

C O V E N A N T

# YEARBOOK

STATISTICAL DATA & RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES

**2012-13 EDITION**

**Covenant Annual Meeting 2012**



# Covenant Annual Meeting

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## Annual Meeting Program

Hyatt Regency Irvine  
Irvine, CA  
June 21-24, 2012

### COVENANT MINISTERIUM

#### Thursday, June 21

8:30-9:30 a.m.	Worship
9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Business Session
1:30-4:30 p.m.	Continuing Education

### THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH 127TH ANNUAL MEETING

#### Thursday, June 21

7-9 p.m.	Worship Service Speaker: Curt Peterson
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#### Friday, June 22

8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.	Business Session Speaker: Bob Shim
1:30-5 p.m.	Business Session
7-9 p.m.	Worship Service Speaker: Labib Madanat

#### Saturday, June 23

8:30 a.m.-12 p.m.	Business Session Speaker: Grace Shim
1:30-3 p.m.	Business Session
3:30-5 p.m.	Workshops and Site Visits
7-9 p.m.	Worship Service Speaker: Gary Gaddini

#### Sunday, June 24

7-9 p.m.	Ordination, Commissioning, and Consecration Service Speaker: Linnea Carnes
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# **Annual Meeting of the Covenant Ministerium**

Irvine, California

June 21, 2012

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Steve Bilynskyj, president, called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m. Tammy Smith Hallam, vice-president, offered prayer.

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

Those in attendance were encouraged to register and pay the \$10 fee to help cover the expenses for this meeting.

The agenda was approved as presented.

The standing rules were approved as presented.

A motion for the following appointments was approved by consensus:

Tellers—Central Conference

Resolutions—North Pacific Conference

Sergeants-at-arm—East Coast Conference

Parliamentarian—Brad Boydston

Auditor—John Peterson

A motion to allow the executive committee to approve these minutes for the Ministerium was approved.

## **INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS**

There were no special guests needing introduction. It was also announced that there would be no specific break time during the morning business session.

## **GREETINGS**

Greetings from nearly fifty of our colleagues who could not be present were received by the annual meeting.

## **STATE OF THE MINISTERIUM REPORT**

Steve Bilynskyj, president, began with greetings. Greetings to you this morning as we sit down together in the great state of California. I grew up about an hour away from here (speaking, as Californians are wont to do, in terms of freeway travel time rather than actual distance) in Santa Monica. But it's more significant for me today that I have arrived at the end of journey that began three years away in Oregon, my own home state for nineteen years. It has been a privilege to serve a term as president of this body. Thank you for that opportunity to learn and grow with you.

The best part of this position has been meeting and getting to know so many of you who serve your colleagues in a variety of ways. My own understanding of leadership has been deepened by working together with our executive committee. They are your other elected officers, the chairs of your regional conferences, and representatives from our various clergy associations, with Department of Ordered Ministry staff and other Covenant leaders who gather two or three times a year just to focus on what is good and helpful for all of us as Covenant ministers. (Ask past and present executive committee members to stand.)

That three-year journey had another part, about which I didn't even know until after I was elected. I served on the Board of Ordered Ministry. Before then my impressions of that board may have been like yours, of a stern, august gathering of very serious people engaged in mysterious deliberations which at one point or more determine each of our futures. What I learned on becoming part of those deliberations is that the board is a place where God's Spirit pours out discernment, grace, and love in ways that bless us all. (Ask past and present Board of Ministry members to stand.)

But I'd like us to remember that God's direction and discernment does not take place just in a handful of people who represent you. Our executive committee has tried to renew our sense that there is a collective wisdom in the Ministerium. You might be tempted to suppose that our votes today are simply "rubber stamps" upon decisions made by others. But I invite you to ponder the fact that in framing Covenant polity the church deemed it crucial that this body give its approval before two vital positions may be voted on by the Covenant Annual Meeting. So we are acting today upon nominations for a new dean of North Park Theological Seminary and a new executive minister of the Ordered Ministry.

And while the church as a whole has authority over the rules by which our ministries are ordered and conducted, we determine whether changes in those rules are considered by the Annual Meeting. So we are making a decision about that today.

And even more, it is this body which decides what it means to be a Covenant minister in good standing, to be one who is a true and active participant in the ministry with which we are entrusted by the Lord and his church. What you all decide today about the definition of good standing in the Ministerium will guide our life together for years to come.

We're making decisions today that affect all Covenant ministers and every Covenant church. There are about 1,850 Covenant clergy. Yet less than three hundred of us are gathered here to make those decisions. I know I'm preaching to the choir. You are here. You get it. So please go back to your own conference, your own district, your own colleagues in the area around where you serve and let them know we missed them and that they are need here.

I have a new son-in-law. He is, and my daughter has become, Anglican. Their wedding was a month ago in St. Thomas's Anglican Church in Toronto. This is a congregation which gives new altitude to the term "high church." The clouds of incense which permeate even the most ordinary of their worship services has caused the younger, less reverent congregants to name it "Smoky Tom's."

Coming from that perspective, Andrew my son-in-law tries to grasp what he hears about our own Covenant ministry and practice. A couple weeks ago I was telling him about my preparations to lead this meeting of the Covenant Ministerium, but what he heard was that this was to be a meeting of the Covenant Magisterium.

My wife and I had a good laugh, but as I reflected on what to say in these moments I realized that there is some truth in Andrew's mishearing. Listen to how the Catholic Catechism defines the work of its magisterium: "The task of interpreting the Word of God authentically has been entrusted solely to the Magisterium of the Church." Folks, in the Covenant, that's you. You are the body which is together entrusted by this church to authentically interpret the word of God and apply that interpretation to the daily lives of the people you serve.

The thing is, the magisterial authority of the Ministerium is not something any of us possess by ourselves or individually. It is a Spirit-given, collective wisdom. We

exercise it when we assemble and, like Covenant ministers always have, ask each other what the Scriptures say, and, then, discern the answers together. That's why our collegiality and the accountability we ask of each other is so vital. Together we interpret the word of God authentically. Together we exercise a magisterial ministry for our church.

My hope is that we will, in years to come, revitalize our seriousness about this responsibility to minister the word together. It's my hope that both the number and the percentage of those of us who participate in this collective interpretation will only increase. May we serve together in a way that displays the living Word who is Jesus Christ our Lord clearly and beautifully to our whole church.

It's been my joy and pleasure to help as I could up front with that task for the past three years. Now I look forward to handing over the gavel and sitting among you once again to keep on sharing in that same magisterial ministry of God's redeeming Word.

