

Covenanters in World Mission

“Recognition of Covenant members involved in international mission”

We desire to celebrate the individuals from Covenant churches responding to the call of the Great Commission to “go into all the world and make disciples...”

One of the central new directions of the Department of World Mission (DWM) is the affirmation that Covenant World Mission is more extensive than the DWM and that it should recognize the local initiatives of Covenant churches in international mission. In fact, we affirm that the local church is the true center of the Covenant World Mission initiative. We recognize that local initiatives in international mission have expanded dramatically, particularly over the last 20 years. Local Covenant churches send and support a host of missionaries through interdenominational and nondenominational mission agencies. They send and support missionaries through para-church organizations involved in a wide range of mission ventures. In some cases, local churches have created, funded and managed their own sending agencies to specific mission ventures.

Although not a program administered by our denomination, “Covenanters in World Mission” gives recognition to Covenanters doing mission work internationally. Members of local Covenant churches are engaged in international mission both individually and through non-Covenant entities. We affirm and value their work toward building the kingdom of God.

Any Covenant church member that is sent and supported by a local Covenant church to serve with a recognized mission sponsor, or sent and supported by a local Covenant church functioning as a sending sponsor for at least one year may apply. Local Covenant churches are expected to inform the Department of World Mission of such persons. While the Evangelical Covenant Church takes no responsibility or authority to direct persons applying, once identified by the DWM, such a Covenanter in World Mission will:

- be acknowledged and recognized at the Annual Meeting of the Covenant.
- be listed annually in *the Covenant missionary prayer calendar*
- receive a letter of appreciation from the DWM acknowledging participation in international mission as a Covenanter.
- be invited to communicate regularly with appropriate regional coordinators for encouragement.
- be invited to participate in the fellowship and encouragement of any geographically close DWM country mission events and gatherings.

The DWM will not provide any special oversight responsibilities, offer or imply any endorsement, future obligation, training or security from the Evangelical Covenant Church, the Department of World Mission or direction from regional coordinators.

At the same time, we acknowledge and value their work toward building the kingdom of God.