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Peterson receives nomination to head World Mission Department

Curtis D. Peterson has been nominated for the position of executive minister of the Department of World Mission of the Evangelical Covenant Church. If elected by delegates attending the 118th Annual Meeting in June, he will assume his new duties September 1.

Peterson, currently the chair of the Executive Board, is pastor of Montecito Covenant Church in Santa Barbara, California, where he has served since July 1980. He and his wife, Martie, have three children: Erik, Nils and Jonathan.



Curtis D. Peterson

“Curt has a clear understanding of the direction in which world mission is moving,” said Catherine Gilliard of Stone Mountain, Georgia, who served as chair of the search committee and serves as chair of the World Mission Committee of the Executive Board. “He also has all of the necessary skills to manage this large mission effort and to build on the foundation that has already been laid. He has the ability to cast a vision and can be a strong voice in transmitting that vision of worldwide mission to our local churches.”

A clear sense of vision and good management skills were two of five areas of strength sought by the search committee appointed by the Executive Board, which serves as

the nominating committee on behalf of the entire church. Pastoral care, a demonstrated concern for missionaries and their well-being and a heart for mission were the other desired strengths.

She stressed the importance of working with a variety of cultures. “To be effective in worldwide ministry, you have to have a comfort level in working within another context, often a cross-cultural context, where you may be the only one who is different,” she observed. “Curt consistently has been placing himself into those kinds of cross-cultural situations, which is important as most of his work will be in other parts of the world.”

“During these years at Montecito Covenant God has convicted and

called me to help mobilize the mission of the gospel in the Santa Barbara community and throughout the world,” Peterson writes in his letter of explanation sent to members of his congregation. “This conviction led to the planting of a new ‘mission outpost’ in our community, Ocean Hills Covenant Church. It led to the support of a local church plant in Isla Vista and the formation of the Santa Barbara Community Development Center as an outgrowth of that ministry.

“This conviction led to mission trips with some of you to Colombia, Alaska and Lithuania,” Peterson continues. “This conviction also prompted us to visit and encourage our missionaries in Thailand, Spain, Germany and the Czech Republic. This past summer as we studied the ‘church alive’ in Acts, I was challenged in a new way by the prom-

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Average worship attendance in local churches of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) has passed the 140,000 mark, reflecting an 11th consecutive year of attendance growth and making the Covenant one of the fastest growing denominations.

There are four components that contribute to a 48 percent growth in attendance over the past 11 years, says Gary Walter, executive minister of the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism.

First is the strength of the base of established Covenant churches. “Year in and year out, our established churches faithfully try to reach out,” Walter says. “We have a missional heart.”

Second, church planting remains a critical component to the Covenant’s mission at home. “New



churches allow us to reach into new populations,” says Dave Olson, director of church planting. At any given time, 40-50 new churches are under development. Close to 35,000 individuals attend churches newly formed in the last decade. Associate director Don Davenport focuses on church planting efforts east of the Mississippi and urban church planting throughout the denomination.

The third contributing factor is the rapid growth of ethnic ministries within the Covenant family in North America. The ECC now ministers among African-American, Hispanic, Native Alaskan, Asian-American, Korean, Sudanese, Chinese, Haitian and Vietnamese populations. Nearly 50 percent of new churches in the past four years have been churches of color.

Fourth is the trend of large churches growing larger. There are now 15 churches with an average

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Our Growing Covenant: Attendance and Giving, 1995-2002

	Attendance	Giving	Footnote: Over an eight-year period, church attendance increased 36.1% and church giving to the denomination increased 39.9%. The compound annual growth rate for attendance has been 4.5% and for church giving 4.9%
1995	103,318	\$5,852,315	
1996	108,090	6,106,750	
1997	113,763	6,402,756	
1998	117,314	6,790,633	
1999	123,912	7,292,608	
2000	128,542	7,624,377	
2001	135,343	7,912,060	
2002	140,617	8,187,547	

* Local church giving to the denomination.

Hybels to speak at 118th Annual Meeting in Rosemont, Illinois

Registration material will be mailed to local churches around mid-April for the 118th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church June 25-28 in Rosemont, Illinois, says Annual Meeting coordinator Eric Palmquist.

The worship service Wednesday evening (June 25) will officially open Annual Meeting activities with the Covenant Ministerium meeting earlier in the day. A reception fol-

lowing the opening service will welcome the new Northwest Conference Supt. Jim Fretheim and bid farewell to retiring Supt. Paul Erickson.

The preacher for the Thursday evening service will be pastor Bill Hybels of Willow Creek fame. A consecration of missionaries is also part of the service. If elected by delegates earlier in the day's business session, Curt Peterson will be welcomed as the new executive minis-

ter of the Department of World Mission during a reception following the service. John Notehelfer, former superintendent of the Pacific Southwest Conference and interim executive minister of World Mission, also will be honored.

Friday's business session will conclude at noon when Covenant Women Ministries will hold its annual luncheon meeting. A highlight of that gathering will be presentation of a proposed revised con-

stitution. The evening worship service will center on candidates for ordination, commissioning and transfer of ordination.

The Saturday morning memorial service and morning and afternoon business sessions will conclude the activities.

The three evening worship services will again be live broadcast via the Covenant Internet site at www.covchurch.org.

On-Campus housing available, but filling up as CHIC2K3 nears

More than 6,000 teenagers and adult leaders are expected to converge in Knoxville, Tennessee, to celebrate CHIC2K3 at the University of Tennessee campus July 31 through August 6.

"CHIC is a once-in-a-lifetime experience where youth are given the opportunity to hear speakers, sing praises, dig into the word and fellowship with Covenanters from around the world," said Marti Burger, director of youth and family ministries for the Department of Christian Formation. "It is a wonderful experience, either for those newly seeking God or for those that have

a deep faith. Worshiping with students from around the world and interacting with God's people can be a life-changing experience. Students are exposed to new ideas and challenged to stretch and grow in who they are and who God wants them to be."

The Tennessee campus location, site of the 2000 CHIC event, is ideal not only in that it can accommodate such large numbers of people, but because of its natural beauty that helps create an ideal setting for spiritual exploration and worship.

"Lush vegetation, mountains,

streams and southern hospitality are just a few of the wonders offered at the University of Tennessee," Burger said. "Tennessee is the perfect place to see God's handiwork in his creation. As you walk throughout the campus you will discover the many wonders of God from the landscape to his people.

"This is a place where you can meet God, relax in the sun, go whitewater rafting, hike trails, ride bikes, swim indoors or out, dive off the three-meter board at the pool, play tennis, soccer, meet new friends and deepen friendships.

It is the place to be," Burger continued.

And it is the "place to be" for more than just its natural beauty, Burger notes. "Jesus wants to meet each of us face to face, to have a personal relationship with each of his children. Our dream for CHIC2K3 is that God would make himself known more and more to each of us. CHIC2K3 is a place where we can invite Christ into our lives, allow him to remake our world and deepen our love for him."

