

## 2011 MISSION AND MINISTRY REPORT

THEN DAVID TOOK HIS STAFF IN HIS HAND, CHOSE FIVE SMOOTH STONES FROM THE STREAM, PUT THEM IN THE POUCH OF HIS SHEPHERD'S BAG AND, WITH HIS SLING IN HIS HAND, APPROACHED THE PHILISTINE. 1 SAMUEL 17:40



# FIVE SMOOTH STONES

# FROM THE PRESIDENT

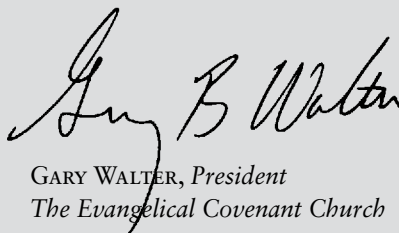
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Only a shepherd boy, David found himself facing a giant. He chose not to wear the heavy ornate armor of King Saul. He knew that God had created him to use his own gifts, his own heart and skills to respond to the giant. Instead he chose five smooth stones out of the clear running brook. And then as he took the field of battle he spoke these words to the giant: “You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands” (1 Samuel 17:45-46).

In much the same way, as we in the Covenant seek to be faithful to God in our generation, we have chosen five smooth stones to focus and sharpen our mission and ministry. The five smooth stones will allow us to carry out our “In It Together” mission: to follow God’s heart into the world to see more disciples, among more populations, in a more caring and just world.

On the following pages you will see many of the compelling and effective ways in which we are “in it together” focusing our mission and ministry through the five smooth stones. This brochure is designed to encourage you to pray for and financially support our shared life in the Covenant. Like David, may we always recognize that we can only serve with effectiveness and impact when we serve “in the name of the Lord Almighty.” May we know that we can depend on God’s faithfulness through the faithfulness of God’s people.



GARY WALTER, *President*  
*The Evangelical Covenant Church*

# FIVE SMOOTH STONES

## MAKE AND DEEPEN DISCIPLES

We are committed ... to reach people with the hope of Christ, and then to help them grow deep in Christ. This is the continuation of our Pietist heritage. It is the lifelong journey of personal transformation in Christ.

## START AND STRENGTHEN CHURCHES

We are committed ... to start and strengthen healthy missional churches, much in the same manner that the Apostle Paul started and continued to strengthen permanent worshipping communities. We believe the local church is God's basic unit to carry out his mission in the world.

## DEVELOP LEADERS

We are committed ... to our clergy, to invest in them for continuous personal and professional growth. We also see exciting new opportunities to expand the training of our laity. In multiple venues we seek to develop all of the leaders of the church—clergy and lay.

## LOVE MERCY, DO JUSTICE

We are committed ... to our own Matthew/Micah challenge, where we will use the call of Micah 6:8 and the causes of Matthew 25:37-40 to develop resources for our churches, to identify points of collective advocacy, and to undertake collective initiatives. The phrase "Love Mercy, Do Justice" echoes Micah 6:8, where God outlines three things required of us: to love mercy, do justice, and walk humbly with our God.

## SERVE GLOBALLY

We are committed ... to a global gospel—the simultaneous extension of the whole gospel to the whole world. We work in global partnerships to accomplish God's mission everywhere we are called to serve, to make and deepen disciples, start and strengthen churches, develop leaders, and to love mercy and do justice.





# MAKE AND DEEPEN DISCIPLES

THEREFORE GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER AND OF THE SON AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, AND TEACHING THEM TO OBEY EVERYTHING I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. MATTHEW 28:19-20

*We are committed to draw new disciples into faith, and to help them go deeper in their relationship with Christ by providing opportunities to experience the love of Christ and to grow in their commitment to him.*

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO SHARING THE GOSPEL** • “I didn’t really want to learn about evangelism because I wanted someone else to do it. Attending the One Step Closer workshop took the pressure off of saying the *right* thing or being afraid I’d mess up when talking to friends. It’s already happening naturally.” Another participant admits he always thought it was the pastor’s job to do outreach and evangelism. That changed after attending the workshop offered by the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism. Evangelism is not about us, it’s about God—and how God will work if we make ourselves available.

