our community. I am convinced that the church exists to advance the kingdom of God which reaches beyond the four walls of our gathering. We are thanking God for all that He has done in, for and through Kingdom Covenant Church. I am forever grateful for the leadership of Jerome Nelson and David Swanson who provide the guidance and the coaching that I need. This journey would have ended long ago without their help.



REPORT FROM APPROPRIATED CHURCH

Report to the Central Conference Annual Meeting

Iglesia Del Pacto Evangélico Jerusalén (Jerusalem Covenant Church)

February 2017

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ in this 131th annual meeting of The Central Conference from Jerusalem Covenant Church, we pray for God's continuance blessings upon the Central Conference and all Covenant Churches.

Dear. Sisters and Brothers

Planting a Church is a great privilege and the most amazing task a person can receive from God but it is also the most difficult and hard task to accomplish.

Over the past four years Jerusalem has had a lot of challenges, changes, ups and downs and if you know our history from previous reports you will agree with us, that it hasn't been easy but it is the call from God that keeps us going, our strong believe that God himself is planting Jerusalem Church, despite all the adversity we have confronted.

I am extremely please to announce you that Jerusalem church is moving and growing with solids steps and I feel positive to say that in God 's time, Jerusalem will be ready to be call a SOLID CHURCH.

Today, Jerusalem:

- is established in a building church, we have a healthy partnership and healthy relationship with Grace Lutheran Church, Pastor Cutler is an awesome pastor, he truly understands the kingdom of God and has open his church to bless Jerusalem with plenty of resources from his Grace Church. And it is because of this men and women that today Jerusalem is moving into another solid step and becoming more and more into a solid Church.
- Our finances structures are well developed and now the church has a clear understanding of the Budget expensive and how to use it.
- In terms of leadership structure, Jerusalem have amazingly well developed, is well organize and getting stronger.
- Our biblical educational, teachings/preaching is also well developed. On Sunday, the church provides the community with a 9:30 am Sunday school for adults and youth and children and at 10:45 am worship services.



Rev. Alberto Galvan
Church Planter



REPORT FROM APPROPRIATED CHURCH

Report to the Central Conference Annual Meeting

CONTINUES...



- On Wednesday we have our prayer day, following with a short biblical teaching for adults and children. On Saturday we do outreach, intentional evangelism door to door in the surroundings areas.

Now, Jerusalem has reach this healthy level not only for what I do but also through many hard people like Francisco, Becky, Elizabeth, Pepe, German, Lupita , Stephanie, Ruthy, Isaac, Yolanda, Erica, and of course through all the support and wise advise from Jerome Nelson and David Swanson, this are the instruments that God have been using to establish Jerusalem church.

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There is not enough words to express our gratitude, to all Central Conference Staff and Churches, thank you for been God's instruments to bring Christ Salvation to the lost, thank you for all your financial support but above all thank you for your prayers, Jerusalem Church have overcome many difficult times and challenges but it is through your prayers that we have overcome all and I know more challenges will come our way but I know that with your continuances prayer we will also overcome them.

" I have come to a deep understanding that we are only the instruments of this great task and that it is indeed God Himself who is truly planting Jerusalem Church, to God be the Glory".

May God bless you all!

Sincerely your humble servant

Alberto Galvan