#### PRESENTATION OF BALLOT

Andy Sebanc, chair of the Nominating Committee presented the following ballot for officers of the Covenant Ministerium. Steve Bilynskj was recognized for his three years of service as president of the Ministerium. Cathy Stanley-Erickson was also recognized and thanked for her three years of service as vice-secretary:

##### PRESIDENT

Tim Johnson, Bloominton, MN

Peter Hawkinson, Wilmette, IL

##### VICE-SECRETARY

Cheryl Lavornia, E.Greenwich, RI

Michael Miller, Chicago, IL

Nominations were closed and voting proceeded.

#### REPORT FROM THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

Gary Walter, president of the Covenant, expressed thanks to God for each of the ministers gathered and thanks for their work for the church. From Scripture we have images of *being* (i.e., sheep, vessel) and images of *doing*—which speak of both *receiving* the love of God and *sharing* that love with others. May our new multi-year theme, "Found Faithful" be the cry of our heart, our best motive, and our purest intent. In the kingdom, we will never be the biggest as the Covenant, but like the widow (Luke 21:1-4) who gave all she had, we can be faithful with the little he has given us.

Our five priorities as the Covenant were reviewed, the last of which is our theme for this year: make and deepen disciples; start and strengthen churches; develop leaders; love mercy, do justice; and serve globally.

Quick markers indicate sustained momentum in the Covenant: 19 new churches; 10 new missionaries; 67 new permanent credentials; and around 110 first time ministerial licenses granted.

Two new initiatives highlight our work moving forward: Covenant Kids Congo, powered by World Vision represents an unprecedented opportunity and partnership to help our 1,600 churches in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a country which ranks 187th out of 187 in a recent UN Human Development Index; and The Matthew-Micah Initiative (based on Matt. 25, "I was hungry... naked... in prison..." and Micah 6:8 "to love mercy, act justly and walk humbly with your God") will help us concretely address issues of compassion, mercy, and justice.

Thanks was given to God for his provision of new leadership in the persons of David Kersten, dean of North Park Theological Seminary, Mark Novak, executive minister of the Department of the Ordered Ministry, and Garth McGrath, superintendent of the Great Lakes Conference.

In closing, there is no shortage of challenges before us: economic headwinds we all share; continued concern for established churches; living into an intentional multi-ethnic community; church planting; and health care—our two hospitals and our many retirement communities. But positively, we have now grown as a denomination for twenty straight years; 27 percent of our congregations are intentionally multiethnic or ethnic... as we see the kingdom moves forward by countless acts of faith by countless faithful people.

Cathy Stanley-Erickson prayed for Gary.

#### REPORT FROM CHET

Ed Delgado, president of Centro Hispano de Estudios Teologicos (CHET), reported on the good work going on nearby in Los Angeles at CHET, our pastoral training school for Spanish-speaking pastors and other church workers. Begun in 1989, there are now 13 satellite centers in the United States and beyond, training 650 students, representing 197 full-time equivalency students. CHET does not seek to compete with current seminaries that operate at a higher level, but rather seeks greater collaboration with the Covenant in equipping pastors and church leaders among the growing Spanish-speaking population. Their current strategic framework is seeking to strengthen their program in the three Cs of competencies, curriculum and capacity building.

Dennis Carlson prayed for Ed.

#### REPORT FROM NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

David Parkyn, president of North Park University (NPU), reflected with the Ministerium from the perspective of “North Park’s Chief Storyteller.” While convalescing during Holy Week after a recent hospitalization, he read through the entirety of the four Gospel’s each in a single sitting. He also read that week David Kinnaman’s book, *You Lost Me*, which reflects on current young adult Christians as “deeply loving Jesus, but ambivalent about the church.” His strategic approach as president is to affirm their deep love of Jesus, rather than challenge their ambivalence to the church. While there are certainly concerns for 3,300 total students enrolled at NPU, the need to recruit roughly 1,000 students each year, and the budget that goes with all of that, the five questions that “keep me up at night” are these: How do we keep them loving Jesus?; How do we keep them in the church, ambivalent though they be? How do we learn from them what needs to change in the church? How do we prepare them to lead the church? How do we prepare ourselves to let them lead the church?

Paul Burdick asked Parkyn: How do you view the relationship at NPU between the college and the seminary? Between the ECC and NPU?

Parkyn replied: All my life’s work has been in the context of church related colleges, where the university and the church are one. We receive allocations of over \$1 million each year from the church/ECC without specific directive. Gifts from other supporters can be so designated. NPU works with that according to donor request. So at NPU we need to provide for the well-being for all students, both college and seminary. We talk about two institutions, but in fact they are one; one Board of Trustees; one unified budget.



Linda Delgado, representing CHET and as a liaison between the Hispanic community and NPTS, expressed thanks to Parkyn for the opportunities given to Hispanic students, which met with applause

### **Report from North Park Theological Seminary**

Tim “Yak” Johnson, who has been part of a three-person interim leadership team, spoke of the co-mingling of gratitude and grief that comes at the end of each academic year, which has been particularly dramatic this year with the retirement of Bob Hubbard, Norma Sutton, Richard Carlson, and Linda Cannell. There is weariness for Richard’s cancer diagnosis, but gratefulness for his servant leadership. Brent Laytham has filled a very needed gap at NPTS as he also departs now to become academic dean at St. Mary’s Seminary in Baltimore, Maryland. Yak has the same gratitude and grief as he is finishing his nearly two year interim service in leadership at NPTS. Thanks for prayers that have now brought a new leader in David Kersten.

### **Approval of Candidate for Dean of NPTS**

In bringing the name of David Kersten, David Parkyn referenced Eugene Peterson’s recent book, *Pastor—A Memoire*, saying it could have been written by DK, as he has served as a pastor in several congregations and as a “pastor to pastors” in his outgoing role and now comes to NPTS from the church for the church, in the training of new pastors.

David Kersten, in accepting the nomination, reflected on this new position as a “last call.”

The nomination was confirmed by a unanimous vote.

### **REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY**

Dave Kersten, executive minister of the ordered ministry, spoke about the key numbers for this year on the permanent credentialing of individuals: 52 ordained to word and sacrament; 6 ordained to specialized ministry; 3 commissioned; 6 finalization of transfer of ordination. Also 110 individuals received first-time licenses. There are 474 in the Covenant Orientation program.

Sustaining Pastoral Excellence awarded more than 130 new grants. Leadership Cohorts continue to attract new participants. Also, in development—Sabbath Retreats for Hispanic Pastors and a Finishing Well Cohort curriculum.