For more information about CHIC2K3, call Burger at 773-583-0220 or visit the CHIC link at www.covchurch.org.

New Stewardship effort focuses on faithfulness and growth

The most important aspect of stewardship is not the support of church budgets—it is the deep growth in Christ that people experience as a result of faithful obedience to him.

"Stewardship is really about spiritual formation," says Donn Engbretson, executive vice president and director of stewardship for the Evangelical Covenant Church. "Stewardship is that discipleship in which we open our lives up to the deep gifts of growth and abundance that our God desires for our lives. When people are growing deeply in Christ—because they are learning the joy of giving in every aspect of their lives—the ministries of the church never lack for support. Our goal is to provide our churches with resources to help their people grow—grow in giving, grow in discipleship, grow in joy."

Engbretson believes one of the most powerful ways to communi-

cate this truth is through the testimonies of those who have experienced God's power in their lives that is unleashed by their own giving. The sharing of these testimonies is at the heart of stewardship materials called "The Soul of a Steward."

This year's quarterly installments of "The Soul of a Steward" key in on the critical connection between giving and growing. The theme for

this year is "How Stewardship Cultivates Christian Formation."

The units include:

- Fall 2002, Financial Formation: How Giving Shapes the Soul of a Steward
- Winter 2002, Sabbath Keeping: How Resting Shapes the Soul of a Steward
- Spring 2003, Gospel Sharing: How Witness Shapes the Soul of

a Steward

• Summer 2003, Sacred Listening: How Responding to Christ's Call Shapes the Soul of a Steward.

Along with the "Soul of a Steward" materials, the Department of Stewardship web page includes a financial manual, which can be accessed by visiting the Covenant website. For more information, call Engbretson at 773-907-3378.

NCP assets reach \$200 million milestone

NATIONAL COVENANT PROPERTIES (NCP) recently achieved a milestone-reaching a total of \$200 million in assets. More than \$26 million was disbursed during 2002 to Covenant churches and institutions in the form of loan draws NCP helped provide. These funds were distributed to 54 individual projects. This was made possible, in part, because some \$27 million was received from Covenanters in the form of new investments. As a result, assets increased from \$177 million to \$198 million, an 8.4 percent increase, according to David Johnson, NCP president.

This growth will enable NCP to continue to support additional loans in 2003 now anticipated to be in the \$30 million range. For more information about NCP and its work, call 800-366-6273.

The Feast 2005 returns to Keystone, Colorado

If you enjoyed The Feast 2002, you definitely will like The Feast 2005. That is the word from the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism, which has secured the same Keystone, Colorado, site for the 2005 Feast event, as well as for the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC).

As was the case in 2002, The Feast 2005 will be followed by the ECC Annual Meeting. The Feast dates are June 18-21, followed by the Annual meeting, June 21-24.

Art Greco, director of prayer and

evangelism for Church Growth and Evangelism, said post-Feast responses helped clarify needs for The Feast 2005 and to retain many of the features that made The Feast 2002 a memorable experience.

"There will be improvements in response to your input, but the general venue and feel of The Feast 2005 will parallel that of the first two gatherings," said Greco. "So if your general feelings about the last Feast were positive, your feelings about the next one will be too...no one assumed that we would be able to secure a site like Keystone again,

especially for the kinds of prices we were able to offer in 2002. However, that's exactly what we were able to do...and the cost of gathering will, in many ways, be even more reasonable than those we were able to offer in 2002!"

Information about The Feast 2005 will be sent to Covenant churches in coming months and updates will be available by visiting the Covenant website at www.covchurch.org.

For more information about The Feast 2005, call Carla Erickson at 773-907-3352.

Peterson nomination

Continued from page 1

ise that when we are filled with the power of the Holy Spirit we 'will be witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.'

"I want to express my appreciation and that of the entire church for Curt's willingness to lead this vital area of ministry," said President Glenn Palmberg. "Curt brings not only a deep passion for worldwide ministry, but he also brings a depth of experience in pastoral care, which will prove valuable as he ministers to our missionaries and staff, providing good counsel, support and encouragement as they labor in various parts of the world."

ECC, Overflow Ministries partner to promote racial righteousness in Covenant churches

A NEW SCHOOL OF RACIAL RIGHTEOUSNESS is one example of a proactive response by the Evangelical Covenant Church to increasing diversity and easing racial tension throughout the world. New curriculum has been designed to assist local Covenant churches in ministering to individuals of differing racial and ethnic backgrounds. The material was developed by Overflow Ministries, headed by Brenda Salter McNeil, and was introduced during a two-day workshop during the recently concluded 2003 Midwinter Conference.

"Will the church lead the way proactively in combating the inevitable mounting discords created by these tensions, or will we find ourselves in a reactive mode, addressing problems as they occur?" asks Debbie Blue of the Department of Christian Formation. "Is your local congregation ready to be equipped to become God's agents for change and his ambassadors of racial and ethnic reconciliation?"

For more information on the School of Racial Righteousness and the new curriculum, contact Blue at 773-583-0220.

Estate Planning enables people, ministries

Covenant Estate Planning Services works with individuals and couples to help them financially plan for their own needs and those of their families and the ministries they care about (their charitable dreams.) It also works with the ministries that enable those charitable dreams to professionally manage the assets with which they are entrusted.

In 2002, Covenant Estate Planning Services accomplished a number of goals on behalf of individuals and ministries:

- Covenant churches, conferences and conference ministries received more than \$1 million from wills, trusts and other charitable deferred gifts last year through distributions facilitated by Covenant Estate Planning Services

- Approximately \$3.1 million in future gifts from deferred gift

agreements and wills were designated for Covenant churches, conferences and conference ministries during 2002

- A Covenant Estate Planning Services and Covenant Trust Company website made its debut at www.CovenantEstatePlanning.org

- Covenant Estate Planning Services and Covenant Trust Company adopted a two-year strategic plan that puts emphasis on a greater partnership with local Covenant churches, pastors and ministries

- Covenant Trust Company continues to serve both individuals and Covenant ministries by providing trustee and investment management services, now managing more than \$284 million in fiduciary assets

"Financial and estate planning have a direct connection to stewardship, both at the individual and the ministry level," said Chuck

Wallis. "Much is said and written about the use of current gifts and resources to help the ministries of the Covenant. Covenant Estate Planning Services tries to help people understand that they can also exercise stewardship of accumulated resources through their estate plan. Covenant ministries also need to exercise responsible stewardship in the management of their own resources, and Covenant Estate Planning Services is available to provide assistance there as well."

Call Covenant Estate Planning Services at 800-637-7282 to obtain support materials to help publicize seminars, encourage bequests or provide information in local church settings. A Covenant Estate Planning officer is located in each conference—check the organization's website for names and telephone numbers.

