

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

**2015-16 EDITION**

**Minutes of the Annual Meeting**

# **Minutes of the 130th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church**

Sheraton Kansas City at Crown Center  
Kansas City, Missouri  
June 26-27, 2015

## **FIRST BUSINESS SESSION**

Friday, June 26, 2015  
8:34 a.m.

### **1. MORNING WORSHIP**

Moderator Amanda Olson called the business session of the 130th Annual Meeting to order at 8:34 a.m., beginning with a time of worship. The worship team led a time of singing and Beth Seversen, evangelism team leader for the Make and Deepen Disciples mission priority, provided a meditation.

### **2. OPENING STATEMENT BY THE MODERATOR**

Moderator Amanda Olson explained procedures, issued an opening statement, and introduced the officers and staff on stage.

Wilson Herrera, Hispanic ministries team leader for the Make and Deepen disciples mission priority, announced in Spanish that supporting material for various agenda items were written in Spanish and available to delegates.

### **3. GREETING FROM MIDWEST CONFERENCE**

Superintendent Tammy Swanson-Draheim greeted the assembly on behalf of the Midwest Conference and its churches.

### **4. REPORT ON CREDENTIALS AND MOTION**

The moderator recognized Gail Ohta, chair of the credentials committee, who presented the following motion on behalf of the credentials committee: "Those persons who have currently been registered and certified as delegates with the committee on credentials together with those who shall subsequently be registered and certified in the course of this Annual Meeting shall constitute the official roster of the 130th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church."

The motion carried.

Ohta then reported that registration thus far included 370 credentialed voting delegates and 159 additional registrants in various non-voting categories for a total registered conference attendance of 529.

### **5. ACTION ON THE STANDING RULES**

The moderator recognized Shaun Marshall, vice-moderator, who, on behalf of the agenda committee, moved the adoption of the standing rules as follows:

STANDING RULES OF ORDER  
2015 COVENANT ANNUAL MEETING

**1) Obtaining the Floor**

Only persons wearing appropriate credentials as delegates, advisors, or resource persons may be present on the floor of the Annual Meeting or request speaking privileges. With the exception of points of order, points of personal privilege, or other items that require urgent attention, only those persons who approach a microphone shall be recognized by the moderator.

**2) Voting**

Voting on motions will typically be by voice vote. Any delegate may request voting by ballot on any particular question. This request, when supported by 10 percent of the delegates present and voting, will be implemented. The moderator may direct that voting be by ballot on any question.

**3) Time Limits**

a) Reports that contain no proposal for action by the meeting shall be limited to ten (10) minutes, including the question period, with the exception of the president's report, the treasurer's report, and items specified in the agenda as longer reports.

b) Debate on any main motion, including its subsidiary motions, shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes, except as otherwise specified in these standing rules and the agenda. No amendment or other subsidiary motion to a main motion shall be allowed until debate on the main motion has ceased or ten (10) minutes have passed.

c) No speech in debate may exceed three (3) minutes unless this period is extended by a majority vote at the request of the speaker.

d) Time limits may be extended for a specific period by a two-thirds vote.

**4) Submission of Motions in Writing**

All main motions and complex subsidiary motions shall be submitted in writing to the secretary.

**5) Items of Business Not on the Agenda**

The Bylaws provide in Section 7.8.a.ii that "Items of business that are not on the agenda may be submitted in writing by a delegate to the moderator. If the item submitted is in order, a majority vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required to place that item on the agenda." It is further strongly requested that such items be submitted to the moderator as early as possible in the course of the meeting

**6) Consent Agenda**

Items on the consent agenda are routine, procedural, informational, self-explanatory non-controversial items that require action but generally don't require discussion or debate. Acting on these items move the meeting along allowing for more time for substantive issues. Items on the consent agenda may be removed from the consent agenda at the request of any two delegates. Items removed from the consent agenda shall be acted upon by the assembly at a place in the agenda determined by the moderator. If the consent agenda is not adopted by the unanimous consent of the meeting, then each of the items on the consent agenda shall be acted upon by the assembly as a separate motion at a place in the agenda determined by the moderator.

## 7) Nominations from the Floor

A nomination from the floor shall be accepted only if the person nominated has agreed to have his or her name placed in nomination. (Note that the Bylaws provide in Section 7.9.c.v.2 and 7.10.j.ii that a delegate making a nomination may provide descriptive information similar in scope and content to that provided to the Annual Meeting by a nominating board or committee.)

## 8) Modification of Agenda Order

The moderator shall have the discretion to revise the order of agenda items to accommodate scheduling needs.

### Agenda Committee Members

Amanda L. Olson, *moderator*

Shaun Marshall, *vice-moderator*

Samuel Chang, *parliamentarian*

Gary B. Walter, *president of the Covenant*

Rebecca Gonzalez, *secretary of the Covenant*

The motion to adopt the standing rules carried.

## 6. ACTION ON THE PROPOSED AGENDA

The moderator recognized Rebecca Gonzalez, executive director of operations, who reported that the Executive Board recommended the adoption of the agenda as follows:

### Times Certain

Friday

8:30-12:00 p.m.

Morning Business Session with Worship

1:30-4:30 p.m.

Afternoon Business Session

1:30 p.m.

Irving Lambert Outstanding Urban Ministries Award

Saturday

8:30-12:00 p.m.

Morning Business Session with Worship

9:15 a.m.

T. W. Anderson Outstanding Layperson Award

10:00 a.m.

Clergy Lifetime Service Recognition

10:15 a.m.

Ministerial Credentials

11:00 a.m.

2016 Mission and Ministry Budget

1:30-3:00 p.m.

Afternoon Business Session

Reports exceeding the ten (10) minute time limit per Standing Rule 3.a are marked:  
e.g., (30-min. report)

### PREPARING OUR HEARTS

#### 1. Morning Worship

### ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

#### 2. Opening Statement by the Moderator

#### 3. Greeting from Midwest Conference, Superintendent Tammy Swanson-Draheim

#### 4. Report on Credentials and Motion

##### a. Credentialing Report #1

##### b. Credentialing Report #2

##### c. Credentialing Report #3

5. Action on the Standing Rules
6. Action on the Proposed Agenda (*Esta material también se encuentra en Español*)
7. Approval of Honorary Delegates and Resource Persons
  - a. Honorary Delegates
  - b. Resource Persons

#### MEMBERSHIP IN THE MISSION

8. Churches Removed from the Roster
  - a. Recognition and Prayer
9. Churches Applying for Membership in the Evangelical Covenant Church
  - a. Recognition and Prayer (*15-minute report*)
10. Conference Membership in the Evangelical Covenant Church: Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska
  - a. Recognition and Prayer (*15-minute report*)

#### STATE OF THE MISSION

11. Report of the President

#### SERVANT LEADERSHIP FOR THE MISSION

12. Election of Executive Ministers
  - a. Executive Minister of Love Mercy and Do Justice
    - (1) Report of the Nominating Committee
    - (2) Vote
    - (3) Results
  - b. Executive Minister of Serve Globally
    - (1) Report of the Nominating Committee
    - (2) Vote
    - (3) Results
  - c. Executive Minister of Make and Deepen Disciples
    - (1) Report of the Nominating Committee
    - (2) Vote
    - (3) Results
13. Report of the Board of Nominations and Vote
14. Actions to Be Taken from the Ordered Ministry (*Time Certain—Saturday, 10:15 a.m.*)
  - a. Presentation of Candidates for Transfer of Ordination
  - b. Presentation of Candidates for Commissioning
  - c. Presentation of Candidates for Ordination to Word and Service
  - d. Presentation of Candidates for Ordination to Word and Sacrament
  - e. Approval of Licenses
  - f. Change in Standing

#### HONORING FAITHFUL SERVICE IN THE MISSION

15. Clergy Lifetime Service Recognition (*Time Certain—Saturday, 10:00 a.m.*)
16. Recognition of Curt Peterson, Executive Minister of Serve Globally
17. Recognition of Debbie Blue, Executive Minister of Love Mercy and Do Justice
18. Recognition of Evelyn Johnson, Interim Executive Minister of Make and Deepen Disciples
19. Recognition of Executive Board Members Concluding Term of Service