Dave concluded his remarks speaking of the team culture in the Department of the Ordered Ministry with particular appreciation for Carol Lawson.

### **THANK YOU TO DAVID KERSTEN**

In sincere appreciation for “keeping an eye on us for the past 11 years” and with a view toward “a new vision at the seminary,” Steve Bilynskyj presented David with brass telescope, suitable for his nautical/boating pursuits in his leisure time.

### **REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY CONT.**

The Department of the Ordered Ministry recommended, on behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the approval of the following candidates for ordination to word and sacrament. All were approved by the Ministerium for recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church:

Marcelo M. Alvarado

Gail S. Bantum (seconded by Margie Swenson)

Casey C. Barton (Robert Hirsch)

David O.R. Beetham  
 Jonathan W. Bergstrom  
 Brian Borin (seconded by JoAnne Taylor)  
 Thomas G. Bowen Jr  
 Bruce A. Bruns (seconded by Cathy Stanley-Erickson, Jim Stanley-Erickson)  
 E. Kirsten Burdick (seconded by Jen Lowe, Rob Lowe, Brian Wiele)  
 Aune M. Carlson (seconded by Jen Lowe, Rob Lowe, Richard G. Mylander,  
 Margie Swenson, Jen Zerby)  
 Erik D. Carlson (seconded by Jen Lowe, Rob Lowe)  
 Pamela J. Carlson (seconded by Daniel M. Ward)  
 Cheryll A. Clark (seconded by Steven M. Hoden, Baxter Swenson, Margie  
 Swenson)  
 Richard E. Conrad  
 Jill A. Craig (seconded by Jen Lowe, Rob Lowe)  
 Ethel L. Davis (seconded by Marco A. Ambriz)  
 Robert A. Fraser  
 Catherine Gilliard (seconded by Cathy Stanley-Erickson)  
 Noah C. Hormann (seconded by Aaron Thompson)  
 Betty Howard (seconded by Cathy Stanley-Erickson)  
 John M. Hudson  
 John P. Human (seconded by David A. Johnson)  
 Jeffrey M. Kahl (seconded by Jen Lowe, Rob Lowe)  
 Todd M. Kardell  
 Woong G. Kim  
 Youngki Kim (seconded by Dwight Nelson)  
 Mark W. Kirchgastner (seconded by Marco A Ambriz)  
 Michael R. Langer (seconded by Jen Lowe, Rob Lowe, Baxter Swenson,  
 Margie Swenson)  
 Denise B. Lindberg  
 Laurie Dawn Lindholm (seconded by Marco A. Ambiz)  
 L. Michael McCain (seconded by Steven M. Hoden)  
 Erin McDermott (seconded by Win Jackson Houwen, Jen Lowe, Rob Lowe,  
 Richard G Mylander, Tammy Swanson-Draheim, Aaron Thompson)  
 Bruce McGregor (seconded by Richard G. Mylander, Tammy  
 Swanson-Draheim)  
 Blake J. Merwin (seconded by David A. Johnson, Michael A. White)  
 Glen E Morden (seconded by Robert Hirsch)  
 Peter J Morris (seconded by Rodney M. Johnson, Timothy L. Johnson, Jim  
 Stanley-Erickson, Cathy Stanley-Erickson)  
 Rebecca M. Przybylski (seconded by Dennis Carlson)  
 Alexander W. Rahill (seconded by Dennis Carlson)  
 Geila Rajae (seconded by JoAnne Taylor)  
 Jordan P Reed (seconded by Marco A. Ambriz, Dean Honnette)  
 John M Rose (seconded by Daniel M. Ward)  
 Gregory D. Satterberg  
 Joe B. Scruggs III  
 Cary P. Slater (seconded by Craig Carlson)  
 Christopher T. Studenski

Lon F. Swanson (seconded by John W. Frye)  
Dawn B. Taloyo  
Jason P. Ulven (seconded by Jen Lowe, Rob Lowe)  
Nicholas J. Von Stein  
Daniel P. Wheeler (seconded by Jen Lowe, Rob Lowe)  
Brian D. Wright (seconded by Eric Bain, Richard G. Mylander, Scott Oas,  
Tammy Swanson-Draheim)  
Brian Zahasky (seconded by Richard G. Mylander, Jen Zerby)

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the Department of the Ordered Ministry recommended that the Ministerium approval of the following candidates for ordination to specialized ministries. All were approved by the Ministerium for recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church:

F. Carol Bob (seconded by Steven M. Hoden, Baxter Swenson, Margie Swenson)  
Dawn S. Bodi  
Daniel K Booker (seconded by Jen Lowe, Rob Lowe)  
Michael Dale Brown (seconded by Richard G Mylander, Tammy Swanson-Draheim)  
Katherine Burns Martinez (seconded by Richard G. Mylander, Tammy Swanson-Draheim)  
Julia Stein Sandstrom (seconded by Tammy Swanson-Draheim, Brian Wiele)

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the Department of the Ordered Ministry recommended that the Ministerium approval of the following candidates for commissioning. They were approved by the Ministerium for recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church:

Kari M. Jacott (seconded by JoAnne Taylor)  
Matthew W. Nightingale (seconded by JoAnne Taylor, Marco A. Ambriz)  
Ramon W. Noble

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the Department of the Ordered Ministry recommended that the Ministerium approval of the candidates for finalization of transfer of ordination. The following were approved by the Ministerium for recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church:

Edwin J. Arrooyo  
Timothy H. Dally (seconded by JoAnne Taylor)  
Kristine O. Heckard (seconded by Cathy Stanley-Erickson, Jim Stanley-Erickson)  
Theodore B. Law (seconded by Dennis Carlson)  
Troy D. Parson (seconded by Dennis Carlson)  
William J. Salyards (seconded by JoAnne Taylor)

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the Department of the Ordered Ministry recommended that the Ministerium approval of the candidate for consecrated missionary. The following were approved by the Ministerium for recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church:

Pauline N Carlson

The Department of the Ordered Ministry, on behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, moved that the Ministerium recommend to the Annual Meeting the approval for the licensing of 521 individuals, plus five names added from the Department of World Mission: Grant Bucholtz, Katherine Isaza, Julio Izasa, Karen Sorenson, and Joshua Swenson. All were approved. Their names appear in the roster of the ministers in the *Covenant Yearbook*.