School supplies for Congo kids

Local Evangelical Covenant churches are invited to join a cooperative ministry effort to improve the quality of educational life for children living in Congo.

School Supplies for Congo Kids is a joint project of the departments of Christian Formation and World Mission, the African-American Ministers' Association and Covenant World Relief. The 24-week project seeks to educate and enlist the support of local Covenant church kids using a booklet containing 24 short stories about children in Congo.

"Each week as children in the United States give, they are reminded of where their offering is going," says Steve Burger, director of children and family ministries. "As they hear the stories of faith of the Congo children, they are helped in their own faith development."

Some churches are participating over the full 24 weeks, but others are adapting the material to fit their own church's ministry, according to Burger. "Covenant children in the Congo are helped significantly by every church that chooses to participate at any time during the 24 weeks. Churches will receive an update on how their offering is making a life-long difference in the lives of Congo children."

For more information, call Christian Formation staff at 773-583-0220. A project video is available through the Covenant Resource Center at 800-338-4332.

World Mission outreach spans five continents, 22 countries

A passion for worldwide ministry continues to be a driving force of the Evangelical Covenant Church, reflected in the myriad of activities on the five continents served by the denomination's Department of World Mission. Following is a recap of some of the highlights of that outreach effort.

LATIN AMERICA

Colombia. Richard and Marlys Johnson retired in December after serving 26 years—the first career missionaries to Colombia to have reached retirement. Seven new churches joined the Colombia Covenant Church with several others in progress. Eight ministers were ordained. There are now 2,000 children being served by 32 hospitals and clinics. This past Christmas, the Covenant Kids Foundation in Colombia distributed 4,000 gifts to children in 16 neighborhoods where Covenant Churches are located. For many of the children, it was the only gift they received for Christmas.

Ecuador. Covenant Bible College, Ecuador, continues its min-

istry to young adults. This past year, the school purchased property that is being renovated for a new campus, aided in part by 20 volunteer work teams. The CIPE Bible School will take place July 6 to August 17, involving students and instructors from several Latin American countries, and an international Youth Congress will be held July 24-27 in Quito. Both events are being organized by CIPE, the Confederation of Latin American Covenant Churches.

local Covenant churches located in the three major regions in the state of Oaxaca. The majority are in the Sierra Mountains among indigenous people including the Zapotecs, the Mixes and the Chinantecs. Missionaries are involved in pastoral training, promoting and implementing the new Covenant 12-year Spanish language curriculum, as well as working with women's ministries. Fuentes Libres, also in Oaxaca, continues to be involved in transformational development ministry. In Monterrey, the Foundation for Family Development is offering classes on marriage, parenting, spirituality and an introduction to Christianity (using the Spanish version of the Alpha course). Project Down has developed into a self-directed core group of concerned parents who have a child with Down's syndrome. A pilot program ministering to single mothers also recently began.

Argentina. Covenant missionaries Brian and Kerith Weld will soon begin work with the Movimiento Cristiano y Misionero, a grass-roots movement not built



Educational efforts to adults and children have enabled CIPE to better minister to churches in Latin America and Mexico. The educational process continues as a CIPE Bible school and youth congress are set for July.

around a centralized administrative structure, where they will develop a network of relationships. The first annual meeting of the Covenant Church of Argentina (La Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico de Argentina or IPEA) took place in January. Patricio Valenzuela was installed as the president of IPEA. The group plans to send its first missionary to Uruguay.

EUROPE/RUSSIA

Czech Republic.

Last summer and fall were largely focused on



Covenanters in the Czech Republic helped minister to families and individuals in the area after flooding devastated much of the country.

dealing with the aftermath of floods of the Elbe and Danube rivers that devastated much of the post-Cold War investment of the past decade. The homes of Covenant missionaries escaped damage; however, some partner churches and pastors were affected. Many people had no flood insurance, but with the generous outpouring of financial aid and donations, many received the help they needed to get their businesses back in running order and to secure housing repairs or replacement.

France. Covenant missionaries Francisco and Stephanie Ramos continue to lay the groundwork for evangelism ministries for the 2003 Year of the Bible in France. Covenant missionaries will present the gospel through a ministry of Christian arts involving local churches. Along with evangelism, the hope is that local French churches will be able to use this culturally appropriate outreach ministry to expand their influence in their communities.

Germany. In August there was an extensive outreach in Halle involving a German team of 16 young people (15 from the western and one young woman from the eastern part of Germany). The team provided much of the counseling, street evangelism and relational aspects of the outreach that an English speaking team could not do as effectively. A team from Arvada Covenant Church in Colorado was part of this effort. The ministry in Germany is changing its focus—a new strategic plan has been developed by the former and present missionaries in discussion with the Cov-

enant's German church partners that targets urban areas and marginalized people in communities where new churches are being started. Covenanters from North America can complement the German church planting efforts by providing volunteer personnel who can help them reach deeper into their local communities.

Russia. Keith Tungseth, the facilitator for Russia Ministries, is coordinating ministry opportunities with Covenant Women Ministries in conjunction with the orphanage ministries of Children's Hopechest (an organization which allows Covenant churches to be appropriately and effectively involved in Russian ministry). Covenant ministries in Russia are somewhat unique in that there are no Covenant career missionaries there—and the present short-term missionary will return to Germany for additional mission training next June. Tungseth has helped numerous churches evaluate their involvement in Russia local church initiatives and connect them to appropriate ministries.

Spain. A creative outreach to teenagers via sports—skateboarding and break dancing—was sponsored in Malaga. A variety of Christian concerts drew between 150 and 300 people each night. There were some teenage conversions as well as an entire family of six who immigrated from Argentina. In November, La Coruña was the site for an intensive mission course for 40 Hispanic pastors from the U.S. and Puerto Rico. Covenant missionary Rob Reed led worship at this event. Development of a new ministry to

Muslims in Spain is another area of prayerful interest.

CHINESE MINISTRIES

South Africa. On January 5, the South Africa Chinese Covenant Church (SACCC) celebrated the opening and dedication service of its ministry center in the New China Town area of Joberg in Johannesburg, South Africa, the area of Johannesburg where most of the new immigrants from China congregate upon arrival. SACCC is committed to ministering to those who speak Mandarin and have immigrated from China, Taiwan, Hong Kong or elsewhere. They also have a strong vision to minister to English-speaking Chinese. On January 17-19, Chinese Ministries Coordinator, David Dolan was invited to take part in the church's first mission conference. A Covenant Women Ministries work team of 15 women provided a vacation Bible school for children in January.

Taiwan. The Taiwan Covenant Church celebrated its 50th anniversary in May. Some 3,500 people attended, representing 32 churches in Taiwan and six churches outside the country. Representatives included all of the Asian/Pacific Covenant Churches in Japan, Thailand, Philippines, Korea and New Zealand. There were also representatives from the U.S. and South African Covenant

project doing microenterprise development.