20. T. W. Anderson Outstanding Layperson Award (*Time Certain – Saturday 9:15 a.m.*)
21. Irving Lambert Outstanding Urban Ministries Award (*Time Certain – Friday 1:30 p.m.*)

#### FUNDING THE MISSION

22. Fiscal Year 2014 Financial Report
23. Presentation and Adoption of the 2016 Mission and Ministry Budget  
(*Time Certain – Saturday 11:00 a.m.*)

#### ROUNDTABLE

24. Fiscal Year 2014 Financial Report

#### LIVING FAITHFULLY IN THE MISSION

25. Commission on Christian Action
  - a. Recommendation on Resolution on Clean Water  
(*Este material también se encuentra en Español*)
26. Report on the ECC and Human Sexuality

#### DIMENSIONS OF THE MISSION

27. Mission and Ministry Leadership Report
28. Report from Covenant Trust Company
29. Report from Covenant Ministries of Benevolence
30. Report from North Park University
31. Report from Paul Carlson Partnership
32. Report from the National Covenant Properties
33. Mission and Ministry Leadership Response to Delegate Questions

#### ORGANIZING FOR MISSION

34. 2015 Bylaws Amendments
35. Recommendations for Continuation of Commissions
  - a. Commission on Ethnic Ministries
  - b. Commission on Town and Country Ministries
36. Approval of Minutes of 130th Annual Meeting
37. Arrangements for 2016 Annual Meeting
38. Approval of North Pacific Conference Name Change to Pacific Northwest Conference

#### PREPARING TO GO FORTH IN MISSION

39. Prayer for the Mission and Ministry of the ECC
40. Close of the Meeting
  - a. Delegate Evaluation
  - b. Report to Congregations
  - c. Closing Statement
    - (1) Resolution of Sympathy
    - (2) Resolution of Gratitude
41. Adjournment
42. Benediction

**Annual Meeting Officers**

Moderator: Amanda L. Olson

Vice-Moderator: Shaun Marshall

Secretary: Deani C. Jordan

**Parliamentarian**

Samuel Chang

The motion to adopt the agenda carried.

**7. APPROVAL HONORARY DELEGATES AND RESOURCE PERSONS**

The moderator recognized Rebecca Gonzalez, executive director of operations, who recommended the approval of the following persons as honorary delegates:

Award Recipients: David L. Swanson, T. W. Anderson Layperson Award recipient; Don Davenport, Irving Lambert Urban Ministries Award recipient.

Emeriti: Paul Larsen, president emeritus of the Covenant; Robert and Novella Larson, executive secretary emeritus of church growth and evangelism and his wife; Glenn and Sharon Palmberg, president emeritus of the Covenant and his wife.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Gonzalez then recommended the approval of the following persons as resource persons: Christine Buettgen, Donn Engebretson, Advancement; Jane Swanson-Nystrom, Communications; Lawrence Anderson, Covenant Ministries of Benevolence; Carol Lawson, Theresa Marks, Danielle Ng, Develop Leaders; Elliott Johnson, Finance; Cecilia Williams, Love Mercy and Do Justice; Steve Burger, Aune Carlson, Tim Ciccone, Meagan Gillan, Wilson Herrera, Millie Lungren, Beth Seversen, Make and Deepen Disciples; Rob Hall, Peter Hedstrom, National Covenant Properties; Paul De Neui, Terry Lindsay, North Park University; Marti Burger, Operations; Sam Chang, Parliamentarian; Byron Amundsen, Kim Crawford, Lana Heinrich, Nancy Jo Hoover, David Husby, Meritt Lohr Sawyer, Baxter Swenson, Margie Swenson, Serve Globally; John Teter, Fredrik Wall, John Wenrich, Start and Strengthen Churches.

The motion was seconded and carried.

The moderator recognized Curt Peterson, executive minister of serve globally, who introduced international guests, Jules Mboka, president of the CEUM (Covenant Church of Congo), and his wife, Charlotte.

President Mboka gave remarks which were translated by Keith Gustafson.

**8. CHURCHES REMOVED FROM THE ROSTER**

The moderator recognized Rebecca Gonzalez, executive director of operations, who highlighted the legacy of churches that closed in the past year.

Gonzalez then presented a recommendation from the Executive Board, based on recommendations from the respective conferences, that the following churches be removed from the roster of member churches:

Alum Rock Covenant Church, San Jose, California (closed)

Bayside Church of Lincoln, Lincoln, California (closed)

Bayside Covenant Church of Plumas Lake, Plumas Lake, California  
(withdrawn)

Bayside Covenant Church of Woodland, Inc., Woodland, California  
(withdrawn)

Church of Philadelphia Covenant, San Jose, California (closed)

Cloverland Covenant Church, Maple, Wisconsin (withdrawn)

Connexions Church, Dexter, Michigan (closed)  
 Cross Fellowship, Inc., Chicago, Illinois (closed)  
 Ecclesia Denver, Denver, Colorado (closed)  
 Evangelical Covenant Church, Deer River, Minnesota (closed)  
 Fellowship Covenant Church, Hudsonville, Michigan (closed)  
 First Covenant Church, Sioux City, Iowa (closed)  
 Heartland Covenant Church, Springfield, Missouri (closed)  
 Life Church: an Evangelical Covenant Church, Grandville, Michigan (closed)  
 Lighthouse Covenant Church, Tamarac, Florida (closed)  
 Maplewood Covenant Church, Maplewood, Minnesota (closed)  
 Morningstar Church, Middleville, Michigan (closed)  
 Renovate Covenant Church, Muskegon, Michigan (closed)  
 St. Luke Covenant Church, Morton Grove, Illinois (withdrawn)  
 The Church at Long Beach, Long Beach, California (closed)

The motion to remove the churches from the roster carried.

Susan Poston, member of the Executive Board and chair of the start and strengthen churches committee, led in prayer, thanking God for ministry of those churches.

## 9. CHURCHES APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

The moderator recognized Dick Lucco, interim executive minister of start and strengthen churches, to present the churches applying for membership.

Lucco introduced individual superintendents, who introduced pastors and representatives from each church applying for membership.

Lucco, upon the recommendation of the respective conferences and regions, and on behalf of the Executive Board, moved that the 130th Annual Meeting accept the following churches into membership in the Evangelical Covenant Church:

<b>Church</b>	<b>Approximate Membership</b>	<b>Approximate Attendance</b>
<b>CENTRAL CONFERENCE</b>		
Berean Covenant Church Champaign, Illinois	7	60
Centro Cristiano el Poder del Amor Berwyn, Illinois	25	35
City of Hope Covenant Bolingbrook, Illinois	36	50
The Ninth Hour Chicago, Illinois	in process	50
The Rock Christian Church DeKalb, Illinois	100	120
<b>EAST COAST CONFERENCE</b>		
Douglas Memorial Community Church Baltimore, Maryland	364	205



## MIDWEST CONFERENCE

Iglesia Evangelica Siloe Covenant Church Kansas City, Kansas	40	75
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## PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

Bridge/Puente Covenant Church Salem, Oregon	30	in process
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## PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE

Bayside Covenant Church in Galt Galt, California	100	225
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By conference groupings, the churches were accepted into membership of the Evangelical Covenant Church, and the moderator declared them to be full members.

John Teter, church planting team leader for start and strengthen churches, prayed for the new Covenant congregations.

## 10. CONFERENCE MEMBERSHIP IN THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH: EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH OF ALASKA

The moderator recognized Dick Lucco, interim executive minister of start and strengthen churches, to present the conference applying for membership. In addition, the moderator recognized Curtis Ivanoff, field director of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska, who recognized all present who have served in Alaska and presented the moderator with a special gavel to use to declare this historical vote.

Lucco, on behalf of the Executive Board, moved that the 130th Annual Meeting recognize the Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska as a full member conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

The Alaska Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church was accepted as a full member conference, and the moderator declared them to be so.