One Nebraska pastor whose church hosted a One Step Closer workshop says his congregation has been empowered to begin reaching out to non-believers in “baby steps,” rather than having to “seal the deal” right away. Since that workshop, 19 new people have started attending the church regularly. All were invited.

• In 2009, nearly 12,000 people became Christians through the ministry of Covenant churches.

• More than 30 churches participated in Covenant prayer retreats.

• One out of every 10 campers made a decision to follow Christ at Covenant camps last year.

• One out of every three campers rededicated his or her life to Christ at Covenant camps last year.

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO STEPPING OUT IN FAITH** • Last year the denomination introduced a new evangelism initiative—called “What’s Your One Step?”—to replace “Bringing My World to Christ.” The initiative challenges Covenanters to follow the leading of the Holy Spirit, and to commit to taking “one step” of faith to help a friend, neighbor, co-worker, or family member become a follower of Jesus. Nearly 40,000 commitment cards have been requested, representing more than 180 Covenant churches.

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING THE MISSION** • Twenty-one students from 14 Covenant churches experienced first-hand the transformational ministry taking place at the Abundant Life Center in Thailand. The life-changing trip was made possible by a partnership between the departments of Christian Formation and World Mission. The team visited the ministry supported by students at CHIC’09. “I could really see that God had great plans for the trip,” writes one student. “My favorite part was painting the nails of the women at the nursing home and seeing how happy they were to have attention, to have someone do that for them. I hope to go back to Thailand.”

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO EMBRACING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES** • Families who have members with disabilities often stop attending church because needed ministry is unavailable to them. Congregations are increasingly making use of the Disabilities Resource website—heralded as one of the best and most thorough of any denomination—and are growing exciting ministries.

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO GROWING TOGETHER** • The Department of Christian Formation offers a unique suite of discipleship materials—under the GROW label—that are designed to encourage spiritual growth. This year an exciting new resource was introduced for children, called *My GROW Adventure with God*, which helps children identify actions that will deepen their relationship with God.

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO PRAYING TOGETHER** • People are already signing up for the Feast 2011, which will be held June 25-28 at the YMCA of the Rockies camp in Estes Park, Colorado. The Feast is a spiritual life experience for Covenanters of all ages and backgrounds, and a great opportunity to develop new practices and engage in fresh experiences that people can make a regular part of their lives. This year the focus will be: “PLAY ... for the kid in all of us!”



## RESOURCES FOR MAKING AND DEEPENING DISCIPLES

- GROWING DEEPER IN CHRIST An introduction to spiritual practices, for small groups and individuals
- WHAT’S YOUR ONE STEP? Brochure and commitment card for taking the next step in evangelism
- THE JOURNEY Official confirmation material for the Covenant, includes guides for students, leaders, and mentors
- ROCK SOLID Discipleship resources exploring 26 footholds of faith, for small groups and individuals

For information on these and other Covenant resources, visit [CovChurch.org](http://CovChurch.org).

- At CHIC, 250 students made first-time commitments to Christ.

- Since 2003 Covenant children have given more than \$200,000 to help children in Africa, Asia, and South America.

- More than 200 spiritual directors are available to Covenanters through networks in nine regional conferences.

- CHIC 2012 will be held July 15-19, 2012, at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Please pray for CHIC.



# START AND STRENGTHEN CHURCHES

NOW, THROUGH THE CHURCH, THE MANIFOLD WISDOM OF GOD SHOULD BE MADE KNOWN TO THE RULERS AND AUTHORITIES IN THE HEAVENLY REALMS, ACCORDING TO HIS ETERNAL PURPOSE THAT HE ACCOMPLISHED IN CHRIST JESUS OUR LORD. EPHESIANS 3:10b-11

*We are committed to start and strengthen healthy missional churches. Churches that have been ministering for more than a century, as well as brand-new Covenant congregations, are joining together to carry out God's mission.*

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO STRENGTHENING CHURCHES** • After 96 years of ministry, Clairemont Covenant Church in San Diego, California, was at a crossroads. Attendance was declining and the church “needed some outside help,” recalls pastor Greg West. Help came from the Congregational Vitality program offered by the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism. Clairemont is the first Covenant church to complete all three phases of the renewal initiative: Veritas, Pulse, and Epic. John Wenrich, director of congregational vitality, “was able to walk us through the process in a way that was healthy,” West says, adding that churches need to participate in all parts of the process if they are to fully reap the benefits. Since joining the program, the church has grown roughly 15 percent in each of the last two years. “People are making new commitments to Christ—they’re participating in groups and they want to serve others.”