This was the third such gathering of the Asia Covenant churches. During the week the group was divided into two teams and visited some remote villages on a short mission trip.

Japan. The Japan Covenant Seminary celebrated its 50th anniversary October 14. The seminary has trained more than 450 church leaders in many denominations during the last 50 years. Preparations are also under way at the Odawara Christian Center for a new ministry to those who need temporary shelter. A major focus will be victims of domestic violence. This coming summer, the vacation Bible school project will assist the Christian Academy in Japan with new playground equipment. The Camp Project for 2003 will also be based in Japan. Akagi Bible Camp will complete much-needed renovation.

Laos. Friend of the Upland Farmer (FUF) continues to expand its holistic outreach. FUF assists upland farming communities develop viable livelihoods and maintain vital forest resources in the rapidly changing environment of Northwest Laos. A much larger crop of cardamom and corn have been harvested and marketed. Fishpond digging has nearly been completed.

in the rural village of Infanta.

Thailand. A couple from the Thailand Covenant Church, A and Tik Prometta, were commissioned and sent to work in Laos. This is the first time that people from the Thailand Covenant Church have been sent out as their representatives. The Prometta's are working with devel-

Covenant missionary kids in Africa attend this secondary school. There is currently a need for short-term missionaries to serve as teachers for the 2003-2004 school year. Thanks goes to Peninsula Covenant Church in Redwood City, California, for arranging the donation of 40 desktop computers to the school.



A mission conference sponsored by the Covenant Church of Congo (CEUM) helped to train people for evangelism efforts to unreached people throughout Africa. A leadership conference was also held in Kenya to new Covenanters in that country.

opment workers who are serving in northwestern Laos. The majority of their support is coming from the Udon Thani, (Thailand) area. The Thailand Covenant organizations in Roi Et, Udon Thani, and Bangkok are producing and marketing products in North America in partner-

Central African Republic. A conference on contextualized ministries to Muslim and Fulani in the Central African Republic (CAR) was held in mid-December. The conference involved several Fulani ministry teams that work in Africa, including Covenant World Mission, allowing missionaries to gain insight into ministry to the Fulani people. The last few months has seen unrest in the CAR. As a precautionary measure, Covenant missionaries were asked to move out of Bangui, the capital city, and other locations and into Cameroon.

Congo. In August, the Congo Covenant Church (CEUM) held a mission awareness conference in Gbadolite, Democratic Republic of Congo. This was the first conference of its kind in this part of Africa and it came out of the vision of the CEUM. About 170 participants from 35 denominations attended. The people groups in focus were: Pygmies, Muslims and two groups that still practice strong local spirit cults—the Lutos and Zande. Pastors Jerome Nelson and Darryl Johnson from the U.S. spoke at a number of different locations.

Equatorial Guinea. Doors for ministry continue to open for Covenant missionaries Tim and Helen Smith. One of the young men Tim led to Christ last year has led

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Did You Know?

A total of 413 individual church requests for missionary visits were filled this past year. There were 30 mission festivals involving 135 World Mission representatives who spent a combined total of 813 days in travel and participation. Twenty Covenant camps requested a missionary presence with 54 weeks worth of coverage provided.

Churches. The Taiwan Covenant Church's national board has established a mission committee to develop a more unified strategy for doing world mission. Their first meeting was held in October.

ASIA

India. More than 30 Covenant representatives from India, Taiwan, Thailand, the Philippines, Laos and Japan gathered for a consultation on mission in Asia January 14-19. This consultation was held in Bangalore, hosted by India for Christ Ministries Covenant Church (IFCM). IFCM is involved in church planting ministries in eight states of India. They have also begun a pilot

This will allow FUF to begin raising and marketing Tilapia fish.

Philippines. In August, a fire swept through a neighborhood in Pasig City where the Jesus Evangelical Covenant Church is located. Approximately 40 homes were destroyed and 100 families displaced (most of the homes housed multiple family units). With funds from Covenant World Relief and other local help, the leaders of the Covenant church there are reaching out to those who are in need of shelter, food and clothing. Church leaders also continue to facilitate a microenterprise development revolving loan fund project, ministering to the poor in Pasig City and

ship with Covenant Bookstore in Chicago. These organizations train individuals to produce a specific product, providing an important source of supplementary income.

AFRICA

Burkina Faso. A very poor harvest has been reported in the north area of Burkina Faso, particularly where Galen and Jill Johnson studied Fulfuldé, the language of the Fulani. While they have been on home assignment, the cell group that met at Galen and Jill's home has continued to meet.

Cameroon. The partnership with Rain Forest International School continues as many of the

President's Circle connects Covenanters to shared ministry

The President's Circle will host events this year in Minneapolis, Minnesota; Grand Rapids, Michigan; and Rockford, Illinois.

The President's Circle is designed to connect Covenanters with Evangelical Covenant Church leaders and provide an opportunity to participate in shared ministry. Part of the effort involves President Glenn R. Palmberg, Executive Vice President Donn N. Engebretson and other Covenant administrators meeting with Covenanters throughout the country at various events.

"People often have a lot of ques-

tions when they receive an invitation to a President's Circle event," Engebretson noted, including: Why did I get this? Who else will be there? What is going to happen at this event? The purpose of these events is three-fold: to connect involved Covenanters with denominational leadership to learn about and interact concerning issues of vision and ministry, to thank those who have been generous in the past and to extend an invitation to become members of the President's Circle.

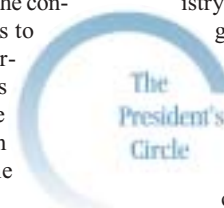
"When organizing a President's Circle event, we invite a wide range

of interested Covenanters," Engebretson continued. "We work with local pastors as well as the conference superintendents to create a guest list. Current and past members of the President's Circle are also invited and often help in planning the event."

Members of the President's Circle make annual unrestricted gifts of \$1,000 or more above and beyond their tithes to their own local churches. "The collection of gifts from many is used strategically where the needs are greatest,"

says Palmberg. "This is a day of unprecedented opportunity for ministry and the President's Circle gifts make a huge impact on the advance of the Good News through the Covenant Church."

For more information about the President's Circle and the ministries it supports, call Engebretson at 773-907-3378. To join the President's Circle or to inquire about upcoming events, contact Dan Erickson, associate director of strategic giving at 773-907-3330 or by email at dan.erickson@covchurch.org.



World Mission

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another 20 people to the Lord, including his mother and sister. At the end of August, Tim and his disciples were in a nearby village church and seven came to the Lord. Tim's disciples will disciple the new believers, creating a second generation of discipleship. Helen has started a Bible club for neighborhood children and a women's Bible study. In November, nine people were baptized and the first communion service celebrated.