Lucco prayed for the new conference and superintendent.

## 27. MISSION AND MINISTRY LEADERSHIP REPORT

Vice-moderator Shaun Marshall referred to the annual report book that was handed out and invited delegates to submit questions to him in writing by the end of the Friday afternoon session. Questions about information provided by administrators in the annual report book or during their presentations to the Annual Meeting would be answered by administrators during the Saturday afternoon session.

## 11. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, president, to give his report. Walter highlighted how the Covenant is bringing the hope of Christ to more than two million people around the world through the efforts of the five mission priorities. He shared the 2015 Mission and Ministry video ("Multiply") and reminded attendees that it is available for local congregations to download and use. Walter provided a brief update on progress in program and financial goals and reported on an amendment read into last year's minutes regarding the frequency of the Annual Meeting.

Walter then called to the stage Beth Seversen, evangelism team leader for make and deepen disciples; Bruce McGregor and Melvin Cole, co-pastors of Freedom Covenant Church in Kansas City, Missouri; David Kersten, dean of North Park Theological Seminary; Cecilia Williams, director of CMJ ministry initiatives for love mercy and do

justice; Soudinh Penkhay, missionary to Thailand; and Paul DeNeui, director of the center for world Christian studies/professor of intercultural studies and missiology for North Park Theological Seminary. Each talked about their ministry area/focus.

Walter noted the recent murders of the nine members of Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina, and read an open letter that he wrote to the AME members on behalf of the Covenant. Walter and other leaders then led the group in a litany of lament in response to the event. The time of remembrance was closed in prayer by Jerome Nelson, superintendent of the Central Conference.

Walter recognized and celebrated the fact that Jerome Nelson is coming up on five years being cancer free. Walter closed his time with expressing his gratefulness for the privilege of leading and serving a denomination committed to “bringing the hope.”

Will Davidson, chair of the Executive Board, prayed for Walter and his family.

## CELEBRATING THE MISSION—MAKE AND DEEPEN DISCIPLES

A video celebrating the make and deepen disciples mission priority was shown.

## 22. FISCAL YEAR 2014 FINANCIAL REPORT

The moderator recognized Paul Hawkinson, executive director of finance and treasurer, who gave a financial report for 2014. The auditors gave a clean report. There were no audit exceptions, no material weaknesses, and no disagreements with management.

Tom Sprague, chair of the Executive Board finance committee, prayed for Hawkinson.

The vice-moderator gave instructions for lunch and thanked those who were volunteering for children’s ministry during the meeting.

The assembly recessed at 12:16 p.m.

## SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

Friday, June 26, 2015

1:43 p.m.

## 21. IRVING LAMBERT OUTSTANDING URBAN MINISTRIES AWARD

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, president, and Debbie Blue, executive minister of love mercy and do justice, to present the Irving C. Lambert Award to Don Davenport of Oakdale Covenant Church, Chicago, Illinois. Blue gave a history of the award, and Walter presented a citation, which highlighted various aspects of Davenport’s ministry and contributions in urban and ethnic ministries.

## 4b. CREDENTIALING REPORT #2

The moderator recognized Gail Ohta for her second report. Registration thus far included 397 credentialed voting delegates and 159 additional registrants in various non-voting categories for a total registered conference attendance of 556.

## 12. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MINISTERS NOMINATING COMMITTEES

### **Executive Minister of Love Mercy and Do Justice**

The moderator recognized Sue Poston, member of the Executive Board and chair of the nominating committee for the executive minister of love mercy and do justice.

Poston explained the process and rationale for selecting executive ministers and a summary of why the committee selected the nominee. She then presented the ballot as follows:

**EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF LOVE MERCY AND DO JUSTICE**

*4-year term*

Cecilia Williams

The moderator called for nominations from the floor. There were none. The moderator declared nominations closed.

**Executive Minister of Serve Globally**

The moderator recognized Rachel Sands, member of the Executive Board and chair of the nominating committee for the executive minister of serve globally. Sands explained the process and rationale for selecting executive ministers and a summary of why the committee selected the nominee. She then presented the ballot as follows:

**EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF SERVE GLOBALLY**

*4-year term*

Al Tizón

The moderator called for nominations from the floor. There were none. The moderator declared nominations closed.

**Executive Minister of Make and Deepen Disciples**

The moderator recognized Jeff Houston, member of the Executive Board and chair of the nominating committee for the executive minister of make and deepen disciples. Houston explained the process and rationale for selecting executive ministers and a summary of why the committee selected the nominee. He then presented the ballot as follows:

**EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF MAKE AND DEEPEN DISCIPLES**

*4-year term*

Michelle Sanchez

The moderator called for nominations from the floor. There were none. The moderator declared nominations closed.

The tellers distributed the ballots, and Shaun Marshall, vice-moderator, gave instructions.

Ken Larson, chair of the tellers, prayed for the candidates.

**CELEBRATING THE MISSION—COVENANT KIDS CONGO**

The moderator recognized Donn Engebretson, director for global advancement, and Christine Buettgen, project manager for Covenant Kids Congo, who introduced a video celebrating the ministry of Covenant Kids Congo.

**13. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF NOMINATIONS AND VOTE**

The moderator recognized Bob Olson, chair of the Board of Nominations, who explained the procedures and task of the board and then presented the ballot as follows:

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

*6-year term*

Rebecca Barnett

*6-year term*

Lance Davis

*6-year term*

John C. Stewart

*6-year term*

Valerie Thomas

*5-year term*

Josef Rasheed

*4-year term*

Joshua Kang

## BOARD OF NOMINATIONS

*5-year term*

Cheryl Borgeson

*5-year term*

Evan Westburg

*1-year term*

Carolyn Larson

## BOARD OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY

*5-year term*

Nancy Ebner

*5-year term*

Henry Greenidge

*5-year term*

Jim Holst

## BOARD OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

*5-year term*

Scott Applequist

*5-year term*

Andrea M. Johnson

*5-year term*

Anthony Wyatt

*2-year term*

Bruce R. Peterson

## BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE

*6-year term*

Roger Oxendale

*6-year term*  
Clarke Tungseth

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

*5-year term*  
Peggy Bley

*5-year term*  
Rebekah Eklund

*5-year term*  
Keith Hamilton

*5-year term*  
Efrem D. Smith

#### ANNUAL MEETING OFFICER FOR 2016 and 2017

##### **Secretary**

*2-year term*  
Jo E. Wolfe

The moderator called for nominations from the floor. There were none. The moderator declared nominations closed.

The tellers distributed the ballots and Ken Larson, chair of the tellers, gave instructions.

#### 26. REPORT ON THE ECC AND HUMAN SEXUALITY

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, president, who provided an update on the matter of human sexuality and how the Covenant is navigating forward. Walter reviewed the three principles that have guided the process of navigating forward, provided an update on progress to date, and underscored the importance of improving ministry practices in this area.

#### CELEBRATING THE MISSION—CHIC

The moderator recognized Marti Burger, director of Covenant events, and Tim Ciccone, youth minister leader for make and deepen disciples, who presented a video and overview of CHIC 2015, which will be held July 12-17 at the University of Tennessee.

#### 12. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE MINISTERS NOMINATING COMMITTEES, CONTINUED

The moderator called on Ken Larson, chair of the tellers, who reported the following executive minister election results. The numbers indicate affirmative votes.

##### EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF LOVE MERCY AND DO JUSTICE

*4-year term*  
Cecilia Williams (334)

##### EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF SERVE GLOBALLY

*4-year term*  
Al Tizón (322)

## EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF MAKE AND DEEPEN DISCIPLES

*4-year term*

Michelle Sanchez (323)

The moderator declared all of the above duly elected to the positions.  
Larson led in a word of prayer for all those who were elected.

## 18. RECOGNITION OF EVELYN M. R. JOHNSON, INTERIM EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF MAKE AND DEEPEN DISCIPLES

Gary Walter presented a citation of recognition to Evelyn Johnson for five years of service as director of special projects (2010-2012), interim executive vice-president (2013-2014), and interim executive minister of make and deepen disciples (2014-2015). He also announced that Johnson has been granted emerita status.