- Attendance grew last year across the Covenant for the eighteenth consecutive year.

- Each week, more than 85,000 people attend Covenant churches that were started in the past 17 years.

- Last year, National Covenant Properties loaned \$21 million to local Covenant congregations to fund 50 projects.

- Twenty-two churches were received into membership in 2010, representing nearly 3,000 in average weekly worship attendance.

### WE ARE COMMITTED TO TRANSFORMING CONGREGATIONS •

Founded in 1892, the Covenant church in San Jose, California, that attracted more than 450 people to worship on Sunday mornings in the sixties, had shrunk to fewer than 40 members. For a while, observes the pastor, the church asked, “How do we survive?” Instead, the church was transformed when the congregation started asking a new question, “What can we do for the kingdom?” Things began to change. The church changed its name, sold its property (netting more than \$3 million), and began meeting in a nearby public school. The congregation then donated \$300,000 of the proceeds to compassion ministries, earmarked \$1.55 million for future construction, and devoted another \$1.55 million to church planting, which led to five new California congregations. The church has since doubled in size, and is now a multiethnic congregation active in anti-trafficking and refugee ministries.

### WE ARE COMMITTED TO WELCOMING NEW PASTORS •

The Covenant Orientation program invites pastors new to the Covenant to become more informed and fully integrated into the whole mission of the denomination. “I do not hesitate to state that this class was a transformative experience for me,” writes one participant. “It gave me stories, language, teaching, and testimony from those further along in ministry.”

### WE ARE COMMITTED TO PLANTING CHURCHES AT HOME ...

• Last year, the Covenant planted 22 new churches in the United States and Canada, an average of one every three weeks. “Church planting redesigned my relationship with God to one of total dependence,” says Willie Comer of Berean Covenant Church in Champaign, Illinois. “I have watched God move people on my team from church attendees to active participants in ministry.” Currently, there are 66 church plants in development across the Covenant, including the first-ever Covenant church in Las Vegas, Nevada.

... **AND AROUND THE WORLD** • Ten new churches were planted last year by the Evangelical Covenant Church of Sudan and Ethiopia, bringing their total average participation to more than 45,000 individuals involved in 307 congregations.



## RESOURCES FOR STRENGTHENING CHURCHES

**VERITAS** Workshop for pastors and church leaders exploring the marks of a healthy missional church

**EPIC** Workshop for pastors and church leaders on leading healthy missional change

**NAVIGATE** Workshop for pastors and church leaders on becoming a healthy missional church in a post-Christian world

**MISSION FRIENDS** Small group study on what it means to become a member of a Covenant church

For information on these and other Covenant resources, visit [CovChurch.org](http://CovChurch.org).

• Between 600 and 700 news stories appear each year as part of the daily online Covenant news report.

• Last year approximately 800 people representing 18 churches attended a Veritas (church revitalization) workshop.

• Covenant Trust Company now manages more than \$400 million in assets.

• Downloadable and print versions of *Exploring Covenant Affirmations* are available in Spanish and English.



# DEVELOP LEADERS

AND THE THINGS YOU HAVE HEARD ME SAY IN THE PRESENCE OF MANY WITNESSES ENTRUST TO RELIABLE PEOPLE WHO WILL ALSO BE QUALIFIED TO TEACH OTHERS. 2 TIMOTHY 2:2

*We are committed to develop leaders throughout the church. We offer an array of opportunities for laity as well as clergy, which foster both passion to serve and increased knowledge and understanding in our leaders.*

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO HIGHER EDUCATION** • “I was impressed and surprised by the way in which North Park University has combined a vigorous and unapologetic Christian mission and identity with an openness to a student population that is widely eclectic in terms of race, ethnicity, economic background and, yes, religion,” writes Samuel Schuman in his new book from Johns Hopkins University Press.

*Seeing the Light: Religious Colleges in 21st Century America* profiles ten faith-affirming higher education institutions, including North Park. Schuman, retired chancellor of the University of Minnesota, describes North Park as “difficult to compare to others. It is, on the one hand, vigorously religious and strongly denominational with a continuing tie to a particular immigrant population, and yet equally strongly and vigorously open to students from the widest diversity of backgrounds. Perhaps most impressive and surprising, not only is North Park University Christian, urban, and multicultural, but it has managed to be all those things and also to be coherent.”