Kenya. A Leadership Training Conference was conducted last year, designed to teach basic Covenant principles and leadership models to many new people who have joined the young Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya during the last two years. A team ministered through a medical clinic, training for women leaders, sports camp and a vacation Bible school. There is also interest in ministry in Kenya on the part of several North American Covenant churches.

CHURCH RELATIONS

The Keystone Challenge. Much effort has been invested in the Keystone Challenge that grew out of a proposal approved by delegates to last year's Annual Meeting in Keystone, Colorado. The proposal called for increased funding to sustain world mission ministry initiatives in the face of decreased reserve funds that helped support those initiatives in the past. Last fall, a campaign was launched to generate support from local Covenant churches.

The Leadership-in-Residence

Program. Last year marked the inauguration of the Leadership-in-Residence Program, intended to connect international Christian leaders with local Covenant churches. Three new leaders from Congo were to visit North America from April to June this year: Reverend Ngenema who will be in Kansas City, Missouri; Mister Ngando will be in Portland, Oregon; and CEUM President Luyada will be traveling to Chicago, Illinois. They will take intense English classes as well as visit Covenant Churches.

Project Missionary Program.

The Department of World Mission has historically offered two ministry tracks for missionaries: career and

short-term mission service. A third track has been developed as a pilot program, called the Project Missionary Program.

The program is project-oriented with missionaries serving from three to five years on strategic projects that enhance mission outreach. The new program is tailored for individuals seeking to serve in world mission for longer than two years, but less than a normal career period. It is hoped the program will place the Covenant in a stronger position to respond to new needs and opportunities for mission and to the increased number of Covenant congregations and people that are expressing a passion for mission service.

CHIC2K3. Seventeen missionary kids are eligible to attend this year's event—several will need to travel from abroad to reach CHIC at the University of Tennessee campus in Knoxville. Many of the young people are located in countries where there is very little Christian youth and where fellowship with more than a few young people is not possible. CHIC provides them with a powerful experience and exposure to thousands of believers their own age.

Those interested in sponsoring one of the missionary kids to travel to CHIC may contact world mission staff by telephone at 773-907-3321 or by email at world.mission@covchurch.org.

CBC-Midwest names new executive director

JEFF MAZZARIELLO has accepted the position as executive director of Covenant Bible College (CBC)-Midwest, replacing Paul Lessard who accepted a call to join the pastoral team at Hope Covenant Church in Strathmore, Alberta. Mazzariello will begin his new duties June 1. A graduate of University of California Davis, Fuller Theological Seminary and North Park Theological Seminary, Mazzariello has served Covenant churches in Oakland, Sacramento and San Rafael, California.

"Jeff is an excellent leader, pastor and teacher with a deep commitment to the church and particularly to equipping leaders for the emerging church," says CBC President Neil Josephson, "All of that makes him a perfect fit for Covenant Bible College."

Lessard has been with the college for 11 years. "His passion for and commitment to building the church by equipping disciples and by helping individuals and churches grow in worship have made a permanent, positive change in many, many ways. We will indeed miss him, but are also thankful he will continue to be a blessing and influence in the life of CBC and the Covenant church."

Todd Slechta, currently executive director of Covenant Bible College-Ecuador, will return to Strathmore, Alberta, to serve as executive director. Slechta and his family will relocate to CBC-Canada before the end of this year. A search for his replacement in Ecuador is ongoing.

Changes are also coming in terms of facilities CBC-Midwest is finalizing plans for a new chapel-classroom building to be constructed this summer and fall. The 5,100-square-foot building is a gift to the college from a donor couple who wish to remain anonymous. Covenant Bible College-Ecuador last fall purchased nine acres and is renovating and expanding that facility to serve as its future home.

CMB cultivates new services to developmentally disabled

The growth and development of enabling residences for developmentally disabled adults has created a sense of excitement not only among staff in Covenant Ministries of Benevolence (CMB), but throughout the Covenant as a whole.

Covenant Enabling Residences currently operates three homes: Mary's House and Joseph's House in Muskegon, Michigan; Our Place in Duluth, Minnesota; and Bjork-

lund House and Independence Place in Illinois. The three homes, which can accommodate a maximum of 16 residents each, provide an opportunity for developmentally disabled adults to live as independently as possible in a loving, caring environment. Dedicated staffs help make that possible.

"There is a tremendous need for these types of facilities around the country," says Harold Spooner, executive vice president of Outreach

Ministries. "Our facility administrator in Michigan shared that they have a waiting list of 75. Parents have called desperately seeking a good place for their adult children. The overriding concern for the parents is who is equipped to provide care when they no longer can. For some, the amount of time spent caring for their adult child becomes overwhelming."

Several Covenant churches have expressed a keen interest in seek-

ing to respond to these needs, Spooner says, noting that there are many challenges involved in starting new enabling residences. "We at CMB have tools to help churches begin the process," Spooner adds, suggesting that interested churches or individuals contact him by telephone at 773-878-8200, extension 5056, or by email at HCSpooner@covenantbenevolence.org.

CPM launches in six conferences, awards ministry grants

Six conferences in the Evangelical Covenant Church have launched the Churches Planting Ministries initiative and grants are already being awarded to participating conferences, according to Max Lopez-Cepero, director of Compassion and Justice Ministries for Covenant Ministries of Benevolence.

Participating conferences in-

clude the Central, East Coast, Great Lakes, North Pacific, Northwest and Pacific Southwest. The Midsouth Conference and the Alaska Region are exploring plans for involvement and conversations are planned with the leadership of the Canada Conference, Lopez-Cepero added.

Current grants include \$5,000 to Quest Ministries in Seattle, Washington, for development of the Quest

Community Development coffee shop/computer outreach center; \$14,550 to NearWest Covenant Connection, a new church plant in Chicago, to help establish an entrepreneurial training program for Latino and African-American youth; and \$750 to Salem Covenant Church in Duluth, Minnesota, for summer community outreach to children primarily from lower income families.

Another \$4,250 in training grants has been allotted to churches to help with expenses for representatives from various congregations who attend educational events to equip their churches for outreach to poor and at-risk people.

Conferences also have trained individuals as ministry consultants who can help churches determine how to effectively reach out to struggling people in their own or in neighboring communities. Work is also under way to develop a workshop for churches interested in learning more about reaching out to their communities through transformation ministries.

To learn more about Churches Planting Ministries, how to apply for grants, how to request a local church consultant, or for additional information and resources, visit the Churches Planting Ministries section of the Covenant website at www.covchurch.org.

Did You Know?

THE MONTH OF MAY IS CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITIES MONTH throughout the Evangelical Covenant Church. Information is available on ways to use a charitable gift annuity to designate a deferred gift to one or more Covenant ministries. (More than \$2.4 million in future dollars for Covenant ministries was designated through charitable gift annuities written in 2002.)