Johnson expressed gratitude for being recognized and gave a special acknowledgement to her late husband, Phil, for his support through the years.

## 17. RECOGNITION OF DEBBIE BLUE, EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF LOVE MERCY AND DO JUSTICE

Walter then presented a citation of recognition to Debbie Blue for eight years of service as founding executive minister of love mercy and do justice, from 2007 to 2015. He also announced that Blue has been granted emerita status.

Blue expressed gratitude to the church for entrusting her with such a great responsibility and to her family for the sacrifices they made to support her.

## 16. RECOGNITION OF CURT PETERSON, EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF SERVE GLOBALLY

Walter then presented a citation of recognition to Curt Peterson for twelve years of service as the executive minister of serve globally, from 2003 to 2015. He also announced that Peterson has been granted emeritus status.

Peterson expressed gratitude to the church for the privilege of serving and for supporting the work of serve globally. He celebrated the fact that the gospel is bearing fruit around the world through the work of Covenant missionaries and expressed special thanks to his wife, Martie, for her support through the years.

## 32. REPORT FROM NATIONAL COVENANT PROPERTIES

The moderator recognized Steve Dawson, president of National Covenant Properties, who gave his report, which included an update on the status of loans and certificates.

## 29. REPORT FROM COVENANT MINISTRIES OF BENEVOLENCE

The moderator recognized David Dwight, president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence. After a brief introduction, Dwight presented Terri Cunliffe, newly appointed president of Covenant Retirement Communities, who gave a report.

## 30. REPORT FROM NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

The moderator recognized David Parkyn, president of North Park University, who gave his report, which included a celebration of the completion of Campaign North Park and the dedication and opening of the new Nancy and G. Timothy Johnson Center for Science and Community Life. He also noted the North Park alumni are making a positive impact within the Covenant, as evidenced by the fact that 40

percent of those profiled in the *Covenant Companion's* "40 Under 40" cover story (January/February 2015) are graduates of North Park.

28. REPORT FROM COVENANT TRUST COMPANY

The moderator recognized Ann Wiesbrock, president of Covenant Trust Company, who gave her report on the mission and ministry of the Covenant Trust Company.

The assembly recessed at 4:24 a.m.

THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

Saturday, June 27, 2015

8:35 a.m.

1. MORNING WORSHIP CONTINUED

Moderator Amanda Olson called the business session of the 130th Annual Meeting to order at 8:35 a.m., beginning with a time of worship. The worship team led a time of singing and Peter Ahn, senior pastor of Metro Community Church, gave a meditation.

20. T. W. ANDERSON OUTSTANDING LAYPERSON AWARD

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, president, to present the T. W. Anderson Award to David L. Swanson of Bethlehem Covenant Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota. Walter gave a history of the award and presented a citation, which highlighted various aspects of Swanson's service and contributions to the local church, community, and world.

4c. CREDENTIALING REPORT #3 (FINAL)

The moderator recognized Gail Ohta for the final report from the credentialing committee, which is as follows:

Representing	Delegates	Churches
Conferences		
Canada	3	2
Central	70	34
East Coast	23	14
Great Lakes	35	16
Midsouth	6	5
Midwest	49	22
Northwest	67	33
Pacific Northwest	28	16
Pacific Southwest	18	12
Southeast	10	7
Alaska	1	1
Total Delegates from Conferences	310	162
General		
Officers of the Covenant	3	1
Executive Board	25	5
Council of Administrators	11	1
Annual Meeting Officers	3	0

Board of Nominations	1	0
Covenant Ministerium	2	0
Assoc. of Cov. Camps and Conf. Centers	2	0
Commission Delegates	1	0
World Mission Fields	20	1
Regional Conference Offices	26	7
Total of General Delegates	94	15
<b>TOTAL CREDENTIALLED DELEGATES</b>	<b>404</b>	<b>177</b>
Honorary Delegates	7	1
Advisors from Covenant Institutions	0	0
Advisors from Non-member Churches	0	0
Resource People	31	2
Registered General Conferees	105	27
Exhibitors	11	1
Support Staff	13	1
Total Additional Attendees	167	32
Total Registered Conference Attendance	571	209

### 13. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF NOMINATIONS AND VOTE, CONT.

The moderator called on Rebecca Przbylski, chair of the tellers, who reported the following election results with the numbers indicating affirmative votes:

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

*6-year term*

Rebecca Barnett (332)

*6-year term*

Lance Davis (331)

*6-year term*

John C. Stewart (330)

*6-year term*

Valerie Thomas (332)

*5-year term*

Josef Rasheed (330)

*4-year term*

Joshua Kang (332)

#### BOARD OF NOMINATIONS

*5-year term*

Cheryl Borgeson (333)

*5-year term*

Evan Westburg (333)

*1-year term*

Carolyn Larson (331)



## BOARD OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY

*5-year term*

Nancy Ebner (331)

*5-year term*

Henry Greenidge (335)

*5-year term*

Jim Holst (333)

## BOARD OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

*5-year term*

Scott Applequist (333)

*5-year term*

Andrea M. Johnson (328)

*5-year term*

Anthony Wyatt (332)

*2-year term*

Bruce R. Peterson (333)

## BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE

*6-year term*

Roger Oxendale (335)

*6-year term*

Clarke Tungseth (332)

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

*5-year term*

Peggy Bley (327)

*5-year term*

Rebekah Eklund (329)

*5-year term*

Keith Hamilton (330)

*5-year term*

Efrem D. Smith (331)

## ANNUAL MEETING OFFICER FOR 2016 and 2017

### **Secretary**

*2-year term*

Jo E. Wolfe (335)

The moderator declared all of the above duly elected to the positions.

Larson led in a word of prayer for all those who were elected.

## 31. REPORT FROM PAUL CARLSON PARTNERSHIP

The moderator recognized Meritt Lohr Sawyer, executive director of Paul Carlson Partnership, who gave her report. Sawyer provided an update on the progress of the Congo Clinic Initiative.

## 15. CLERGY LIFETIME SERVICE RECOGNITION

The moderator recognized Mark Novak, executive minister of the ordered ministry, who explained that the church recognizes individuals who have served in credentialed ministry when they turn sixty-five years old. Novak called those present from the following list forward to be recognized, and Gary Walter, president, presented them with plaques of recognition (asterisk indicates those present for the award):

Byron J. Amundsen, Hanover Park, Illinois\*  
James L. Anderson, Shoreview, Minnesota\*  
Andrew J. Anderson, Cooper City, Florida  
Thomas A. Beckstrom, Northbrook, Illinois  
Deborah C. Blue, Calumet Park, Illinois\*  
Neil R. Bonkoski, North Branch, Minnesota\*  
J. David Cassel, Madison, Indiana  
Donald C. Davenport, Tinley Park, Illinois\*  
Carl D. DeLine, Stacy, Minnesota  
Patricia N. Dickson, Sierra Vista, Arizona  
Steven M. Elde, Edmonds, Washington  
H. Marcus Evinger, Dexter, Minnesota  
Philip E. Hakanson, York, Pennsylvania  
Glen A. Halvorsen, Plainville, Connecticut\*  
Michael L. Harper, Pahrump, Nevada\*  
James A. Harrelson, Osage City, Kansas  
David E. Hawkinson, New Brighton, Minnesota  
Bradley N. Hill, Normandy Park, Washington\*  
Ruth Y. Hill, Normandy Park, Washington\*  
Robert W. Hoey, Detroit, Michigan  
Lavern R. Holdeman, Omaha, Nebraska\*  
John M. Hudson, Iron River, Michigan  
Daniel Robert Johnson, Tuscan, Arizona  
Douglas Warren Johnson, Santa Barbara, California  
Daniel Richard Johnson, Willmar, Minnesota  
Alan Eugene Johnson, Urbandale, Iowa\*  
Janice G. Kelly, Mexico  
Mary L. Klug, Bellevue, Washington  
Max A. Lopez-Cepero, Anchorage, Alaska  
Jon C. Martin, Boise, Idaho  
Lyle L. Mook, West Kingston, Rhode Island  
Dennis P. Moon, Granby, Connecticut  
Queen E. O'Neal, Calumet Park, Illinois\*  
F. Daniel Osgood, Greenfield, New Hampshire  
Joel M. Oyoumick, Unalakleet, Alaska  
John Edward Phelan, Jr., Arlington Heights, Illinois  
Michael R. Ryan, Sammamish, Washington  
Craig L. Smith, Phoenix, Arizona  
John M. Smith, Loveland, Colorado  
James J. Stewart, Rancho Palo Verdes, California  
Thomas A. Van Der Meid, West Hartford, Connecticut