#### CHANGE IN STANDING

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the Department of the Ordered Ministry recommended that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 127th Covenant Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following individuals have been moved from active to inactive: Richard Cudmore (OWS), Thomas Ervasti (OWS), Sandra Klein (CSM), Brian Weld (CM), Kerith Weld (CM).

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the Department of the Ordered Ministry recommended that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 127th Covenant Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following individuals has been moved from active to leave of absence: Gladys Haralu (OWS).

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the Department of the Ordered Ministry recommended that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 127th Covenant Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following individuals has been moved from inactive to active: Elton Nelson (OWS), Darin Youngs (OWS).

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, Kersten recommended that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 127th Covenant Annual Meeting that the following individuals have resigned their ordination standing and requested that their name be removed from the roster of Covenant ministers: Richard Emery (OWS), John Solie (OWS).

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the Department of the Ordered Ministry recommended that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 127th Covenant Annual Meeting that the following individual has transferred their ordination to the Covenant Church of Sweden: Eva Cudmore.

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the Department of the Ordered Ministry recommended that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 126th Covenant Annual Meeting for the dismissal of the following persons from the ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church and that their names be removed from the roster of Covenant ministers: Richard Klawitter.

The Covenant Ministerium approved these changes in ministerial standing and reports as recommended by the Department and Board of the Ordered Ministry.

#### **Approval of candidate for Executive Minister of Ordered Ministry**

Tom Ek, chair of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, detailed the thorough search process (70 names nominated by 150 people, 8 names among them surfacing for further consideration; 5 submitting responses to 5 pages of questions, 2.5 hour interviews) resulting in the nomination of Mark Novak as the new executive minister of Ordered Ministry. The nomination was confirmed by a unanimous vote. Steve Bilynskij prayed for Mark.

#### TREASURER'S REPORT

Mike Cogan, treasurer, presented the treasurer's report, which appears as an ad-

dendum to these minutes.

### **Auditor's Report**

John Peterson audited our books for the third time in three years, for which thanks was expressed.

### **Proposed 2012-2013 Budget**

Mike presented the proposed budget for 2012-2013, with \$129,700 total expenses and \$101,875 anticipated income, spending down some of the very healthy \$46,005 cash balance we currently carry.

Herb Frost from Rochester, Minnesota, moved to amend the budget, changing the amount for NPTS Scholarships to Midwinter from \$3,000 to \$6,000 for this year only, given that the location is San Diego, California, and not Chicago, Illinois. The motion to amend was approved.

Discussion over whether we have to spend the budgetary surplus and how these scholarships work and whether we need a clearer rationale and strategy for using these extra funds. The motion to amend the budget adding the extra \$3,000 carried in a split vote.

Brad Boydston, parliamentarian, simply clarified that the extra money was added into the budget without removing an equal amount elsewhere.

Further discussion ensued on the \$10,000 Discretionary Fund, earmarked for another Conference on the Ministry. Art Greco moved to remove this from the budget. The motion to amend was approved.

The value and benefits of the Conference on the Ministry were clarified—the only opportunity for vision casting—new leadership coming in at all levels (NPTS dean, executive minister of the ordered ministry, president of the Ministerium)—out of the last Conference on the Ministry came the new vocational growth tool and added definition for good standing, pastoral care and support systems. The motion to remove the \$10,000 for Discretionary Fund was defeated.

It was noted that the Women Intern Grants at \$6,000 was down \$1,000 from last year. This came on recommendation of the auditors and that the amount had really been \$6,000

The Ministerium voted to approve the 2012-2013 Budget with the previous amendment of the additional \$3,000 for NPTS scholarships for the 2013 Midwinter Conference

### **ADVOCATES FOR COVENANT CLERGY WOMEN (ACCW) REPORT**

Debbie Griffith-Samuels and Valeyo Garrett presented the following awards from the ACCW: Victoria Welter Scholarship, named for first NPTS female graduate, who was not allowed to be pictured with the rest of her class back in the day, to Rebekah Strobel, finishing her internship at Winnetka Covenant Church, Wilmette, Illinois: Phoebe Church Planters Grant, named for Paul's colleague in Romans 16:1, to Nicole Bullock, lead pastor of Blue Oaks Covenant Church in Minneapolis, Minnesota, for ministry in the SHINE program, providing biblical guidance and support to single mothers; Evelyn M. R. Johnson Leadership Award, named in honor of the first woman conference superintendent in the Evangelical Covenant Church to Debbie Blue, executive minister of the Department of Compassion, Mercy, and Justice for outstanding leadership in the ECC in pursuing issues of justice.

Laurie Cornell prayed for the ACCW

## OTHER BUSINESS

### **Constitutional Admendment**

This amendment to Article III of the Covenant Ministerium Constitution, spread on the minutes last year for action this year was re-distributed:

#### **Article III, Section 3.1. Membership**

Current wording: Membership in the Covenant Ministerium is defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Evangelical Covenant Church. All members shall maintain good standing in a regional ministerial association. Licensed theological students and licensed lay ministers shall be associate members, without vote in business sessions of the annual meeting of the Covenant Ministerium.

Proposed wording: Membership in the Covenant Ministerium is defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Evangelical Covenant Church. All members shall maintain good standing in a regional ministerial association. *Good standing within the Covenant Ministerium includes annual dues, a current profile, annual completion of a vocational growth tool and regular healthy connections with ministerial colleagues. Licensed theological students, ministers and missionaries in the inactive category, and ministers serving ECC congregations without ECC credentials shall be associate members without voting privileges or the holding of office in the Covenant Ministerium.*

Rick Lindholtz noted that “regular healthy connections” is not easily definable as are the other three criteria. Bruce Wyand, serving as a bi-vocational minister liked the more ‘fluid options’ of such wording. Roy Matthewson asked about the rationale for having a “current profile.” Dave Kersten responded that with 1,800 active clergy and 2,200 total counting retirees, the Department of Ordered Ministry needs this info and needs it current

The amendment was approved.

### **Changes to Rules of the Ordered Ministry**

Six changes were presented, the essence of which is the following:

1. Changes “Ordained to Specialized Ministry” to Ordained to Word and Service”
2. Eliminates “full time” in the requirements of OWS, giving the option for ordaining those in bi-vocational ministry
3. Adds “World Christian Studies” to the list of ‘specializations in 4.1 and 6.1
4. Changes the number of “required credit hours” needed for specialization from 13 hrs to “12 hrs” in 4.2 and 6.2
5. Eiminate granting a permanent license upon retirement (9.1.b). This had been for Consecrated Missionaries who are now have permanent credentials, so it is no longer needed.
6. Adds the requirement of the “Vocational Excellence” class for bi-vocational ministers.