October is Estate Planning Month, with emphasis on various types of estate planning tools and their benefits for both individuals and Covenant ministries. Additional information is available by calling Covenant Estate Planning Services or visiting the Covenant website at www.covchurch.org or the Covenant Estate Planning Services site.

ECC attendance

Continued from page 1

attendance of 1,000 or more (the largest is Life Covenant Church in Edmond, Oklahoma, with nearly 6,000 attending on an average Sunday). There are 42 churches with an attendance of more than 600, up from 35 the previous year.

Evangelism is the driving motivation underlying all of this activity as Covenant churches reported approximately 11,000 commitments to Christ last year. Covenant congregations benefit from resources such as "Bringing My World to Christ" materials and seminars provided by the denomination, Alpha discipleship training courses and a

network of volunteer evangelism associates under the leadership of Art Greco, director of prayer and evangelism.

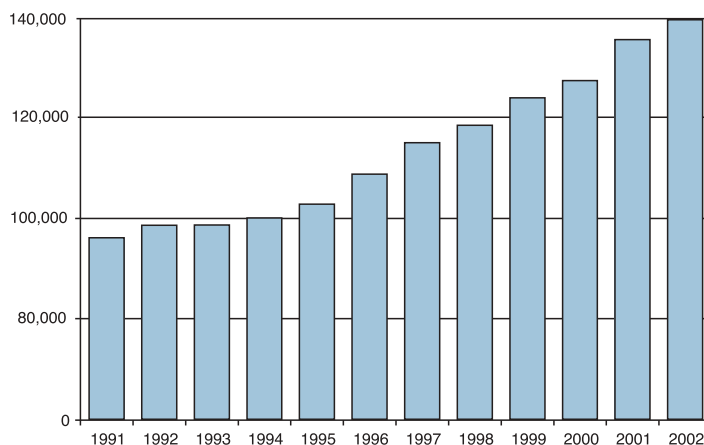
Growth creates additional demands on facilities, and Steve Dawson, director of technical services, along with associate director Rob Hall, are working with congregations to address land and facility issues. Dawson reports an unprecedented \$90 million dollars of activity in the construction pipeline.

For more information concerning resources available to assist local congregations, contact the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism at 773-784-3000 or by email at cge@covchurch.org. Don Fensterman is available to help coach

churches through fund-raising campaigns for land and facilities. He

can be reached through Department of Church Growth as well.

ECC Attendance, 1991-2002



Proposed revisions to CWM constitution to streamline ministry

A new perspective on women ministries is embodied in a revised constitution for Covenant Women Ministries (CWM) that will be mailed to local churches in April, discussed during the June CWM annual meeting in Rosemont, Illinois, and voted on in August during Triennial XI in Portland, Oregon.

“There are several major changes in this constitution that address current realities and future goals,” said Ruth Hill, executive minister. “On the top of the list is membership. From its birth in 1916, it (the organization) was defined as ‘individual members who joined an organization.’ The new constitution defines members as ‘women ministries of local congregations’—the emphasis on groups rather than individuals—and calls them Partners.”

Another proposed revision calls for policy changes to be determined at a General Assembly every three years (in conjunction with Triennial), rather than at an annual meeting. Ongoing decisions would be handled by a new broader administration made up of 12 board members elected by delegates to the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) Annual Meeting, the current CWM conference presidents, the ECC president and the CWM executive minister.

Hill believes the proposed

changes will streamline the ministry, maintain its auxiliary roots and provide more effective administration. “I love to quote one of our predecessors, Erma Chinander: ‘We weren’t meant to be an organization, we were meant to be a movement!’” Hill said. “That’s our philosophy, not an organization parallel to the church, but a ministry in and of the church, one that inspires women to grow serve and reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ!”

In other news:

- CWM sponsored a Sankofa Journey for women last October, designed to allow the women to wrestle with the realities of racial discrimination and motivate them to commit to engaging in racial reconciliation efforts. Thirty-nine women, who were cross-racially paired, participated in an extended weekend of travel by excursion bus to Birmingham, Alabama, as well as

Smithville and Atlanta, Georgia. “This was not a pleasure trip and at times it was downright painful,” said Hill. “All of us were stretched and forced to face our own prejudices.” CWM held a Sankofa reunion February 3 to allow participants to reflect on their experiences and discuss individual and corporate action toward racial reconciliation. CWM plans to sponsor more Sankofa Journeys for women in the future.

- Triennial XI will be held for four days in August at the Doubletree Inn at Jantzen Beach in Portland, the location selected in part for its convenience and walking ease for participants. CWM is searching for two keynote speakers (speakers will be announced in June) and a notable Christian recording artist and an “extreme” event for those interested. A fund-raising campaign, “Raise the Flag,” has been launched at the conference level to bring a

representative from each of the major Covenant mission fields. Registration materials will be sent to churches in July. For more information, call CWM staff at 773-907-3332 or visit the CWM link at www.covchurch.org.

- CWM celebrated three successful Cross-Cultural Opportunities for women, including trips to Oaxaca, Mexico (July 2002), the inner city of Chicago (August 2002) and Johannesburg, South Africa (January 2003). Thirty-eight women participated, representing every conference of the ECC. Participant ages ranged from 21 to 86. CWM will repeat the Chicago cross-cultural opportunity this year, educating women in various urban compassion ministries to assist them in efforts in their respective communities. Other trips are scheduled for Russia (October 1-15) and Smithville, Georgia (November 7-15).

Did You Know?

THE WOMEN’S HISTORY COMMISSION of Covenant Women Ministries is soliciting stories of individual women and groups who have made a significant contribution to the life of the church and community. Contributions will become part of “Women to Remember” volume five, according to Joann Larson of Glenview, Illinois, the current commission chair.

Stories of groups (in existence five years or longer) and individual women should be sent to Covenant Women Ministries, 5101 N. Francisco Avenue, Chicago, IL, 60625, no later than February 1, 2004.

New ordination categories to take effect at Annual Meeting

New categories of ordination will become effective with the ordination and commissioning worship service as part of the 118th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) in June.

Eighty-five individuals will participate in the liturgical rite culminating the permanent credentialing process in the Evangelical Covenant Church. The preacher for the evening will be C. John Weborg, professor of theology at North Park Theological Seminary, who will retire this year.

New categories include:

- Ordained to Word and Sacrament: Candidates typically are called to the role of lead pastor, overseeing, empowering, and enabling all forms of the church’s ministry. They have completed their Master of

Divinity and have served at least two years since completion of their degree. This year, 38 individuals will be ordained to Word and Sacrament.

- Ordained to Specialized Ministry: Candidates typically are called to serve and lead in an area of specialty as well as preach, teach and be involved in the life of the church. They have completed at least a 60-hour master’s degree in a theological field and serve in areas such as Christian education, youth, children, adults, discipleship, camping or administration/leadership. This year, two individuals will be ordained to Specialized Ministry.