Craig E. Vote, Harcourt, Iowa  
Raymond L. Warren, Jr., Elkhorn, Wisconsin  
Larry Watts, Marvin, North Carolina

### 35. 2015 BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The moderator recognized Rebecca Gonzalez who recommended, on behalf of the Executive Board, the adoption of bylaw amendments related to the Board of Pensions and Benefits as follows:

#### **Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article X, Section 10.6.**

Current wording:

**Section 10.6.d.** The Board of Pensions and Benefits shall be the Trustees of the Covenant Pension Plan, as amended. The Board of Pensions and Benefits shall adopt appropriate amendments to the Covenant Pension Plan and submit those amendments to the Annual Meeting for approval.

**Section 10.6.e.** The Board of Pensions and Benefits shall oversee the ECC insurance and benefits program available to ministers, missionaries, church staff, and employees of regional conferences and conference institutions.

Proposed wording:

**Section 10.6.d.** The president of the ECC, the treasurer/executive director of finance of the ECC, and the chair of the Board of Pensions and Benefits shall be the Trustees of the Covenant Pension Plan, as amended. Amendments to the Covenant Pension Plan shall be adopted as set forth in the plan.

**Section 10.6.e.** The Board of Pensions and Benefits shall maintain, monitor and operate various retirement plans and health and welfare benefit plans offered and/or sponsored by the ECC from time to time, where such Board of Pensions and Benefits is a named fiduciary with respect to the plan.

The motion carried.

Gonzalez recommended, on behalf of the Executive Board, the adoption of the following bylaw amendment related to the Association of Covenant Spiritual Directors:

#### **Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article XV, Section 15.4.**

Current wording:

**Section 15.4. Other Associations.** The ECC has recognized the following associations: Association of Covenant Camps and Conference Centers, Association of Covenant Chaplains, and Association for Covenant Clergy Women.

Proposed wording:

**Section 15.4. Other Associations.** The ECC has recognized the following associations: Association of Covenant Camps and Conference Centers, Association of Covenant Chaplains, Association for Covenant Clergy Women, and Association of Covenant Spiritual Directors.

The motion carried.

Gonzalez recommended, on behalf of the Executive Board, the adoption of the following bylaw amendment related to the sale of Emmanuel Health Center, Inc.:

### **Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article XII, Section 12.2.h.**

Current wording:

h. Covenant Ministries of Benevolence has the following affiliated corporations, among others: Covenant Retirement Communities, Inc.; Emanuel Medical Center, Inc.; LifeCenter on the Green, Inc.; and Swedish Covenant Hospital. Each of these affiliated corporations may have affiliated corporations, institutions, and entities of its own.

Proposed wording:

h. Covenant Ministries of Benevolence has the following affiliated corporations, among others: Covenant Retirement Communities, Inc.; EMC Health, Inc.; LifeCenter on the Green, Inc.; and Swedish Covenant Hospital. Each of these affiliated corporations may have affiliated corporations, institutions, and entities of its own.

The motion carried.

Gonzalez recommended, on behalf of the Executive Board, the adoption of bylaw amendments related to the dissolution of the Covenant Development Corporation as follows:

### **Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article XII, Section 12.1.**

Current wording:

**Section 12.1.** The ECC has established the following corporations: Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation; North Park University, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation; Covenant Development Corporation, an Iowa not-for-profit corporation; National Covenant Properties, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation; Covenant Trust Company, a chartered Illinois trust company; and Paul Carlson Medical Program, Inc., an Illinois not-for-profit corporation.

Proposed wording:

**Section 12.1.** The ECC has established the following corporations: Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation; North Park University, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation; National Covenant Properties, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation; Covenant Trust Company, a chartered Illinois trust company; and Paul Carlson Medical Program, Inc., an Illinois not-for-profit corporation.

### **Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article XII, Section 12.4.**

Current wording:

**Section 12.4. Covenant Development Corporation.** Covenant Development Corporation assists the ECC, the regional conferences, conference institutions, ECC congregations, and corporations established by the ECC in acquiring and developing real property for ministry, as stated in its Articles of Incorporation. The voting members of the Executive Board of the ECC are the corporate members of Covenant Development Corporation. The corporate members appoint the directors of Covenant Development Corporation.

Proposed wording:

Delete in entirety.

## **Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article XII, Sections 12.5-12.7**

Re-number Sections 12.5-12.7. National Covenant Properties to be Section 12.4; Section 12.6 Covenant Trust Company to be Section 12.5; Section 12.7 Paul Carlson Medical Program, Inc. to be Section 12.6.  
Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.10.d.

The motions carried.

## **14. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM THE ORDERED MINISTRY**

The moderator recognized Mark Novak, executive minister of the ordered ministry, and Carol Lawson, director of ministry services for develop leaders, who gathered the candidates being presented for credentialing.

### **Presentation of Candidates for Transfer of Ordination**

Lawson presented the following motion: "The Board of the Ordered Ministry with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, recommends that the 130th Annual Meeting approve the following persons' application to transfer their ordination to the Evangelical Covenant Church:"

Michael R. Baker, Life Covenant Church Fort Bend, Sugar Land, Texas  
Brian C. Dietz, Highrock Covenant Church, Arlington, Massachusetts  
D. Aaron Johnson, Tri-Worship Covenant Church, Federal Way, Washington  
Keith D. Meyer, Hope Covenant Church, St. Cloud, Minnesota  
Cislin G. Williams, Faith Christian Center, Miami, Florida  
Winston W. Williams, Faith Christian Center, Miami, Florida

The moderator made provision for recording in the minutes the names of those delegates who made requests to second the recommendation of specific candidates for transfer of ordination:

Brian C. Dietz by Howard K. Burgoyne  
Keith D. Meyer by Craig Johnson, Keith G. Robinson

The moderator offered delegates an opportunity to vote on each candidate application separately. After hearing no request for separate votes, the candidates were voted on as a group. The motion carried.

### **Presentation of Candidates for Commissioning**

Lawson presented the following motion: "The Board of the Ordered Ministry with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, recommends that the 130th Annual Meeting grant commissioning to the following persons:"

Chadwick L. Persons, Bluewater Covenant Camp, Grand Rapids, Minnesota  
Mark E. Peterson, Northwest Covenant Church, Mount Prospect, Illinois  
Nicholas A. Pringle, Pine Lake Covenant Church, Sammamish, Washington

The moderator made provision for recording in the minutes the names of those delegates who made requests to second the recommendation of specific candidates for commissioning:

Mark E. Peterson by John K. Larson, Carolyn Poterek

The moderator offered delegates an opportunity to vote on each candidate application separately. After hearing no request for separate votes, the candidates were voted on as a group. The motion carried.

