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| C O V E N A N T                           |
| <b>YEARBOOK</b>                           |
| STATISTICAL DATA & RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES |

**2015-16 EDITION**

**Minutes of the Ministerium**

# **Annual Meeting of the Covenant Ministerium**

Kansas City, Missouri

June 25, 2015

1:00 p.m.-4 p.m.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Tim B. Johnson, president, called the meeting to order.

## **PRAYER**

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING AND STANDING RULES**

The agenda was approved as presented.

The standing rules were approved as presented.

Good standing requirements were reviewed: members of the Ministerium must pay their dues, update their profile on CovConnect within the past three years, complete the Vocational Growth Tool annually, and have regular healthy connections with ministerial colleagues.

A motion for the following appointments was approved by consensus:

Auditor—Sandy Norris, Northwest Conference  
Parliamentarian—Jonathan Wilson, Central Conference  
Resolutions—Elizabeth Jensen, Southeast Conference  
Sergeants-at-arm—Pacific Southwest Conference  
Tellers—Pacific Northwest Conference

## **RECOGNITION OF GUESTS**

Donn Engebretson, director for global advancement, introduced President Mboka, president of the Covenant Church of Congo, and his wife. Donn spoke to the incredible work that President Mboka is doing.

## **GREETINGS**

A reminder was offered that if ministers are not able to join Ministerium gatherings, they are encouraged to send greetings. Greetings from the following colleagues who could not be present were received: Dale Dalman, Cheryl Lavernia, Katie Martinez.

## **REFLECTION FROM THE MINISTERIUM PRESIDENT**

Tim B. Johnson offered a reflection which included words of thanks and gratitude regarding his time serving as president of the Ministerium. He offered a reading and prayer taken from Psalm 25.

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

John Peterson, treasurer, explained how it good it was to be here with us as he has had recent heart issues/complications. He reminded us that this report is in the online materials.

Last year the Ministerium proposed a deficit budget as we were going to spend down our cash reserves. We collected \$4,000 more in dues than we had budgeted. Some of that was from back-dues. The income for the annual meeting was slightly more than we had budgeted. The AM expenses, however, were more than we anticipated (due mostly in part to the technology needed).

## **Auditor's Report**

John read Sandy Norris's report. All was in order.

## **Proposed 2015-2016 Budget**

We have increased the dues by \$10 this year to \$85 which will enable us to continue the SPE grant and to add to the Minister's Crisis Fund.

We increased the registration fee for the Annual Meeting as well.

The 2015/2016 budget as presented was approved.

## **PRESENTATION OF BALLOT**

Tim presented the following ballot on behalf of the nomination committee:

### **Vice-President** (3-year term)

Whitney Hall

Catherine Gilliard

### **Secretary** (3-year term)

Jordan Reed

Dan Springer

## **REPORT FROM CHET**

A report was not given.

## **WESTERN ALASKA MINISTRY TRAINING CENTER**

Curtis Ivanoff, superintendent of the Alaska Conference reported that one course is given each spring and fall at the center. Fourteen people participated in a New Testament course this year.

He said it is an incredible opportunity for people to be able to receive training in Alaska, rather than having to travel to Chicago or elsewhere.

Curtis offered words of thanks for the church's support and encouragement of the training center. It is an alternative option for people on the track for ordination.

## **SOLID ROCK DISCIPLESHIP PROGRAM**

Nancy King showed a video about the inaugural Solid Rock program this past year. The program is still looking for students to sign up for this coming year. Tuition is \$12,100 (room, board, food, classes, books and the Holy Land trip).

## **ASSOCIATION OF COVENANT SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS**

Patty Thompson spoke of how spiritual direction has been helpful in many situations for pastors and their spouses. She encouraged the Ministerium to seek out the spiritual direction/SPE retreats and to seek out a spiritual director in their own area. She reported on the formation of this new association.

## **CLERGY LIFETIME SERVICE RECOGNITION**

For the last several years, the Ministerium and the ECC at its Annual Meeting has been recognizing clergy who have reached the age of sixty-five. The names of forty-four people were read and invited forward. They will all be honored at the Covenant Annual Meeting.