- Sixteen Covenant pastors are participating in CO-OP (Coaching of Pastors) to develop strategic and organizational leadership.

- Alaska Christian College, which provides whole-life discipleship to Native Alaskan youth, recorded its largest enrollment.

- A record 85 women and men completed requirements for ordination, commissioning, and consecration in 2010.

- The new Resource Idea Share offers original resources, as well as a collection of best practices, to church leaders across the Covenant.



**WE ARE COMMITTED TO PASTORAL EXCELLENCE** • Last year marked the fifth full year of the Sustaining Pastoral Excellence initiative. Sponsored by the Department of the Ordered Ministry and funded by the Lilly Endowment, the program provides resources for pastors in spiritual direction, revisioning retreats and seminars, and continuing education in the core competencies of preaching, teaching, leading, and caring. More than 700 grants have been awarded, representing 1,000 participants at gatherings on four continents.

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO TRAINING JUSTICE-MINDED LEADERS** •

The Center for Justice Ministries at North Park Theological Seminary works with the Department of Compassion, Mercy, and Justice to help Christian leaders think biblically about the development of ministries of compassion and justice. The center seeks to establish concerns for justice as central to seminary education and church ministry. The center challenges leaders to confront injustice with their choices, their thinking, their work, and their life of faith.

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING PASTORS** • The Coaching of Pastors initiative helps pastors lead congregations to their full kingdom potential. Sponsored by the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism, the program uses customized coaching, pre-designed ministry systems, and strategy workshops, to teach pastors how to turn vision into reality and to lead strategically. “The coaching experience has provided me with a wealth of tools that I can draw from in fulfilling my call,” one pastor writes. “The weekly calls with my coach were very practical and could address very real and very ‘now’ issues in my day-to-day work.”

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO CONTEXTUAL MINISTRY** • Centro Hispano de Estudios Teológicos (CHET) provides theological education for Spanish-speaking students. This year the school moved into a new building in the Compton area of Los Angeles, California. The new site provides updated classroom and office facilities while maintaining a low operating cost. The Compton neighborhood has also been a laboratory for ongoing contextual ministry in the midst of a changing demographic.



## RESOURCES FOR DEVELOPING LEADERS

**CALLED & GIFTED** An introduction to the biblical basis for women in ministry, for small groups and individuals

**SUMMER TO WONDER** A narrative discussion of the role of women leaders in the church

**SUSTAINING PASTORAL EXCELLENCE** Program designed to encourage pastors' well-being

**COVENANT ORIENTATION** An introduction to Covenant theology and identity for pastors new to the ECC

**For information on these and other Covenant resources, visit [CovChurch.org](http://CovChurch.org).**

- There are 1,706 active pastors in the Covenant, approximately 239 of whom are serving in non-Covenant settings.

- Twenty-five new short-term and project missionaries were trained at the Missionary Education and Training Event in June 2010.

- This fall total enrollment at North Park University reached 3,200, the second highest number in North Park's history.

- Covenant leaders across North America gather online each month to discuss a variety of discipleship topics as part of the new Call-in Café.



IS NOT THIS THE KIND OF FASTING I HAVE CHOSEN: TO LOOSE THE CHAINS OF INJUSTICE AND UNTIE THE CORDS OF THE YOKE, TO SET THE OPPRESSED FREE AND BREAK EVERY YOKE? ISAIAH 58:6

*We are committed to pursuing compassion and justice throughout our world. Following the call of Christ to care for the widows and the oppressed, we engage the world around us in active and intentional ways—through community development, micro-enterprise opportunities, vocational training, and more.*

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO SOCIAL JUSTICE** • Sankofa is an intentional, cross-racial journey designed to help followers of Jesus develop a righteous response to racism. Each year, a growing number of Covenant young people participate in Sankofa. One participant noted that the experience helped him “reclaim what has been lost or forgotten or stolen in the narrative of our history. It sparked a multifaceted transformation of my faith, from simple belief to radical followership, from cheap salvation to the cost of discipleship.”