### **Presentation of Candidates for Ordination to Word and Service**

Lawson presented the following motion: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, recommends that the 130th Annual Meeting grant ordination to word and service to the following persons:”

Daniel C. Beach, The Journey Center, Santa Rosa, California  
Jesse W. Bolinder, Harbert Community Church, Harbert, Michigan  
Neil T. Botts, Christ Church, East Greenwich, Rhode Island  
Erik G. Cave, First Covenant Church, Portland, Oregon  
Rosemary A. Lee-Norman, Sanctuary Covenant Church, Minneapolis,  
Minnesota  
Seth G. Lindberg, Redeemer Covenant Church, Brooklyn Park, Minnesota  
Stephanie Ahn Mathis, West Hills Covenant Church, Portland, Oregon  
Martha J. Morey, Evangelical Covenant Church, Hinsdale, Illinois

The moderator made provision for recording in the minutes the names of those delegates who made requests to second the recommendation of specific candidates for ordination to word and service:

Jesse W. Bolinder by Jill and Scott Bolinder, Amanda Olson  
Neil T. Botts by Howard K. Burgoyne, David R. Danielson  
Erik G. Cave by Carolyn Poterek  
Seth G. Lindberg by Carolyn Poterek  
Stephanie Ahn Mathis by Carolyn Poterek  
Martha J. Morey by Paul R. Allen, John K. Larson, Carolyn Poterek

The moderator offered delegates an opportunity to vote on each candidate application separately. After hearing no request for separate votes, the candidates were voted on as a group. The motion carried.

### **Presentation of Candidates for Ordination to Word and Sacrament**

Lawson presented the following motion: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, recommends that the 130th Annual Meeting grant ordination to word and sacrament to the following persons:”

T. David Beck, Sanctuary Covenant Church, Sacramento, California  
Jeremy L. Berg, MainStreet Covenant Church, Mound, Minnesota  
David A. Bergstrom, Altru Health System, Grand Forks, North Dakota  
Ronald D. Bowman, Evangelical Covenant Church, Antioch, California  
Theodore A. Burrows, Modesto Covenant Church, Modesto, California  
Adam S. Butler, Columbia Grove Covenant Church, East Wenatchee, Washington  
Kristen A. Carlson, Mission Healthcare, San Diego, California  
David R. Chambers, Hope Community Evangelical Covenant Church,  
Houston, Texas  
Aaron Cho, Quest Church, Seattle, Washington  
Kimberly A. Crawford, Covenant World Mission, Chicago, Illinois  
Peter D. Foster, The Shelter Covenant Church, Pacheco, California

Dominique D. Gilliard, Convergence Covenant Church, Oakland, California  
 Sergio Gonzalez, Iglesia del Pacto Vida Plena, Chicago, Illinois  
 David E. Greenidge, Tigard Covenant Church, Tigard, Oregon  
 Mark A. Habluetzel, Hope Covenant Church, El Dorado, Kansas  
 Joan Hayward, Faith Covenant Church, St. Petersburg, Florida  
 Karl R. Helvig, Centennial Covenant Church, Littleton, Colorado  
 Nathan R. Hillman, Thomastown Covenant Church, Staples, Minnesota  
 Brandon J. Hovey, Hope Covenant Church, Chandler, Arizona  
 Gregory P. Johnson, Evangelical Covenant Church, Elgin, Illinois  
 Catherine A. Kaminski, Trinity Community Church, Cincinnati, Ohio  
 Steven D. Kilburn, Zion Covenant Church, Jamestown, New York  
 Brian D. King, Community Covenant Church, El Cajon, California  
 Jerry M. Kosanovich, Palo Congregational Church, Aurora, Minnesota  
 Nicole F. Laing, Stoneridge Covenant Church, Allison Park, Pennsylvania  
 Adam T. London, Evangelical Covenant Church, Unalakleet, Alaska  
 Una F. Lucey-Lee, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, Madison, Wisconsin  
 Robert S. McGee, Life Community Church, Roseville, California  
 Filomeno Nesta, Nueva Esperanza Covenant Church, Brentwood, California  
 Jeffrey C. Olson, Catalyst Covenant Church, St. Paul, Minnesota  
 Nathanael F. Putnam, Kallam Grove Christian Church, Madison,  
 North Carolina  
 Gregory A. Reiner, First Covenant Church, Mason City, Iowa  
 James D. Rose, Covenant Youth of Alaska, Unalakleet, Alaska  
 Michelle T. Sanchez, Highrock Covenant Church, Arlington, Massachusetts  
 Toni K. Schwabe, Rice Creek Covenant Church, Lino Lakes, Minnesota  
 Allan G. Serrano, Midsouth Conference, Rogers, Arkansas  
 Todd J. Spieker, Bethel Covenant Church, Ellsworth, Wisconsin  
 Rebekah C. Strobel, Selah Covenant Church, Selah, Washington  
 Michael D. Thomas Jr., Radiant Covenant Church, Renton, Washington  
 Alicia M. Vela, DeerGrove Covenant Church, Palatine, Illinois  
 Ho Jin Yoo, Cornerstone Church of Boston, Medford, Massachusetts

The moderator made provision for recording in the minutes the names of those delegates who made requests to second the recommendation of specific candidates for ordination to word and sacrament:

Jeremy L. Berg by Keith G. Robinson  
 Theodore A. Burrows by Margie Swenson  
 Adam S. Butler by Howard K. Burgoyne, Amanda Olson  
 Kristen A. Carlson by Greg West  
 Aaron Cho by Carolyn Poterek  
 Kimberly A. Crawford by Curt Peterson, Carolyn Poterek, Margie Swenson,  
 Byron Amundsen  
 Peter D. Foster by Dean R. Honnette  
 Dominique D. Gilliard by Shaun Marshall, Carolyn Poterek  
 Sergio Gonzalez by Amanda Olson  
 David E. Greenidge by Carolyn Poterek  
 Karl R. Helvig by Steve Thulson  
 Nathan R. Hillman by Craig Johnson, Bill Krivanek

Brandon J. Hovey by Stacey Heimkes  
Gregory P. Johnson by Paul R. Allen, David McCowan  
Brian D. King by Howard K. Burgoyne  
Nicole F. Laing by Gary Tonn, John Robinson  
Úna F. Lucey-Lee by Curt Peterson  
Filomeno Nesta by Susan Poston  
Jeffrey C. Olson by Howard K. Burgoyne, Susan Poston  
James D. Rose by Margie Swenson, Susan Poston  
Michelle T. Sanchez by Howard K. Burgoyne, Carolyn Poterek, Susan Poston  
Toni K. Schwabe by Keith G. Robinson, Stacey Heimkes  
Allan G. Serrano by Carolyn Poterek, Margie Swenson  
Rebekah C. Strobel by Carolyn Poterek  
Michael D. Thomas Jr. by Shaun Marshall, Carolyn Poterek, Margie Swenson  
Alicia M. Vela by Byron Amundsen  
Ho Jin Yoo by Howard K. Burgoyne

The moderator offered delegates an opportunity to vote on each candidate application separately. After hearing no request for separate votes, the candidates were voted on as a group. The motion carried.

### **Approval of Licenses**

Mark Novak referred the assembly to the list of applicants for licensure and presented the following recommendation: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, moves that the 130th Annual Meeting grant ministerial license as follows (The names of those with ministerial license appears in the roll of ministers in the *Covenant Yearbook*, 2015-2016 edition.):” The list included ministerial license and bi-vocational ministry license.

The motion carried.

### **Change in Standing**

Novak referred to the following reports, as found in the handout:

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, reports to the 130th Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following ministers has been moved from active to inactive: Benjamin Ecker, Anders Johnson, Timothy J. Johnson, James Kim, Amy Mark, Erin McDermott, Nils Peterson, Daniel Shelton, Joseph Taylor, David Wenell.”

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, reports to the 130th Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following ministers has been moved from leave of absence to inactive: Kelly Erickson, Christine Franzon, Douglas E. Johnson, Wendy Crawford Larson, Mary Pinley.”

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, reports to the 130th Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following ministers has been moved from leave of absence to active: Daniel Booker, Tony Chen, Carolyn Johnson.”

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, reports to the 130th Annual Meeting that Terri King has transferred her ordination standing to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.”

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant



Ministerium, reports to the 130th Annual Meeting that Adam Phillips has transferred his ordination standing to the Disciples of Christ.”

Novak then presented the following recommendation:

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, recommends to the 130th Annual Meeting that the following individual has resigned his ministerial standing and requested that his name be removed from the roster of Covenant ministers: William Howell.”

The motion carried.