## **REPORT FROM THE ORDERED MINISTRY**

Mark Novak thanked his dedicated and devoted staff. He invites others to come visit at Covenant Offices. Tanya Costanza, their new staff person was introduced and thanked.

Mark thanked the Ministerium for their continued financial support to Sustaining Pastoral Excellence (SPE). He thanked the group as well for giving more to the Minister's Crisis Fund.

He mentioned concern about the stress on pastors. Ordered Ministry prays for our pastors. Mark reminded the group that Ordered Ministry wants to come alongside pastors before a situation becomes a crisis.

Mark noted that it has been an interesting year regarding the issue of human sexuality; how we are better, how we love more completely, etc. Gary Walter, president of the ECC, will speak more to what the denomination has been doing in the area of human sexuality. They would appreciate continue prayers as they navigate this ongoing and important conversation.

Carol Lawson, director of ministry services, came forward to talk about an application for a Lilly Grant of one million dollars. They have done focus groups and surveys to gather feedback. We will know in December if we have been awarded that grant. At Midwinter, there will be a workshop on clergy taxes; there will be a learning experience on what we've learned (best practices) regarding finances. Throughout 2016 and beyond, there will be more opportunities for pastors to take advantage of regarding things that pastors are most in need of help/resources with.

## RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, Carol Lawson recommended the following candidates for their indicated permanent credential. By voice vote the Ministerium approved the candidates for recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Individual seconds, submitted in writing by current members of the Ministerium, are indicated in parentheses.

### **Finalization of Transfer of Ordination**

Michael R. Baker

Brian C. Dietz

D. Aaron Johnson (Sharon Anderson)

Keith D. Meyer

Cislin G. Williams

Winston W. Williams

### **Commissioning**

Chadwick L. Persons

Mark E. Peterson

Nicholas A. Pringle (Sharon Anderson)

### **Ordination to Word and Service**

Daniel C. Beach

Jesse W. Bolinder

Neil T. Botts

Erik G. Cave (Sharon Anderson)

Rosemary A. Lee-Norman

Seth G. Lindberg

Stephanie Ahn Mathis

Martha J. Morey (Paul R. Allen)

### **Ordination to Word and Sacrament**

T. David Beck

Jeremy L. Berg  
David A. Bergstrom  
Ronald D. Bowman  
Theodore A. Burrows  
Adam S. Butler  
Kristen A. Carlson (Greg West)  
David R. Chambers  
Aaron Cho  
Kimberly A. Crawford (Karen Ingebretson)  
Peter D. Foster  
Dominique D. Gilliard  
Sergio Gonzalez  
David E. Greenidge  
Mark A. Habluetzel  
Joan Hayward  
Karl R. Helvig  
Nathan R. Hillman  
Brandon J. Hovey (Duane Cross)  
Gregory P. Johnson (Paul R. Allen, Jen Zerby, Jonathan Wilson)  
Catherine A. Kaminski (Lynnea Carnes)  
Steven D. Kilburn  
Brian D. King  
Jerry M. Kosanovich  
Nicole F. Laing (Gary Tonn)  
Adam T. London  
Úna F. Lucey-Lee  
Robert S. McGee  
Filomeno Nesta  
Jeffrey C. Olson  
Nathanael F. Putnam  
Gregory A. Reiner  
James D. Rose  
Michelle T. Sanchez  
Toni K. Schwabe (Sharon Anderson, Bill Orris)  
Allan G. Serrano  
Rebekah C. Strobel (Sharon Anderson)  
Michael D. Thomas Jr.  
Alicia M. Vela (Bill Orris, Jen Zerby)  
Ho Jin Yoo

Pia Restrepo prayed for those receiving permanent credentials.

On behalf of the Ordered Ministry, Mark Novak presented the list of applicants seeking ministerial licenses. The Ministerium approved the granting of licenses to the individuals listed.

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, Mark Novak recommended that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 130th Covenant Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following individuals have been moved from active to inactive: Benjamin Ecker (OWSa), Anders Johnson (OWSa), Timothy J. Johnson (CSM), James Kim (OWSa), Amy Mark (OWSa), Erin McDermott

(OWSa, Nils Peterson (OWSa), Daniel Shelton (OWSa), Joseph Taylor (OWSa), David Wenell (OWSe).