“Sankofa messed me up,” confessed another teen. “I formerly was a strong supporter of traditional American evangelism, what René Padilla describes as producing ‘the greatest amount of Christians at the least possible cost in the shortest time possible.’ Now my approach to discipleship is solidarity with the oppressed, leading a life that is congruent with Matthew 25.”

- In the last decade one-half of all new Covenant churches were intentionally ethnic or multiethnic.

- North Park University received the Andringa Award for Advancing Racial Harmony for providing a learning environment that embraces diversity.

- Twenty-three projects were supported through Covenant World Relief directed to the poorest of the poor around the world.

- More than \$33 million in free care was provided to those in need by our hospitals, retirement communities, and enabling residences.

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO OPPOSING INJUSTICE** • Approximately 300,000 girls between the ages of 10 and 17 are held as sex slaves in North America today. The lucrative business of human trafficking is on the rise. Break the Chains, a project sponsored by the Department of Women Ministries, offers hope and restoration for girls who have escaped lives of forced prostitution. In 2010, all donated funds supported New Day for Children, a faith-based organization that offers a safe living environment, education, licensed therapy, and growth experiences for girls caught up in human trafficking.

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO DISASTER RELIEF** • In 2010 Covenant World Relief (CWR) supported extensive relief efforts in response to the earthquake in Haiti. In addition, CWR and its partners responded to earthquakes in Chile, China, and Indonesia; flooding in Mexico, India, Kenya, and Pakistan; a hurricane in Mexico; bitter cold in Bangladesh; typhoons in the Philippines and Taiwan; drought in Kenya and South Sudan; victims of violence in Sudan-Darfur; and war refugees in DR Congo.

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO REBUILDING COMMUNITIES** • In the forest of Gujarat State in India live an indigenous tribal people who traditionally made their living from the rain forest. Now government restrictions require that they seek work as agricultural day laborers, earning only 90 cents a day and working only 15 days a month on average. The Hindustani Covenant Church, in partnership with Covenant World Relief, administers a program that provides day care for preschool children as well as education, micro-finance, vocational training, and medical care for the men and women. Each person has a personal savings account, and the group savings make it possible for many women to take small loans to start micro-businesses, such as selling vegetables, making baskets, and making flower ornaments. One important benefit, several women say, is that they are now able to help others in need.

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO LONG-TERM DEVELOPMENT** • Marginalized women in Mexico are being helped by Fuentes Libres, a Mexican Covenant holistic ministry that provides new opportunities through micro-enterprise banks. In return for receiving a small loan to start a small business, recipients agree to actively participate in the bank's operations and attend weekly Bible studies. Women not only come to know Christ through involvement in the program, but as their loans are repaid, they help grow the seed money that extends the program to others.



## RESOURCES FOR MERCY AND JUSTICE

**INVITATION TO RACIAL RIGHTEOUSNESS** Group experience in building true cross-racial community

**WHAT DOES THE LORD REQUIRE?** Small group study exploring God's call for compassion and justice

**PRACTICAL TEACHING METHODS FOR BRINGING THE GOSPEL TO SPECIAL**

**NEEDS STUDENTS** A guide to content, methods, and experiences in ministry to special needs students

**SANKOFA** An intentional, cross-racial journey through historic sites of the civil rights movement

**For information on these and other Covenant resources, visit [CovChurch.org](http://CovChurch.org).**

- Break the Chains has raised more than \$400,000 and inspired New Day for Children, an after-care facility for freed sex slaves in California.

- Development projects in more than 20 countries address needs including water, nutrition, medicine, education, micro-enterprise, and justice.

- Covenanters support underfunded children's programs in Congo, Sudan, India, and Colombia through Covenant Kids for only \$25 a month.

- The percentage of women in significant leadership positions in Covenant conferences has increased to approximately 35 percent.



# SERVE GLOBALLY

YOU WILL RECEIVE POWER WHEN THE HOLY SPIRIT COMES ON YOU; AND YOU WILL BE MY WITNESSES IN JERUSALEM, AND IN ALL JUDEA AND SAMARIA, AND TO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH. ACTS 1:8

*We are committed to a global gospel. In partnership with the church throughout the world, we accomplish God's work together through missionary work, global education opportunities, scholarship programs for children in developing countries, and more.*

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE PEOPLE OF DR CONGO** • In spite of years of civil unrest and suffering in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Congo Covenant Church and its 1,567 member churches continues to grow, with more and more young people making commitments to Christ. "Believers discover hope, that God is at work to bring life and breath to the dry bones in the valley," writes one World Mission staffer.

