

The Central Conference Executive Board Member Overview

Central Conference Mission Statement

The Central Conference exists to serve its congregations, to unite them in common mission, to make known the good news of saving faith in Jesus Christ, to encourage a Christlike life among its congregations and their members, and to carry out Christ's redeeming work of love, mercy and justice in the world. (source: Central Conference Constitution)

Priority Areas, Goals, & Strategies

Plant Churches | Church plants are carefully grown through processes of pastoral assessment and mentoring, strategic funding partnerships, and parent church support. The vision for Central Conference church planting encompasses diverse new ministries that reach more people for Jesus Christ.

Strengthen Churches | Healthy churches produce healthy Christians and with a commitment to congregational assessment, confidential relationships, conflict resolution, mutual accountability, and the training and development of staff and leadership, the Central Conference journeys with every church toward health and growth.

Connect Churches | Ministry is better together, and through staff and district gatherings, the free Covenanter newsletter, a dynamic annual meeting, great regional events, and by celebrating and preaching at churches, the Central Conference enables shared ministry and relationships among its member churches and institutions.

General information for Board Members

The Executive Board governs conference ministries on behalf of Central Conference churches. The Board oversees the Superintendent, and his/her administrative activities.

Terms are 3 years. Board Members may serve 2 consecutive terms.

There are 9 elected members, and 5 officers.

Terms begin May 1. Elections are held at the Conference Annual Meeting in April.

New Member Board Orientation occurs before the July board meeting.

4 meetings per year (January, April, July and October), on Saturdays, one of which is immediately prior to the Conference Annual Meeting. Locations announced a year at a time and located at various conference churches, with at least 1 meeting in the Chicago area. Mileage travelled will be reimbursed at the currently acceptable IRS rate.

Teleconference meetings are held as needed.

Committee work (Personnel, Finance, Nominating, liaisons to Conference Commissions)

A balance is sought between male and female; clergy and lay; among ethnic groups; among age groups; among newer and long-standing affiliation with the denomination; and representation from each district in the conference.

Qualifications of a Board Member:

A personal relationship with Jesus Christ and a high moral character.

Membership in a Covenant Church of the Central Conference and support of its ministries.

Commitment to attending and participating in the quarterly Board Meetings. Poor attendance may result in being asked to resign from the board.

The Board's meetings are open and its minutes are available to members of Conference churches. Anything of a confidential nature will be discussed in Executive Session. Board members must possess a willingness to protect this confidentiality.

Possession of skills/expertise that can be of value to the Board. Because this board deals with a wide range of issues and topics, a variety of gifts are needed. Examples: leadership, legal, finance, human resources, youth ministry, social justice.

Willingness to seek the Lord's leading in matters of personal giving to the Conference. Participation in the support is important; the size of the contribution is less important. The amount given will be kept confidential. "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Luke 12:34

Board members will do whatever they are able to help the conference:

Attending the board meetings, having read the distributed materials and ready to ask questions, offer opinions and vote on issues.

Praying for the churches and the staff regularly.

Telling the Conference's story in your home church. Being a visible representative of the Conference when possible and in ways that are appropriate.

Listening to what people are saying about the conference and bringing back any significant comments to the board, board chair or superintendent.

Serving on a Conference committee or as commission liaison.