

# COMMISSION ON BIBLICAL GENDER EQUALITY

**Approved by the Executive Board, March 16, 2002**

## RATIONALE

A Task Force on Women in Ministry has existed for several years. This task force worked with other partnering groups to plan the Consultation on Women in Ministry held September 25-26, 2000. This event provided an opportunity to reflect on the 25 years of the ordination of women in the Evangelical Covenant Church and created a forum to discuss issues and envision possibilities for women in Covenant ministry.

In order to continue to provide equality for all God's people in this denomination, commission status allows attention and focus to be given to this topic. It connects the concern of those in attendance at the consultation with the broader denominational body and encourages necessary next steps. Commission status creates accountability to the Executive Board of the Evangelical Covenant Church and allows us to be a denomination of influence in this area.

The broader name helps us take an active but less direct approach to the issues of women in ministry, in both leadership and pastoral roles. To that end, we propose the granting of commission status as the Commission on Biblical Gender Equality.

## VISION STATEMENT

*We envision a future of enthusiastic support for women as church leaders and pastors in the local church.*

## MISSION STATEMENT

*To advocate for women as church leaders and pastors.*

## CORE STRATEGIES

- *Educate Covenant people in Biblical equality regarding gender.*
- *Advocate for justice in the structures of the church regarding gender.*
- *Equip the church to articulate the truth about Biblical equality regarding gender.*
- *To advocate for the modeling of women in ministry and leadership in all possible venues within the church.*

## SPECIFICS

Size and makeup of Commission: Six appointed from non-Covenant employees. We should strive for gender, geographic, and clergy/laity balance. We recommend four women, two men, two clergy and four lay with a fair geographic and racial representation.

Ex Officio Liaisons: President and Executive Minister of the Ordered Ministry.

Pool of Advisors: Executive Vice President; Vice President of Administration; President of Association of Covenant Clergy Women; Executive Minister of Covenant Women Ministries; Director of Staff Ministry; Director of Adult and Family Ministry; representative from North Park Theological Seminary.

Commissions typically meet twice a year.

This commission reports to the Executive Board, but is supported by the staff of the Department of the Ordered Ministry.