### **Change in Ministerium Election Procedure**

A motion was made by Jared Burdick to amend the bylaws to allow for a single slate candidate for each office. From the discussion, one comment was made, “This change seems to push us more to a “rubber stamp.”

A vote was taken and the motion failed.

## ELECTION RESULTS

The following members of the Ministerium were announced as elected: Timothy B. Johnson was elected as Ministerium president; Cheryl Lavornia was elected as Ministerium vice-secretary.

## RESOLUTIONS

The following resolutions were submitted by the resolutions committee and approved by the Covenant Ministerium.

## SYMPATHY

WHEREAS there are those among us who has served God's call faithfully and have this year been called into Christ's presence, we remember them now through the reading of this resolution, thanking God for their ministry & friendship and praying God's support for their families and loved ones who grieve their passing:

### **Pastors:**

Douglas L. Ferguson  
M. Randolph Thompson  
Worth V. Hodgin  
Allan C. Johnson  
Donald B. Krause  
L. Earl Towner  
Pembroke W. Taylor  
Donald L. Olson  
Howard H. Carlstrom  
J. Curtis Jennings  
Ernest A Matson  
Kenneth P Lundell  
Wesley D. Morris  
Donald J Pearson  
George O. Welch  
Roger W. Wiganosky  
C LaVerne Erickson  
Donald A. Swanson

### **Missionaries:**

Evangeline Dennis  
Sigrid Nelson  
Norman E. Dwight  
L Daniel Ericson  
Irene Anderson  
Curtis Olson  
Ruth A. Burkett  
Edwin Noren

### **Spouses:**

Elaine Ahlstedt  
Bonnie Gelaude  
Sandra Mosby  
Daren Springer

Joyce Ekstam  
Lily Smith  
Margaret Lindholm  
Ingeborg Skurdal  
Evelyn Agard  
Hazel Dokken  
Dory Anderson  
June Bjorkland  
Helen Lewis  
Beth Swanson  
Beatrice Bjorkland  
Dennior Moline  
R. Marlys Carlson  
June Rask  
Margaret Larson  
Lillian Hanson

#### GRATITUDE

WHEREAS Steve Bilynskyj has served us faithfully as our ministerial chair these past years, be it

RESOLVED that we give praise to God for Steve's gentle presence, his excellent leadership, and his deep care for us as colleagues.

WHEREAS, Mark Novak is exchanging the mystic majesty of Mount Rainer and the inspiring blue waves of the Puget Sound for the curvaceous peak of Covenant headquarters and the fluid currents of the of the I-90 expressway, be it

RESOLVED that we welcome him as our as our executive minister of the Ordered Ministry, that we pray for him and Marilyn as they transition their lives to this new season of their journey, and that we pray God's mercy for him in having to live beneath Dave Kersten.

WHEREAS Dave Kersten is exchanging the curvaceous peak of Covenant headquarters and the fluid currents of the of the I-90 expressway for the stirring cupola of Nyvall Hall and the grand confluence of Spaulding & Kedzie, be it

RESOLVED that we welcome him as the dean of our seminary, that we pray God's blessings and wisdom on for him as he leads our school into the future, and that we request him to wear soft bunny slippers at home for Mark Novak's sake.

WHEREAS the venue of our Ministerium Annual Meeting has moved from the darkness of a basement to the glory of a tent outside the walls, be it

RESOLVED that we express hope that this movement will continue so we actually be included inside the temple courts some year

#### INSTALLATION OF NEW OFFICERS

Dave Kersten led in the installation of the new officers: Timothy B. Johnson and Cheryl Lavornia and offered prayer for them as they begin their new roles.

#### ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:15pm with instructions to return at 2:15pm for the Continuing Education session.

Dennis Carlson, Secretary  
Cathy Stanley-Erickson, Vice-secretary  
Covenant Ministerium



## ADDENDUM

### TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED MAY 31, 2012

	Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Budget	Fiscal Year 2011-2012 Actual	Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget
<b>Income</b>			
Dues	\$100,000.00	\$104,375.00	\$100,000.00
Interest	150.00	117.35	75.00
Ann. Mtg. Registrations (net)	2,000.00	1,785.25	1,800.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$102,150.00</b>	<b>\$106,277.60</b>	<b>\$101,875.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
SPE	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$42,000.00
Annual Meeting	2,000.00	865.90	1,500.00
Executive Committee	15,000.00	10,780.32	17,000.00
Conference on the Ministry Administration	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
	200.00	28.00	200.00
<i>Midwinter Scholarships</i>			
Pastors	15,000.00	15,000.00	17,000.00
Military Chaplains	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
NPTS	3,000.00	3,000.00	6,000.00
Retired Pastors	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
<i>Organizations &amp; Ministries</i>			
Women Intern Grants	7,000.00	7,000.00	6,000.00
Diversity Intern Grants	6,000.00	4,000.00	6,000.00
ACCW	500.00	500.00	1,000.00
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
ACCW Nat'l. Meeting Grant	-	-	5,000.00
Ministers' Crisis Fund Grant	-	-	5,000.00
Western Alaska Training Grant	-	-	1,000.00
NPTS Alumni Assn. Grant	-	-	2,000.00
Discretionary Fund	-	-	10,000.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$101,700.00</b>	<b>\$94,174.22</b>	<b>\$135,700.00</b>
<b>Net Income Less Expenses</b>	450.00	12,103.38	(33,825.00)
<b>Ending Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$33,907.06</b>	<b>\$46,005.94</b>	<b>\$12,180.94</b>



# Minutes of the 127th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church

Hyatt Regency Irvine  
Grand Ballroom  
Irvine, California  
June 22-23, 2012

## FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

Friday, June 22, 2012  
8:34 a.m.

### 1. MORNING WORSHIP

Moderator Robert Bergquist called the business session of the 127th Annual Meeting to order at approximately 8:34 a.m., beginning with a time of worship. The worship team led a time of singing and Bob Shim, missionary in Thailand, gave a meditation.

### 2. OPENING STATEMENT BY THE MODERATOR

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

### 3. GREETING FROM PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE, SUPERINTENDENT EFREM SMITH

Superintendent Efrem Smith greeted the assembly from the Pacific Southwest Conference and its churches.

### 4. REPORT ON CREDENTIALS AND MOTION

The moderator recognized Lisa Caridine, 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 127th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church."

The motion carried.