This year, Covenant missionaries are returning to DR Congo at the invitation of the Congo Covenant Church. Together they are partnering to serve the church in Congo. "We don't want to be in charge," says returning missionary Tim Smith. "We don't need to be in charge. We're going now to a church that is stronger and has something to teach us." Pete Ekstrand, who is also a returning missionary, adds, "Congo is a long-term relationship. To have missionaries there is to say we're committed to each other."

• Paul Carlson Partnership received a \$658,000 grant to develop micro-enterprise projects in Congo.

• Covenant churches and individuals donated more than \$1 million for Haiti relief and recovery projects.

• Students packed more than 400,000 meals for the Feed My Starving Children program.

• The Covenant has 71 long-term, 15 project, and 54 short-term missionaries partnering with God's kingdom work in 24 countries.

### **WE ARE COMMITTED TO BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS • Vision**

Trips provide opportunities for Covenanters to visit Covenant mission sites and experience firsthand what God is doing through the work of Covenant missionaries and their national church partners. The trips are designed to build relationships, increase awareness, and provide knowledge that participants can bring back to their congregations. Trips are being arranged for Burkina Faso, DR Congo, Japan, East Asia, Thailand, Europe, Colombia, Ecuador, and Mexico.

### **WE ARE COMMITTED TO INCLUDING THE NEXT GENERATION •**

Children across the Covenant contributed more than \$54,000 to the Children's Service Project, "Bed Nets for Life," providing mosquito nets for children in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to prevent the spread of malaria. Malaria is the largest killer of children under age five in DR Congo. The mosquito-borne illness kills 900,000 people worldwide each year. Bed nets have helped some countries reduce malaria cases by 50 percent.

### **WE ARE COMMITTED TO INTERCULTURAL UNDERSTANDING •**

The Center for World Christian Studies, a cooperative venture of North Park Theological Seminary and the Department of World Mission, engages students, missionaries, national church leaders, pastors, and congregations in theological reflection and training. The goal is to enhance an understanding of trends in world Christianity and to facilitate ministries of intercultural mission in the United States and abroad.

**WE ARE COMMITTED TO THE FUTURE •** Covenant Kids is a scholarship program for children in underprivileged communities, a collaborative initiative of World Mission, Covenant World Relief, and the Paul Carlson Partnership. Through \$25 monthly pledges, Covenanters can support specific ministry partners in Colombia, India, DR Congo, and Sudan. The programs minister to the educational, physical, spiritual, and social needs of children. Sponsors receive quarterly updates from ministry partners and will have the opportunity to visit the mission work.



## **RESOURCES FOR SERVING GLOBALLY**

**MISSIONARY PRAYER CALENDAR** A guide to daily prayer for Covenant missionaries and missions

**COVENANT WORLD RELIEF UPDATE** Quarterly newsletter highlighting relief and development work

**GLOBAL MINISTRY HANDBOOK** A guide to supporting Covenant missionaries

**TODAY IN COVENANT WORLD MISSION** Annual bulletin insert highlighting mission work

**For information on these and other Covenant resources, visit [CovChurch.org](http://CovChurch.org).**

• Seven missionaries will be sent this year to Congo to live and work with the Covenant Church of Congo.

• There are more than 266,000 Covenanters in 2,800 national churches outside of North America.

• Covenant Merge Ministries has facilitated 12,000 mission trips in 13 countries to 200 different mission locations in the past 15 years.

• More than 150 North Park University students participated in mission and service trips through the University Ministries program.

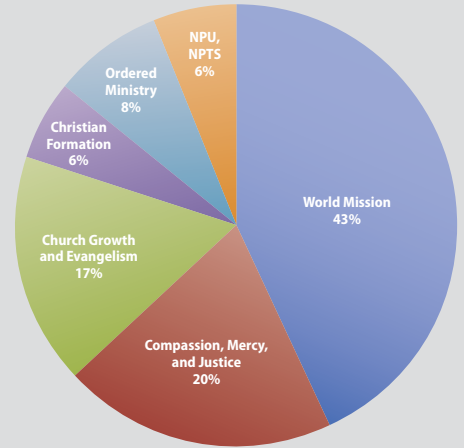
# IN IT TOGETHER

We Covenanters are committed to the whole gospel because we are committed to the whole Bible. And because we take God’s word seriously, we fully embrace three inescapable dimensions of God’s call to us: to see more disciples, among more populations, in a more caring and just world.