Renee Franzen, member of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, prayed.

## CELEBRATING THE MISSION—COVENANT WORLD RELIEF

A video providing an overview of the work of Covenant World Relief was shown.

## 25. COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN ACTION

The moderator recognized James Amadon, chair of the Commission on Christian Action, who gave an overview of the commission and process of writing, reviewing, and approving resolutions. Amadon read several excerpts from the resolution.

### **Recommendation on Resolution on Clean Water**

Amadon then recommended, on behalf of the Executive Board, the adoption of the following resolution on clean water:

#### 2015 RESOLUTION ON CLEAN WATER

From the beginning of creation God filled the earth with an abundance of life-giving and life-sustaining water. God commanded humankind to be caretakers of creation (Genesis 1:28), which includes caring for the precious resource of water. We believe that God’s gift of water should be enjoyed and cared for by all people. The United Nations resolution of July 28, 2010, declares that clean drinking water is a basic human right.

Today we are experiencing a water crisis that is causing a “silent tsunami” of human suffering and ecological damage in every nation. Despite significant progress in the past twenty years, approximately 750 million people—one out of ten people in the world—do not have access to clean water. Approximately 1.8 billion people use a drinking water source contaminated with feces. More than 840,000 people die each year from diarrhea as a result from unsafe drinking water (340,000 of whom are children). By 2025, half of the world’s population will be living in water-stressed areas.<sup>1</sup> In addition to human costs, watersheds and ecosystems are degraded, harming other species that also depend on clean, accessible water. This ongoing crisis is due to complex and interrelated factors that include:<sup>2</sup>

- *Misuse*—Population growth and general overconsumption by developed nations stress water sources and disrupt watersheds and ecosystems. Irrigation practices in agriculture often add stress and deplete and contaminate rivers, lakes, and aquifers.
- *Pollution*—Water is often contaminated from industrial waste, chemical fertilizers and pesticides, and household sewage and waste water.

- *Changing Weather Patterns*—The marked increase of severe droughts and floods make water sources more unpredictable and unreliable.
- *Politics*—International, national, and local policies often codify harmful water practices and deny basic water rights to people in need, including people in the United States and Canada. Conflicts over water are predicted to rise as nations and communities compete over the same water resources.

Despite these challenges, we are not without hope. God declares through the prophet Amos, “Let justice roll on like a mighty river, righteousness like a never-failing stream” (Amos 5:24, NIV). Jesus not only blessed the sharing of water with others (Matthew 10:42), he said, “I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink” (Matthew 25:35). Increasing access to clean water will:

- Save lives and improve the health of people, communities, and ecosystems.
- Enable more children to attend school, particularly girls.
- Allow more time for work other than collecting water, particularly for women.
- Provide economic benefits for families and promote peaceful and stable communities.

In light of this need and this call we resolve to:

1. Cultivate lifestyles that preserve, conserve, share, and protect God’s precious gift of water.
2. Participate in and support programs that increase access to clean water and sanitation.
3. Raise awareness of the issues surrounding the global water crisis.
4. Advocate for just and sustainable policies that address these issues.

## Resources

For further study:

- UN Resolution 64/292, “The human right to water and sanitation”
- *A Silent Tsunami: The Urgent Need for Clean Water and Sanitation*, by William K. Reilly and Harriet C. Babbitt
- *Enough: Why the World’s Poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty*, by Roger Thurow and Scott Kilman
- *Cadillac Desert: The American West and Its Disappearing Water*, by Marc Reisner

Ministries working on clean water:

- Covenant World Mission, [www.covchurch.org/mission](http://www.covchurch.org/mission)
- Covenant World Relief, [www.covchurch.org/relief](http://www.covchurch.org/relief)
- Paul Carlson Partnership, [www.paulcarlson.org](http://www.paulcarlson.org)
- Covenant Kids Congo, [www.covchurch.org/covenantkidscongo](http://www.covchurch.org/covenantkidscongo)
- Bread for the World, [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)
- Water 1st, [www.water1st.org](http://www.water1st.org)
- Look for other agencies in your local community.

## Endnotes

1. World Health Organization Water Fact Sheet #391, July 2014, available at [www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs391/en/](http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs391/en/)
2. For detailed information on the causes behind the current water crisis, see the resource section of this resolution.

The motion to accept the resolution as presented carried.

The moderator recognized Stacey Heimkes, member of the Executive Board, who prayed.

## 23. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2015 MISSION AND MINISTRY BUDGET

The moderator recognized Paul Hawkinson, executive director for finance and treasurer, who gave a presentation on the mission and ministry budget for fiscal year 2016 and a proposed mission and ministry budget of \$24,689,000.

Hawkinson presented the following motion: “The Executive Board recommends the fiscal year 2016 Mission and Ministry Budget in the amount of \$24,689,000 for adoption by the 2015 Covenant Annual Meeting.” The mission and ministry expense budget is as follows:

Start and Strengthen Churches	\$ 3,102,924
Make and Deepen Disciples	\$ 1,176,953
Develop Leaders	\$ 1,768,928
Love Mercy and Do Justice	\$ 542,829
Serve Globally	\$ 5,157,266
Communications Support	\$ 1,298,015
Shared Services Support	\$ 3,277,085

After a time of discussion, the motion carried.

Paul Ziemer, member of the Executive Board finance committee, prayed.

## 24. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: RAISING THE EVANGELISM CULTURE IN OUR CONGREGATIONS

The moderator recognized Evelyn Johnson, interim executive minister of make and deepen disciples, and Beth Seversen, evangelism team leader for make and deepen disciples. Johnson explained the purpose of the roundtable and provided instructions.

The assembly recessed at 12:07 p.m.

## FOURTH BUSINESS SESSION

Saturday, June 27, 2015

1:46 p.m.

## CELEBRATING THE MISSION—FRIENDS OF WORLD MISSION

A video was shown.

## 38. APPROVAL OF NORTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE NAME CHANGE

The moderator recognized Rebecca Gonzalez and Greg Yee, superintendent of the North Pacific Conference. Yee provided the reason for the name change. Gonzalez recommended, on behalf of the Executive Board and in concurrence with the North

Pacific Conference, that their name change be approved and the conference now be known as the Pacific Northwest Conference.

The motion carried.

## 35. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTINUATION OF COMMISSIONS

### **Commission on Ethnic Ministries**

The moderator recognized Rebecca Gonzalez, who recommended, on behalf of the Council of Administrators and the Executive Board, that the term of service for the Commission on Ethnic Ministries be extended for an additional five years.

The motion carried.

### **Commission on Town and Country Ministries**

The moderator recognized Rebecca Gonzalez, who recommended, on behalf of the Council of Administrators and the Executive Board, that the term of service for the Commission on Town and Country Ministries be extended for an additional five years.

The motion carried.

## 19. RECOGNITION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS CONCLUDING TERM OF SERVICE

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, who expressed appreciation on behalf of the Evangelical Covenant Church to Jonathan Ro and Paul Ziemer, for their service to the Executive Board and presented them with gifts on behalf of the Executive Board. Also completing his service to the Executive Board is Michael O. Emerson, who was not able to be present.

## 36. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 130TH COVENANT ANNUAL MEETING

The moderator recognized Rebecca Gonzalez, who recommended that the minutes of the 130th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church shall be reviewed and corrected by the officers of the Evangelical Covenant Church and approved by the Executive Board.

The motion was seconded and carried.

## 33. MISSION AND MINISTRY LEADERSHIP RESPONSE TO DELEGATE QUESTIONS

Evelyn Johnson, Paul Hawkinson, Dick Lucco, Mark Novak and Gary Walter responded to questions that had been submitted the previous day regarding their ministry areas. The moderator announced that the questions and responses would be recorded.

## 39. PRAYER FOR THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE ECC

Shaun Marshall, vice-moderator, led the delegation in prayer for the mission and ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

## 40. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

The moderator recognized Rebecca Gonzalez, who gave instructions for completion of the 2015 Annual Meeting evaluation forms that will be emailed to delegates.