- Commissioned: Candidates typically are called to focus primarily on their area of specialty, giving them a single purpose rather than broad based ministry in the

church. They hold at least a bachelor’s degree. This year, nine will be commissioned.

“Historically, the Evangelical Covenant Church has placed a high value on call to ministry as an important part of the process,” said David Kersten, executive minister of the Department of the Ordered Ministry. “We have also valued education as a significant preparation for service in the church. The new rules reflect both of those elements.”

Individuals in each category have been called and recommended by their local church, have written a comprehensive paper and have been interviewed by their conference committee on ministerial standing as well as the denominational Board of the Ordered Ministry. The votes at the June annual meeting of the Covenant Ministerium and the ECC

Annual Meeting completes the process.

This June, an additional 26 candidates who were previously commissioned will participate in a rite of transfer to Ordained to Specialized Ministry. They meet the new qualifications, but this standing was not available to them earlier in their ministry, Kersten noted. The ECC also will welcome 10 pastors who are completing their transfer of ordination from other denominations. This process requires a minimum of three years, during which time their previous ordination is recognized on a provisional basis and they complete the Covenant External Orientation Program.

For more information on the new ordination categories, call the Department of the Ordered Ministry staff at 773-583-3211.

NPU expands academic programs, facilities

North Park University (NPU) continues to re-evaluate and revitalize its programs to prepare students for lives of significance and service in 2003.

In keeping with the 2002 General Education curriculum, each academic department is reviewing its mission to identify student learning outcomes that complement the faculty approved educational outcome—programs should encourage a life of significance, intellectual growth and service.

New majors in advertising and technology are among programs added in the Undergraduate College. New School of Business and Nonprofit Management programs include a Master of Management in Nonprofit Management and the American Humanics undergraduate certificate in nonprofit management with 35 students enrolled. North Park is the only Council for Christian Colleges & Universities institution to offer this program.

Recognizing a need for leaders to minister to young people, North Park and the Evangelical Covenant Church have jointly created the Center for Youth Ministry Studies, which

offers an undergraduate degree program, seminary specialization or a certificate designed for lay leaders.

Using North Park's urban context as a window into youth culture, the program integrates formal education with practical experience and specialized training. Students learn from experts like Ginny Olson and Jim Dekker, the center's co-directors, who bring to the classroom their combined passion for youth, strong leadership skills and years of hands-on youth ministry practice. The center also is developing graduate level online courses.

A major landscaping and "green space" initiative will create student-oriented concourses and a beautiful park-like setting in the center of campus in space formerly occupied by vacated by Wallgren Library and the School of Business and Nonprofit Management.

Covenant students presently comprise approximately 30 percent of the Undergraduate College and the total number of Covenant students served through all university programs is nearly 800, the highest total in the institution's history.

University Ministries continues

its mission to exemplify, encourage and nurture a compelling witness with large numbers of students. An estimated 140 students are planning spring break and summer mission trips to Atlanta, Appalachia, Virginia, China, Cuba, Ecuador, Grand Rapids, Guatemala, Romania and Valle Hermoso, Mexico. Another 200 students work with volunteer programs like after-school tutoring. Last November's missions conference, The Road 2002, used worship, prayer and teaching to challenge believers from different churches and schools in Chicago to use their gifts to share the love of Christ.

Several outstanding speakers will share their stories during chapel, College Life and other lectures, including theologian Stanley Hauerwas; Christian author Cynthia Rowland McClure; Mark Pinsky, religion journalist and author of the book "The Gospel According to the Simpsons;" and racial reconciliation leaders Derek and Brenda Salter McNeil. North Park worship and arts coordinator Rich Johnson, a Covenant pastor's son, also will bring compelling music and messages to chapel and College Life.

Ghione, Orellana honored at CHET graduation

Forty-two students from four degree programs graduated last December during ceremonies for Centro Hispanico de Estudios Teologicos (CHET) held at Bell Gardens Covenant Church.

CHET was home to the largest student body in its 13-year history—382 students. Graduates came from CHET's Pre-Ministerial, Ministerial, Lay Counseling and Bachelor of Ministry Programs.

Roberto Ghione, pastor of Nueva Esperanza (New Hope) Covenant Church in Simi Valley, California, received the Eldon and Opal Johnson scholarship for outstanding contributions to the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC). The Johnson scholarship honors missionaries who returned from Bolivia and started the First Covenant Church in downtown Los Angeles, the initial Hispanic ministry in the Pacific Southwest Conference.

Ghione has opened a CHET satellite at his church focused on family counseling and has started a popular program with a local Hispanic radio station. He started a Saturday afternoon call-in program with CHET President Jorge Maldonado, pastor Daniel Anabalon of El Encino Covenant Church and pastor Pablo Anabalon of Iglesia del Pacto Evangelico located at Eagle Rock Covenant in Los Angeles.

Rosa Orellana, a student from Bell Gardens Covenant, received the Edith Warning award for women's ministry established by Pasadena Covenant Church in Warning's memory. Edward Delgado, CHET academic dean and vice president, and CHET treasurer John Barkman presented the awards to Ghione and Orellana.

"We are providing relevant, practical, applicable educational opportunities for lay leaders and future and present pastors," said Delgado. "Students are being equipped for service beyond our denomination."

CHET is a theological and pastoral training center for Hispanic church leaders founded in 1989. The school plans to offer a bilingual undergraduate certificate program in community transformation.

For more information, call Delgado or Maldonado at 562-806-8325 or email them at chet@chet.org.

Portland site extends NPTS academic reach

North Park Theological Seminary (NPTS) will begin offering courses in the North Pacific Conference this spring in a cooperative effort between the seminary and the Murdock Foundation, which provided a grant.

In Portland, Dr. Philip Anderson will teach History and Theology of the Covenant Church. Classes also will be offered in the Seattle area. Ken Morse, McMinnville Covenant Church in Oregon and North Park's representative, works jointly with NPTS and the conference.

"We are very excited about North Park coming to our conference," says North Pacific Conference Supt. Mark Novak. "We think this will significantly enhance conference and local church ministries."

The classes will be offered at the graduate level and will help pastoral leaders as well as lay leaders prepare for more effective ministry in the local church. Students may also sign up through SemConnect, the seminary's distance learning program, to work toward a degree. SemConnect offers classes online as well

as by an intensive format on the North Park campus and in the conference. For more information on distance learning, contact the seminary's admission office at 773-244-5330 or 800-964-0101.

While NPTS is gaining increased visibility through off-campus classes, it is losing a visible and beloved faculty member as C. John Weborg, professor of theology since 1975, is retiring at the end of this school year. Weborg's vision and energy helped bring about the seminary's widely recognized and innovative spiritual formation program. "A generation of students have been challenged and shaped by Weborg's teaching of theology as well as by his profound spiritual care," said seminary President and Dean Jay Phelan. "Weborg will be missed, but the seminary hopes to coax him to teach an occasional course in his retirement." It is hoped a new professor will be on board in the fall.