Caridine then reported that registration thus far included 291 conference/region delegates representing 156 churches and 83 general delegates from 10 churches in addition to those represented in conferences/regions for a total of 374 credentialed voting delegates, from 166 churches. Additionally, 192 people had registered their attendance in various non-voting categories, from 44 churches, for a total registered conference attendance of 566 from 210 churches.

### 5. ACTION ON THE PROPOSED AGENDA

The moderator recognized Donn Engebretson, executive vice-president, who reported that the Executive Board recommended the adoption of the agenda as follows:

#### **Times Certain**

FRIDAY

8:30–12:00 p.m.

1:30 p.m.

Morning Business Session with Worship

Irving Lambert Outstanding Urban Ministries

Award

1:30–5:00 p.m. Afternoon Business Session

SATURDAY

8:30–12:00 p.m. Morning Business Session with Worship  
9:15 a.m. T. W. Anderson Outstanding Layperson Award  
9:30 a.m. Clergy Lifetime Service Recognition  
9:45 a.m. Ministerial Credentials  
10:30 a.m. 2013 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 Pacific Southwest Conference, Superintendent Efreem Smith
4. Report on Credentials and Motion
  - a. Credentialing Report #1
  - b. Credentialing Report #2
  - c. Credentialing Report #3
5. Action on the Proposed Agenda *Esta material también se encuentra en Español*
6. Action on the Standing Rules
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 (30-minute report)

STATE OF THE MISSION

10. Report of the President
11. Fiscal Year 2011 Financial Results

SERVANT LEADERSHIP FOR THE MISSION

12. Election of the President of the Evangelical Covenant Church
  - a. Report of the Nominating Committee
  - b. Vote
13. North Park University and North Park Theological Seminary
  - a. Report of the Board of Trustees of North Park University for Dean of North Park Theological Seminary
  - b. Bylaw Amendments—President and Dean of North Park Theological Seminary
  - c. Vote of Call
14. Election of Executive Minister of the Ordered Ministry
  - a. Report of the Nominating Committee

- b. Vote
- 15. Report of the Board of Nominations and Vote
- 16. Actions to Be Taken from the Ordered Ministry (Time Certain—Saturday, 9:45 a.m.)
  - a. Rules for the Ordered Ministry Amendments
  - b. Presentation of Candidates for Transfer of Ordination
  - c. Presentation of Candidates for Commissioning
  - d. Presentation of Candidates for Ordination to Specialized Ministry
  - e. Presentation of Candidates for Ordination to Word and Sacrament
  - f. Approval of Licenses
  - g. Change in Standing

#### SHAPING THE MISSION

- 17. Covenant Life Roundtable—Serving Globally (60 minutes)

#### HONORING FAITHFUL SERVICE IN THE MISSION

- 18. Irving Lambert Outstanding Urban Ministries Award (Time Certain—Friday, 1:30 p.m.)
- 19. T. W. Anderson Outstanding Layperson Award (Time Certain—Saturday, 9:15 a.m.)
- 20. Clergy Lifetime Service Recognition (Time Certain—Saturday, 9:30 a.m.)
- 21. Recognition of Outgoing Leadership
  - a. Richard Lucco, Superintendent of the Great Lakes Conference
  - b. David Kersten, Executive Minister of the Ordered Ministry
  - c. Donald Meyer, Executive Minister of Communication
  - d. Mark Novak, Superintendent of the North Pacific Conference
- 22. Recognition of Executive Board Members Concluding Term of Service

#### DIMENSIONS OF THE MISSION

- 23. Written Reports by Mission and Ministry Leadership President (*Esta material también se encuentra en Español*); Executive Vice-President; Vice President for Finance; Christian Formation; Church Growth and Evangelism; Communication; Compassion, Mercy, and Justice; Ordered Ministry; Women Ministries; World Mission; Covenant Ministries of Benevolence; North Park University; North Park Theological Seminary; National Covenant Properties; Covenant Estate Planning Services/Covenant Trust Company
- 24. Report from Covenant Ministries of Benevolence
- 25. Report from North Park University
- 26. Report from Women Ministries
- 27. Report from Covenant Trust Company
- 28. Mission and Ministry Leadership Response to Delegate Questions

#### ORGANIZING FOR MISSION

- 29. Recommendations for Continuation of Commissions
  - a. Commission on Biblical Gender Equality
  - b. Commission on Covenant History

#### FUNDING THE MISSION

- 30. Presentation and Adoption of the 2013 Mission and Ministry Budget (Time

Certain–Saturday, 10:30 a.m.)

### LIVING FAITHFULLY IN THE MISSION

31. Commission on Christian Action
  - a. Report on Resolution on Stewardship and Generosity (30-minute report) *Este material también se encuentra en Español*
  - b. Report on Resolution on Domestic Violence (30-minute report) *Este material también se encuentra en Español*

### PREPARING TO GO FORTH IN MISSION

32. Prayer for the Mission and Ministry of the ECC
33. Close of the Meeting
  - a. Approval of Minutes of 127th Covenant Annual Meeting
  - b. Delegate Evaluation
  - c. Report to Congregations
  - d. Arrangements for 2013 Annual Meeting
  - e. Closing Statement
    - i. Resolution of Sympathy
    - ii. Resolution of Thanks
39. Adjournment
40. Benediction

### **Annual Meeting Officers**

Moderator: Robert V. Bergquist

Vice-Moderator: Beth I. Ernest

Secretary: Sandra E. Norris

**Parliamentarian**

Gregory J. Englund

The motion to adopt the agenda carried.

### 6. ACTION ON THE STANDING RULES

The moderator recognized Gregory Englund, parliamentarian, who, on behalf of the agenda committee, moved the adoption of the standing rules as follows:

### STANDING RULES OF ORDER 2012 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 ten 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 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 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**

Robert V. Bergquist, *moderator*

Gary B. Walter, *president of the Covenant*

Beth I. Ernest, *vice-moderator*

Donn N. Engebretson, *secretary of the Covenant*

Gregory J. Englund, *parliamentarian*

The motion to adopt the standing rules carried.

## 7. APPROVAL HONORARY DELEGATES AND RESOURCE PERSONS

The moderator recognized Donn Engebretson, executive vice-president, who recommended the approval of the following persons as honorary delegates:

Award Recipients: Roger and Joanne Olsen, T.W. Anderson Layperson Award recipients; and Randall Roth, Irving Lambert Urban Ministries Award recipient.