## 37. ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2016 ANNUAL MEETING

Rebecca Gonzalez announced that Gather 2016 will be in Phoenix, Arizona, June 23-25, 2016.

#### 40b. REPORT TO CONGREGATIONS

The moderator recognized Edward Gilbreath, executive director of communication, who encouraged delegates to bring a report to their churches. A document summary will be available on CovChurch.org and will also be emailed to delegates.

#### CELEBRATING THE MISSION—TRIENNIAL

A video to promote next year's Triennial was shown. The theme is Quench, and it will be in Kansas City, Missouri, July 28-31, 2016.

#### 40c. CLOSING STATEMENT

The moderator recognized Rebecca Gonzalez, who presented the following resolution of sympathy:

We praise God for the following partners in ministry whom God called to himself since last we met. Their names will be shared in remembrance and gratitude within the Ordination, Commissioning, and Consecration Worship Service.

RESOLVED, that the 130th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church express its sympathy to the families of the Covenant pastors, missionaries, and pastors' spouses who have gone to be with the Lord, and that those families be presented with a program of the worship service in which a prayer of remembrance and thanksgiving will be given for their lives and ministry.

Since the last Annual Meeting, we have been notified that the following Covenant pastors, missionaries, and pastors' spouses have died:

##### **Pastors**

Charles Ernest Harman, July 29, 2014, Cromwell, Connecticut  
Glenn L. Lindell, July 30, 2014, Prairie Village, Kansas  
Homer V. Melgren, October 20, 2014, Osage City, 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, 2014, Spring Valley, California  
Clifford E. Biel, April 12, 2015, Mondovi, Wisconsin

##### **Missionaries**

Dean R., Erickson, September 15, 2014, Spring Valley, California

##### **Pastors' 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 E. Johnson (Eldon) June 26, 2014 Bemus Point, New York  
Philip E. Johnson (Evelyn) August 4, 2014 Chicago, Illinois  
Maynette Lindell (Glenn) October 8, 2014 Lenexa, Kansas  
Joy L. Lundquist (Donald) October 17, 2014, Minnetonka, Minnesota  
Helen M. Anderson (Gilbert C.) October 16, 2014, Golden Valley, Minnesota  
Marilyn Dirksen (Ralph T.) December 31, 2014, Geneva, Illinois

Genevieve Hodgin (Worth) January 15, 2015, Mercer Island, Washington  
Alyce Hawkinson (James R.) 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

The motion was seconded and carried.

Gonzalez then presented the following resolution of gratitude:

RESOLVED, that the 130th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church express its gratitude to those who have envisioned, planned, served and executed this meeting with excellence and a deep commitment to Christ and his work in and through the Evangelical Covenant Church:

To the churches of the Midwest Conference, and particularly the greater Kansas City area, and superintendent, Tammy Swanson-Draheim, for welcoming us to this mission region and offering the gift of hospitality;

To the Midwest staff, local conference pastors and Sara Wrablica from Hillcrest Covenant Church in developing the Experience Kansas engagement;

To our moderator, Amanda Olson; vice-moderator, Shaun Marshall; parliamentarian, Sam Chang; secretary, Deani Jordan; and backup secretary, Nilwona Nowlin, who worked together to skillfully and graciously support many elements of this Annual Meeting business session; these faithful servants, filled with diligence and the deeply evident joy of the Lord shepherd us in the deliberations that will influence and guide our service to Christ.

To Barb and Jim Coslow, volunteer coordinators, all the sergeants-at-arms and their chair, Dan Teefy, and all the tellers with Ken Larson, their chair, for overseeing the distribution of materials in the business session and helping us have voice and vote in the meeting;

To the Credentials Committee (Gail Ohta, Chair, and Ken Moore) and Jill Ulven, Covenant Events registrar, who together verified the certified delegates and tallied additional registrants;

To volunteers of all ages who welcomed us with enthusiasm, guided us to our places, served as ushers, and generally helped us have a memorable experience;

To Steve Burger, from the Make and Deepen Disciples Team of the Evangelical Covenant Church, for guiding the planning for Covenant Kids ministry and the volunteers who implemented the plan: Victoria Gilmore, Brenda Welker and Deborah Inman;

To the leaders of learning experiences, special interest groups, and affinity groups for providing value added experiences;

To Matt Lundgren and Jon Black, the worship leaders who, with the band members, vocalists, organist, and multiple participants who guided us in worship;

To the preachers who opened God's word during worship times and deepened our understanding of advancing God's mission: Jo Saxon, Klyne R. Snodgrass, Beth Seversen, Peter Ahn and Miguel Guerrero;

To the recipients of the Irving J. Lambert Award (Dan Davenport) and T.W. Anderson Award (David L. Swanson) for modeling for us the life of servanthood;

To Laura Addis and Michelle Hoeft, who co-produced worship services and business sessions;

To Covenant organizations and institutions who provided support for various dimensions of our experience including: Thursday morning coffee and mugs for the Ministerium sponsored by National Covenant Properties; Thursday afternoon sparkling punch for the Ministerium sponsored by National Covenant Properties; Thursday night reception sponsored by Make and Deepen Disciples, Love Mercy and Do Justice, and Serve Globally; Friday morning coffee sponsored by North Park University; Friday afternoon coffee and mugs sponsored by National Covenant Properties; Friday night reception sponsored by Start and Strengthen Churches, Make and Deepen Disciples, Love Mercy and Do Justice, and Serve Globally; Saturday morning coffee and mugs sponsored by Covenant Retirement Communities; Saturday afternoon coffee and mugs sponsored by National Covenant Properties; Saturday evening reception sponsored by Covenant Ministries of Benevolence; Delegate notebooks and assembly cost sponsored by Bethany Benefit Service; and Annual Meeting lanyards and badges sponsored by North Park University and Swedish Covenant Hospital;

To the players who created visual reminders of our mission focus and introduced us to the multiple resources available to advance Christ's mission through the Evangelical Covenant Church;

To Wilson Herrera, Stephanie Orellana, and Pia Peña-Restrepo who translated key documents for the business meeting into Spanish. And, to Karen Figueroa and Meztli Gonzalez who translated worship services and business sessions into Spanish;

To the photographers who recorded our gathering and its impact for many years to come; we are thankful to all of you for the stories that will now be told as you return to your context and continue to share God's work in and through us;

To the staff of Covenant Communications who managed communication services before and during the event, including design work, printing, onsite reporting, media services, the bookstore, and preparing our report for back home;

To Vance and Sue Havens, who transported items essential for the Annual Meeting from 8303 W. Higgins Rd.;

To the Covenant Events Team: Marti Burger, director; Jorden Meyers, manager; Michael Mirza, coordinator; and Jill Ulven, registrar; who planned, negotiated, contracted, managed, reconciled, prepared, developed, displayed, and designed—and in every particular element worked with excellence and diligence to facilitate an outstanding 130th Covenant Annual Meeting.

To Covenant leaders (staff and volunteer board, commission, and committee members) who provided input and overall guidance in preparation for Gather '15 and this Annual Business Meeting and served in various roles throughout our time together; and

To all of the Covenant church delegates, general conferees and guests who gave of their time, energy, and devotion to deliberate our future mission and celebrate our commitment to seeing more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world.

RESOLVED, that the Covenant Annual Meeting express its appreciation to those who offered Christian witness, service, skill, organizational excellence, hospitality and good humor to this 130th Covenant Annual Meeting.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Gonzalez requested a point of privilege to present Deani Jordan, secretary, and Sam Chang, parliamentarian, with gifts for their service.

#### 41. ADJOURNMENT

The moderator recognized Rebecca Gonzalez, who thanked Amanda Olson and Shaun Marshall for their service to the church in the roles of Annual Meeting moderator and vice moderator.

Olson then prayed and declared the 130th Covenant Annual meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

#### 42. BENEDICTION

#### **Annual Meeting Officers**

Moderator: Amanda L. Olson

Vice-Moderator: Shaun Marshall

Secretary: Deani C. Jordan

**Parliamentarian**

Samuel Chang