For the last three years, North Park Theological Seminary has offered Presidential Scholarships to qualified students from the Evan-

gelical Covenant Church who plan on entering Covenant ministry. Sixty scholarship recipients currently study at the seminary.

"This program has brought a superb group of students to the seminary," said seminary President and Dean Jay Phelan. "They are passionate about Christ and committed to the ministry. Both we and they are grateful that the generosity of Covenant people will enable them to graduate from seminary without additional debt for tuition."

The seminary development office must raise the entire amount of the scholarships each year—a total of \$800,000 this year alone. "This is a challenging year for many donors, but the seminary is confident God's people will continue to support a program that has worked even beyond expectations," Phelan said, acknowledging receipt of a generous \$100,000 challenge grant that will help the seminary reach these financial goals. Twenty additional Presidential Scholars are anticipated for the 2003-2004 school year.

Communication strategy “informs and connects” Covenanters

Four major Covenant news events will highlight the year for the Department of Communication staff with coverage planned in both electronic and print media.

Coverage of the first major event, the 2003 Midwinter Conference, can be found on the Covenant website at www.covchurch.org, including stories and photos of the major speakers during evening worship services as well as coverage of Philip Yancey's stirring presentation during the closing Friday morning breakfast session.

Staff is once again gearing up to provide coverage of the 118th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church in Rosemont, Illinois, June 25-28. The three evening worship services will be broadcast live via the Covenant website as has been the case for a number of years. Viewers unable to access the broadcast due to a high volume of Internet traffic can watch videotaped versions of each service later—all will be archived on the website.

Stories and photographs of Annual Meeting business sessions and other activities will be posted to the Covenant website each day of the meeting. The August issue of *The Covenant Companion* will include a recap of key Annual Meeting decisions and activities as well.

The third major news event is CHIC2K3 in Knoxville, Tennessee. Members of the Communications staff will be on hand at the University of Tennessee to produce stories and photographs that will appear daily as part of a special CHIC section on the Covenant website, as

well as assist CHIC staff in creating content for the CHIC segment of the Covenant website.

The final major news event is Covenant Women Ministries Triennial XI in Portland, Oregon, in August. Volunteers will work with Communications staff to produce Internet news coverage of that event as well.

“Two key objectives in the Covenant's communications strategy are informing and connecting people,” said Don Meyer, executive minister. “The Covenant Internet site is one important tool to help achieve those goals,” he added, noting the immediacy, flexibility and mobility of that medium.

“Another objective is providing interesting insight into the important issues of the day, adding to one's depth of understanding, which is a role the *Companion* plays quite well,” Meyer noted.

Two important books published by the department were released during the 2003 Midwinter Conference.

Glad Hearts, edited by Jim Hawkins, contains topically organized quotable nuggets of what some call “the best of the best” of Covenant literature. *Crying for My Mother* by the late Wesley Nelson also addresses issues of Covenant identity, written for both clergy and lay audiences. Both are available at the online Covenant Bookstore at www.covchurch.org.

The department will release a revised Book of Worship during the June Annual Meeting in Rosemont, representing the first major revision of the book since 1981. Annual Meeting worship services will incorporate much of the new resources to be found in this latest edition.

Some 5,000 to 7,000 pages of information are accessed each day at the Covenant website, which includes direct links to key Covenant departments and ministries, offices, affiliated institutions, conferences, camps and association. An online directory of Covenant churches also contains links for local Covenant

churches that have active websites.

Busy individuals will find Covenant Newswire helpful—it is a free subscription headline news service that delivers one daily email to individual mailboxes that contains headlines of all Covenant news stories published during the previous 24 hours. Churches and other institutions desiring to have information considered for inclusion in the online Covenant news report will also find a link to Covenant Newswire, a fast and convenient way to send information to the Covenant news staff, including photos. Both links will be found on the home page.

Wayne Weld, professor of missions at North Park Theological Seminary and editor of *The Covenant Quarterly*, has retired. His last contribution as editor was indexing the first 50 years of the *Quarterly*. Paul Koptak, the Brandel professor of communications and biblical interpretation at the seminary, is the new editor.

Axelson Center tackles non-profit performance

HIGH PERFORMANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS in the nonprofit context will be explored in depth during a daylong symposium May 14 on the North Park University campus, sponsored by North Park's Axelson Center for Nonprofit Management and The Alford Group, Inc., of Chicago.

“The High Performing Nonprofit: Myth, Fad, Reality, or Responsibility?” will bring together nonprofit leaders and practitioners, foundation officers, government officials, academics, researchers and policy makers to talk about the challenges associated with achieving and sustaining higher performance.

This year's keynote luncheon speaker is Jamie Dimon, chairman and chief executive officer of Bank One Corporation. The second annual Alford-Axelson Award for Nonprofit Managerial Excellence will be awarded to two nonprofit organizations demonstrating excellence in its work during the past year.

For more information, visit the Axelson center webpage at www.northpark.edu/axelson or contact Ronda Raetz Acuna at 773-244-5747.

Resource Center—the place to go when you don't know

When was the last time you contacted the Covenant Resource Center for assistance? Where do you call when you don't know where to call? Last year, Covenant Resource Center staff responded to more than 3,200 requests for information, consultation, referral, and Covenant departmental publications.

Serving as a BRIDGE to more effective ministry, the Covenant Resource Center connects individuals with resources and information, consulting with churches on appropriate resources as they establish new programs and ministries.

Organized around the BRIDGE acronym, the online Covenant Resource Center pages reflect the broad range of material and services available to Covenant churches:

- Books and other resources—basic “how-to” information, curriculum options, publications and other ministry resources, recommended books, sample job descriptions and an explanation of Covenant acronyms and phrases
- Research current trends, denominational statistics
- Ideas ministry possibilities, “best practices” recommended by other Covenant churches

• Denominational information core values, distinctives of the Evangelical Covenant Church, upcoming events

• Growth Opportunities available workshops, upcoming training and development opportunities, Covenant speakers

• Encouragement genuine concern, listening ear, help in defining needs

The Covenant Resource Center is a service to Covenant churches that is made possible through a partnership of the following departments and commissions: Department of Christian Formation, Department

of Church Growth & Evangelism, Department of Communications, Covenant Women Ministries, Department of World Mission, Stewardship and Covenant World Relief. Churches desiring assistance may contact the center toll-free at 800-338-IDEA (4332), by email to resource.center@covchurch.org or by visiting the Evangelical Covenant Church website at www.covchurch.org.

Where do you call when you don't know where to call? When was the last time you contacted the Covenant Resource Center? Isn't it time you did?