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, Mark Novak recommended that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 130th Covenant Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following individuals have been moved from leave of absence to inactive: Kelly Erickson (OWSe), Christine Franzon (OWSa), Douglas E. Johnson (CM), Wendy Crawford Larson (OWSa), Mary Pinley (OWSe).

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, Mark Novak recommended that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 130th Covenant Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following individuals have been moved from leave of absence to active: Daniel Booker (OWSe), Tony Chen (OWSa), Carolyn Johnson (OWSa).

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, Mark Novak recommended that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 130th Covenant Annual Meeting that Terri King has transferred her ordination standing to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, Mark Novak recommended that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 130th Covenant Annual Meeting that Adam Phillips has transferred his ordination standing to the Disciples of Christ.

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, Mark Novak recommended that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 130th Covenant Annual Meeting that William Howell (CSM) resigned his ordination standing and requested that his name be removed from the roster of Covenant ministers.

The Covenant Ministerium approved these reports and changes in ministerial standing. Mark Novak prayed for these ministerial transitions.

## REPORT FROM THE DENOMINATION

Gary Walter, president of the Evangelical Covenant Church, talked about Jesus in his last days, dining with friends, knowing that the end was near, and the anointing of oil. As pastors, we have poured ourselves out for Christ, the world, and for Christ's work in the world. He offered words of thanks for getting to stand with the Ministerium as a colleague.

Gary talked about the enormous tasks that the church has taken on as a small denomination. The kingdom of God, he said, moves forward by countless faithful acts carried out by countless faithful people.

On any given Sunday there are 220,000 people in our churches and 300,000 who call the Covenant Church home. Thirty percent of our congregation are ethnic or multiethnic.

If elected, three people will be stepping into their new call as executive officers, he reported, and for the first time the senior leadership of the church (COLT) will be majority ethnic.

Gary spoke of his gratitude for colleagues Debbie Blue and Curt Peterson, who have served alongside him for so many years.

At the full Annual Meeting, Gary will give a full update on our continuing commitment to resource the church on human sexuality.

At 130 years, Gary said, the church is still vital, still wanting to dream dreams and serve God.

Catherine Gilliard prayed for Gary.

## COVENANT KIDS CONGO (CKC)

Donn Engebreston, director of global advancement, led with a question of how is the good news of Jesus Christ being spoken, practiced, and extended to others? He then showed a video in response to this question. The Covenant has a long history in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. We are compelled by a story of hope for a bright future for our friends in Congo. World Vision serves as the contractor for CKC, which is the largest single project ever undertaken by either the ECC and/or World Vision. Churches can engage by hosting a Hope Sunday. Consider doing a Hope Sunday every two years to get new people involved and to stay engaged.

## REPORT FROM NORTH PARK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

David Kersten, dean, reported that more than forty individuals have graduated across all of the degrees/programs. He commended David Parkyn for leading the two search processes. NPTS is seeking better missional alignment between the church and the seminary. It will be rolling out a new M.Div in the fall (from 92 to 79 semester hours), and reworking several certificates and adding new ones as well.

NPTS is celebrating an increase in student enrollment. Full-time enrollment is 115 to 118 students. All of the degrees are now available on campus and/or online (with intensives).

NPTS hosted a symposium on mental health in November 2014 that was live-streamed. Fall of 2016 there will be a symposium on addiction and addiction recovery. September 24-26 a symposium will be held on the topic of race.

Klyne Snodgrass completed forty-one years of teaching at the seminary. He will be part of the emeritus faculty and will continue on a more limited capacity. Max Lee won \$40,000 to a study/sabbatical he is doing.

The seminary now offers new certificates in congregational vitality (12 credit hours). There will be a 50 percent discount in the pilot period. A second certificate will be given in church planting (12 credit hours; 4 courses). There will also be a 50 percent discount in the pilot period.

## REPORT FROM NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

David Parkyn is beginning his tenth year this fall as president. He gave thanks to the faculty, staff, and students.