Emeriti: Paul and Elizabeth Larsen, president emeritus of the Covenant and his wife; Glenn and Sharon Palmberg, president emeritus of the Covenant and his wife; Robert and Novella Larson, executive secretary emeritus of church growth and evangelism and his wife; David and Marilyn Noreen, executive secretary emeritus of Christian education and discipleship and his wife.

The motion was seconded and carried.

The moderator recognized Donn Engebretson, executive vice-president, who recommended the approval of the following persons as resource persons:

Ed Delgado, CHET; Marti Burger, Steve Burger, Aune Carlson, J. Wilson Herrera, Millie Lungren, Department of Christian Formation; Donald Davenport, John Teter, Fredrik Wall, John Wenrich, Department of Church Growth and Evangelism; David Husby, Covenant World Relief; Luke Palmerlee, Events Office; Elliott Johnson, Finance Office; Rob Hall, Rollin Persson, National Covenant Properties; Carl Balsam, Joseph Jones, North Park University; Thomas Ek, Carol Lawson, Theresa Marks, Department of the Ordered Ministry; Gregory Englund, Parliamentarian; Byron Miller, Paul Carlson Partnership; Cynthia Halverson, Evelyn Johnson, Richard Lucco, President's Office; Byron Amundsen, Karen Hallberg, Lana Heinrich, John Kerl, Letha Kerl, Gwendolyn Mark, Leslie Mark, Baxter Swenson, Margie Swenson, Department of World Mission.

The motion was seconded and carried.

## 8. CHURCHES REMOVED FROM THE ROSTER

The moderator recognized Donn Engebretson, executive vice-president, who highlighted the legacy of churches that, for a variety of reasons, closed, merged, or chose to end their affiliation with the Evangelical Covenant Church. Engebretson explained that the number of churches removed from the roster is higher than usual this year as some churches from previous years had not been included in the list for their respective year of closing.

Engebretson 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:

Christ Evangelical Covenant Church, Carol Stream, Illinois (closed)  
Glenview Covenant Church, Glenview, Illinois (closed)  
Morningside Covenant Church, Rockford, Illinois (closed)  
Cedar Creek Evangelical Covenant Church, Twin Lake, Michigan (closed)  
Estonian Evangelical Covenant Church, Toronto, Ontario, Canada (closed)



- Swede Bend Evangelical Covenant Church, Stratford, Iowa (closed)
- Mission Covenant Church, Houston, Texas (closed)
- Community Covenant Church, Brainerd, Minnesota (closed)
- BridgePoint Covenant Church, Eagan, Minnesota (merged)
- Lake Chippewa Covenant Church, Garfield, Minnesota (closed)
- Evangelical Covenant Church, Hallock, Minnesota (closed)
- Spring Lake Covenant Church, Arlington, South Dakota (closed)
- Living Stones Covenant Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota (closed)
- Pine Valley Covenant Church, Cloquet, Minnesota (closed)
- Fuente De Esperanza Covenant Church, Lompoc, California (closed)
- Hope Community Covenant Church, Lake Worth, Florida (closed)

The motion to remove the churches from the roster carried.

Engbretson called upon Mark Pattie, pastor of Salem Covenant Church in New Brighton, Minnesota, who led in prayer, thanking God for the ministry of those churches

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

The moderator recognized David Olson, executive minister of church growth and evangelism, to present the churches applying for membership.

Olson introduced Don Davenport, special ministries project coordinator, and thanked him for his service to the Covenant as he prepares to retire. Davenport responded with thanks and then introduced conference superintendents, associate superintendents, and directors of church planting to introduce pastors and representatives from each church applying for membership.

Olson, upon the recommendation of the respective conferences and regions, and on behalf of the Executive Board, moved that the 127th 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>		
New Zion Christian Fellowship Covenant Church Dolton, Illinois	600	325
River City Community Church An Evangelical Covenant Church Chicago, Illinois	130	250
<b>EAST COAST CONFERENCE</b>		
New Vision Community Church An Evangelical Covenant Church Flushing, New York	<i>in process</i>	125
<b>EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH OF ALASKA</b>		
The River Covenant Church Kenai, Alaska	30	85

GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE		
Redeemer Church	253	255
An Evangelical Covenant Church Hamilton, Ohio		
MIDSOUTH CONFERENCE		
Summit Covenant Church	30	630
Newcastle, Oklahoma		
Grace Covenant Church	<i>in process</i>	75
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma		
Sonoma Springs Covenant Church	100	135
An Evangelical Covenant Church Las Cruces, New Mexico		
Canal Street Church	44	35
An Evangelical Covenant Church New Orleans, Louisiana		
Life Covenant Church	55	50
Sugar Land, Texas		
MIDWEST CONFERENCE		
Freedom Covenant Church	14	153
Kansas City, Missouri		
NORTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE		
Lettered Streets Covenant Church	50	100
Bellingham, Washington		
Faith Covenant Church	250	400
Sumner, Washington		
NORTHWEST CONFERENCE		
Catalyst Covenant Church	<i>in process</i>	140
Alexandria, Minnesota		
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE		
Grace Hills Bible Church	<i>in process</i>	80
An Evangelical Covenant Church Angels Camp, California		
Convergence Covenant Church	50	90
Oakland, California		
Great Exchange Covenant Church	<i>in process</i>	70
Freemont Union City, California		
The Bridge Community Church	12	83
An Evangelical Covenant Church San Jose, California		

By individual votes, the churches were accepted into membership of the Evangelical Covenant Church and the moderator declared them to be full members. The new churches include a substantial representation of ethnic diversity reflecting the commitment of the Evangelical Covenant Church to respond to the diversity of our communities.

John Teter, evangelism team leader, prayed for the new Covenant congregations. The assembly sang “The Church’s One Foundation.”

Jen McDonald, Annual Meeting worship team member, announced in Spanish that supporting material for various agenda items were written in Spanish and available to delegates.

## 10. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The moderator recognized Gary Walter to give his report. Walter brought greetings from the Executive Board of the Evangelical Covenant Church and his family, then introduced the theme of this year’s Annual Meeting—Found Faithful Serving Globally. Walter introduced a video which described the five priorities we pursue in our shared mission and ministry—start and strengthen churches, make and deepen disciples, develop leaders, love mercy and do justice, and serve globally.

Walter then called up Debbie Blue, executive minister of compassion, mercy, and justice; Curt Peterson, executive minister of world mission, John Teter, evangelism team leader; and Reesheda Washington, project leader for Covenant Kids Congo. Each talked about how their ministry area relates to the mission priorities. A video was shown on the partnership with the Evangelical Covenant Church, the Covenant Church of Congo (CEUM), and World Vision for Covenant Kids Congo.