As the accompanying financial detail illustrates, pursuing this shared mission requires a shared commitment. Budgets are confessions of faith that testify to the hope we have in Christ and our commitment to serving him as one body.

The Covenant exists to serve our churches and to unite churches in service together. We are most effective when we “serve in the name of the Lord Almighty,” depending on God’s faithfulness and the faithfulness of God’s people.

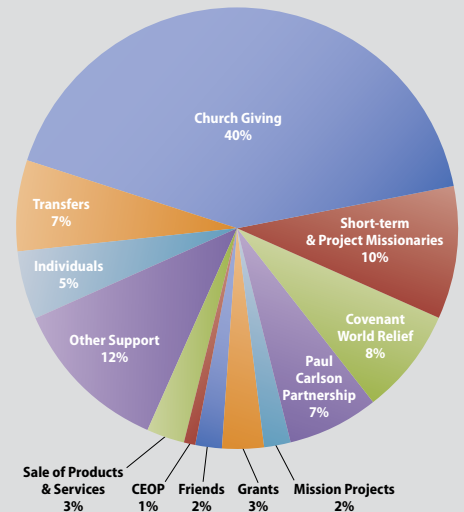
**2011 COVENANT MISSION AND MINISTRY BUDGET** • Pictured at right is the financial structure of the mission and ministry we share in common. What you see reflected here is the faithfulness of hundreds of Covenant churches and tens of thousands of Covenant people joining together to make a difference in the lives of real people in real places.



2011 Covenant Mission & Ministry Budget	
World Mission	\$9,055,000
Compassion, Mercy, and Justice	\$4,099,000
Church Growth and Evangelism	\$3,612,000
Christian Formation	\$1,246,000
Ordered Ministry	\$1,642,000
NPU, NPTS	\$1,140,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$20,794,000</b>

**OUR MISSION AND MINISTRY REVENUE SOURCES** • The Covenant has a well-deserved reputation for being a people who give of themselves so that God’s love can be experienced by more people from different cultures around the world. The Covenant believes the gospel changes everything it touches. Sharing that gospel message of good news and hope is possible only through the faithful support of Covenanters everywhere, and for that we remain grateful.

*As we continue to grow, we continue to increase the impact of our ministries worldwide, accomplishing together what none of us could accomplish alone. Please prayerfully consider how you and your congregation can contribute financially and otherwise to the mission and ministry we share.*



## RESOURCES FOR STEWARDSHIP

**STEWARDSHIP STARTER KIT** A suite of tools for evaluating stewardship practices in local churches

**LOVING AND GIVING** An introduction to a holistic biblical perspective on stewardship

**STEWARDSHIP PLEDGE COMMITMENT CARD** Tool for churches to encourage giving

**OUR SOUL CONCERN** Stewardship program that partners existing churches with church plants through giving

For information on these and other Covenant resources, visit [CovChurch.org](http://CovChurch.org).



# COVENANT ANNUAL MEETING

ESTES PARK, COLORADO

## 2011

JUNE 28-30, 2011

*Living Our Affirmations: The Church As a Fellowship of Believers ...* The Annual Meeting is the highest legislative body of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), made up of representatives from Covenant churches throughout the United States and Canada. Delegates gather together for worship and fellowship, and to ordain ministers, consecrate missionaries, elect leaders, review finances, adopt a budget, and address the business of the church.

*For more information, visit [covchurch.org/am](http://covchurch.org/am)*

# THE FEAST

ESTES PARK, COLORADO

## 2011

JUNE 25-28, 2011

*Play...for the kid in all of us! ...* The Feast is a spiritual life experience for Covenanters of all ages and all backgrounds. If, in the midst of daily noise, distractions, and obligations, you long to focus on your faith journey, to experience a spiritual awakening, to enjoy times of fun & refreshment, to cultivate growth in your spiritual life, to encounter God through prayer, to share in the story of God's work through his people, then join us for the Feast.

*For more information, visit [covchurch.org/feast](http://covchurch.org/feast)*

ESTES PARK



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