He reported that NPU wants to help students discover the life to which God is calling them. The school has been doing this for 124 years.

More than \$63 million was raised for the new Johnson Center which was dedicated and opened for this past school year. NPU has record enrollment in several areas, including undergrad enrollment.

NPU hired a new vice-president for enrollment management. They also hired a new provost, who will begin July 1.

Parkyn said that NPU wants to enroll students from Covenant churches. He asked pastors to encourage students from their churches to consider NPU, and asked them to send their youth rosters so that the school has that information. North Park will have a strong presence at CHIC this July.

## ELECTION RESULTS

President: Catherine Gilliard

Vice-secretary: Dan Springer

## ADVOCATES FOR COVENANT CLERGY WOMEN (ACCW) REPORT

On behalf of the ACCW, Elizabeth Jensen presented three awards.

Helen Smith received the Anderson/ Nordlund Missionary Grant. The \$500 scholarship provides for continued training and education, awarded to a full-time female missionary called by the Covenant, on assignment through Covenant World Mission, and supported by a local Covenant congregation.

Sharon Nelson received with the Priscilla Pastorate Grant. The \$1,000 grant is given to a full-time female pastor in a Covenant church, regardless of title, who is a pastor in good standing in the Covenant Ministerium.

Jeff Ondrey received with the Mordecai Award for Outstanding Partnership, which honors a male colleague who has demonstrated active support of women in ministry through providing advocacy, resources, support, and dialogue on behalf of all women in ministry. Those eligible for the award include administrators, teachers, pastors, and missionaries.

## INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

Tim B. Johnson installed Catherine Gilliard as the new president of the Covenant Ministerium. Dan Springer, vice-secretary, was unable to be present. Tim prayed.

## TIME OF REMEMBRANCE

The following list of names of pastors, missionaries, and spouses was prayerfully read in remembrance of those who have concluded their earthly journey in the past year.

### **Pastors**

C. Ernest Harman, July 29, 2014, Cromwell, Connecticut  
Glenn L. Lindell, July 30, 2014, Overland Park, Kansas  
Elder M. Lindahl, November 3, 2014, Golden Valley, Minnesota  
Lloyd J. Johnson, November 23, 2014, Loveland, Colorado  
Eric P. Josephson, December 25, 2014, Mercer Island, Washington  
Ralph E. Youngman, January 13, 2015, Batavia, Illinois  
Joy H. Champion, February 12, 2015, Modesto, California  
Luverne W. Sands, March 9, 2015, Spring Valley, California  
Clifford E. Biel, April 12, 2015, Mondovi, Wisconsin

### **Missionaries**

Dean R. Erickson, September 15, 2014, Spring Valley, California  
Joy Lundquist, October 17, 2014, Minnetonka, Minnesota  
Homer V. Melgren, October 20, 2014, Osage City, Kansas  
Ruth Noren, June 10, 2015, Grand Rapids, Michigan

### **Spouses**

Wesley Chall (Sally), January 10, 2012, Jamestown, New York  
Muriel Lindahl (Elder), January 28, 2013, Golden Valley, Minnesota  
Oris Shoemaker (Frederick), March 7, 2014, Golden Valley, Minnesota  
Rosemary Johnson (Eldon), June 26, 2014, Bemus Point, New York  
Philip Johnson (Evelyn), August 4, 2014, Chicago, Illinois  
Maynette Lindell (Glenn), October 8, 2014, Lenexa, Kansas  
Helen Anderson (Gilbert), October 16, 2014, Golden Valley, Minnesota  
Marilyn Dirksen (Ralph), December 31, 2014, Geneva, Illinois  
Genevieve Hodgkin (Worth), January 15, 2015, Mercer Island, Washington



Alyce Hawkinson (James), January 28, 2015, White Bear Lake, Minnesota  
Barbara Strom (Milton), March 30, 2015, Turlock, California  
Carol Bringerud (Goete), April 1, 2015, Plantation, Florida  
Darlene Carlson (Kurt), May 1, 2015, Clackamas, Oregon  
Barbara Rundquist (Dolan), June 8, 2015, Leonardville, Kansas

## RESOLUTIONS OF GRATITUDE

Resolutions of gratitude were made for the following:

Catherine Gilliard, Dominique Gilliard, Karen Hinz, Greg Johnson, Max Lee, Shaun Marshall, Jill Riley, and Mark Tao, who spoke during our CovTalks;

Tim B. Johnson who has been the Ministerium president, and Cheryl Lavornia, who has been the vice-secretary;

Catherine Gilliard, new president and Dan Springer, vice-secretary;

those who received the Clergy Lifetime Service Award;

the executive committee and associations who prepared for this Annual Meeting of the Covenant Ministerium.

## ADJOURNMENT

The Ministerium gave a word of appreciation to Tim B. Johnson for his time as president.

A motion to adjourn until the next Annual Meeting was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 p.m.

Jennifer Zerby, Secretary  
Covenant Ministerium

## ADDENDUM

### TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2015

|                                       | <b>Budget<br/>2014-2015</b> | <b>Actual<br/>2014-2015</b> | <b>Proposed<br/>Budget<br/>2015-2016</b> |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| <b>Balance Forward</b>                | 25,807.45                   | 25,807.45                   | 17,340.32                                |
| <b>Income</b>                         |                             |                             |  |
| Dues                                  | \$107,500.00                | \$111,120.00                | \$121,805.00                             |
| Interest                              | 35.00                       | 13.57                       | 20.00                                    |
| Annual Mtg Registration               | 2,100.00                    | 2,665.13                    | 5,000.00                                 |
| Other Income                          |                             | 50.00                       |  |
| <b>Total Income</b>                   | <b>\$109,635.00</b>         | <b>\$113,848.70</b>         | <b>\$126,825.00</b>                      |
| <b>Expenses</b>                       |                             |                             |  |
| SPE                                   | \$50,000.00                 | \$50,000.00                 | \$50,000.00                              |
| Annual Meeting                        | 3,500.00                    | 5,136.99                    | 5,500.00                                 |
| Executive Committee                   | 15,000.00                   | 12,098.72                   | 15,000.00                                |
| Ministry Conferences                  | 5,000.00                    | 5,409.63                    | 5,000.00                                 |
| Administration                        | 125.00                      | 170.49                      | 125.00                                   |
| <i>Midwinter Scholarships</i>         |                             |                             |  |
| Pastors                               | 17,000.00                   | 17,000.00                   | 17,000.00                                |
| Military Chaplains                    | 2,000.00                    | 2,000.00                    | 2,000.00                                 |
| NPTS                                  | 3,000.00                    | 3,000.00                    | 3,000.00                                 |
| Retired Pastors                       | 2,000.00                    | 2,000.00                    | 2,000.00                                 |
| <i>Organizations &amp; Ministries</i> |                             |                             |  |
| Women Intern Grants                   | 6,000.00                    | 6,000.00                    | 6,000.00                                 |
| Diversity Intern Grants               | 6,000.00                    | 6,000.00                    | 6,000.00                                 |
| ACCW                                  | 3,000.00                    | 3,000.00                    | 3,000.00                                 |
| Covenant Quarterly                    | 1,000.00                    | 1,000.00                    | 1,000.00                                 |
| CHET                                  | 1,000.00                    | 1,000.00                    | 1,000.00                                 |
| NPTS Deacon's Fund                    | 5,000.00                    | 5,000.00                    | 5,000.00                                 |
| Ministers' Crisis Fund Grant          | 0.00                        | 1,500.00                    | 3,000.00                                 |
| Western Alaska Training Grant         | 2,000.00                    | 2,000.00                    | 2,000.00                                 |
| <b>Total Expenses</b>                 | <b>\$121,625.00</b>         | <b>\$122,315.83</b>         | <b>\$126,625.00</b>                      |
| <b>Net Income Less Expenses</b>       | (11,990.00)                 | (8,467.13)                  | 200.00                                   |
| <b>Ending Cash Balance</b>            | <b>\$13,817.45</b>          | <b>\$17,340.32</b>          | <b>\$17,540.32</b>                       |