Walter invited Ray Johnston, pastor of Bayside Covenant Church of Granite Bay in Roseville, California, to the stage. Johnston shared that their church recently did a capital campaign and he and some of his staff presented Walter and Washington with a million dollar commitment to the Covenant Kids Congo project. Washington responded with gratitude and challenged the delegates to go back to their churches and pray about how God might move them to make contributions to this new project.

Thomas Robinson, chair of the Executive Board, prayed for Walter and the ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

## 11. FISCAL YEAR 2011 FINANCIAL RESULTS

Vice-moderator, Beth Ernest, recognized Dean Lundgren, vice-president for finance and treasurer, who gave a financial report for 2011. The auditors gave a clean report. There were no audit exceptions, no material weaknesses, and no disagreements with management. Lundgren thanked the assembly for the privilege and opportunity to serve.

Gil Friesen, member of the Executive Board finance committee, prayed for Lundgren and the future of Covenant finances.

## 12. ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

### **Report of the Nominating Committee**

The vice-moderator recognized John Martz, chair of the presidential nominating

committee, who reviewed the evaluation process of the committee and highlighted the gifts and character of Gary Walter. Martz then recommended, on behalf of the committee, the re-election of Gary Walter as president of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

The vice-moderator called for nominations from the floor. There were none. The tellers distributed the ballots and David Washington, chair of the tellers, gave instructions.

### 23. WRITTEN REPORTS OF MISSION AND MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

Vice-moderator Beth Ernest referred to the reports from leadership in the delegate notebooks and thanked them for their reports.

The assembly recessed at 11:52 a.m.

## SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

Friday, June 22, 2012

1:35 p.m.

### 18. IRVING LAMBERT OUTSTANDING URBAN MINISTRIES AWARD

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, president, and Debbie Blue, executive minister of compassion, mercy, and justice, to present the Irving C. Lambert Award to Randall Roth of Oakland, California. Blue gave a history of the award, and Walter presented a citation, which highlighted various aspects of Roth's ministry and contributions in urban and ethnic ministries.

Roth responded with gratitude, sharing some experiences that were vital and formative in his life and ministry.

### CELEBRATING THE MISSION ITEM—WHEELS OF HOPE

A video was shown about the ministry of Wheels of Hope, a partnership between Rolling Hills Covenant Church, Zambikes, The Fred Jordan Mission, and Women Ministries that trains and employs men in Skid Row Los Angeles to weld bicycle ambulances that are sent to save lives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

### 12. ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH, CONTINUED

The moderator recognized David Washington, chair of the tellers, who reported that Gary Walter was re-elected to a four-year term as president of the Evangelical Covenant Church by a vote of 339 to 0. The moderator declared Walter president of the Covenant.

John Martz, chair of the presidential nominating committee, prayed.

### 4b. CREDENTIALING REPORT #2

The moderator recognized Lisa Caridine for her second report. Registration thus far included 315 conference/region delegates representing 168 churches and 86 general delegates from 16 churches in addition to those represented in conferences/regions for a total of 401 credentialed voting delegates, from 184 churches. Additionally, 198 people had registered their attendance in various non-voting categories, from 43 churches, for a total registered conference attendance of 599 from 227 churches.

### 25. REPORT FROM NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

The moderator recognized David Parkyn, president of North Park University, who

reported on the record growth of the University and highlighted progress on Campaign North Park. Parkyn announced that the new science building will be named the Johnson Center in honor of Nancy and G. Timothy Johnson.

### 13. NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY AND NORTH PARK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

#### **Report of the Board of Trustees of North Park University for Dean of North Park Theological Seminary**

The moderator recognized Paul Hawkinson, chair of the search committee, who reported on the process of nomination and highlighted the gifts and character of David Kersten. Kersten responded with appreciation for the privilege to serve in this capacity and thanked the interim leadership for their competent leading of the seminary for the last two years.

#### **Bylaw Amendments—President and Dean of North Park Theological Seminary**

Hawkinson shared context for the proposed amendments and then recommended, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of North Park University, with the concurrence of the Executive Board, the following amendments to the Bylaws:

##### **Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII Section 7.9.d.i**

Current wording: “Executive Ministers and Corporate Presidents Called by the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall call the executive minister of communication, the president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, the president of North Park University, and the president and dean of North Park Theological Seminary. Each call shall be voted upon by ballot.”

Proposed wording: “Executive Ministers, Corporate Presidents, and Dean of North Park Theological Seminary Called by the Annual Meeting. The Annual Meeting shall call the executive minister of communication, the president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, the president of North Park University, and the dean of North Park Theological Seminary. Each call shall be voted upon by ballot.”

##### **Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII Section 7.9.d.i(4)**

Current wording: “The Board of Trustees of North Park University shall recommend and the Executive Board and the annual meeting of the Covenant Ministerium shall approve a candidate to be called as president and dean of North Park Theological Seminary by the Annual Meeting.”

Proposed wording: “The Board of Trustees of North Park University shall recommend and the Executive Board and the annual meeting of the Covenant Ministerium shall approve a candidate to be called as dean of North Park Theological Seminary by the Annual Meeting.”

##### **Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.9.e.i**

Current wording: “By vote of two-thirds of its elected and ex-officio members, the Executive Board may suspend the president of the ECC, any executive minister, the president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, the president of North Park University, or the president and dean of North Park Theological Seminary for cause. The Executive Board may lift the suspension by vote of two-thirds of its elected and ex-officio members.”

Proposed wording: “By vote of two-thirds of its elected and ex-officio members, the Executive Board may suspend the president of the ECC, any executive minister, the president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, the president of North Park University, or the dean of North Park Theological Seminary for cause. The Executive Board may lift the suspension by vote of two-thirds of its elected and ex-officio members.”

#### **Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.9.f**

Current wording: “The Executive Board shall declare the position of president of the ECC, executive minister, president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, president of North Park University, or president and dean of North Park Theological Seminary vacant upon the removal, resignation, permanent incapacity, or death of the person holding that position.”

Proposed wording: “The Executive Board shall declare the position of president of the ECC, executive minister, president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, president of North Park University, or dean of North Park Theological Seminary vacant upon the removal, resignation, permanent incapacity, or death of the person holding that position.”

#### **Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, 7.9.f.i**

Current wording: “The president of the ECC, any executive minister, the president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, the president of North Park University, or the president and dean of North Park Theological Seminary can be removed only by majority vote of the Annual Meeting, after suspension by the Executive Board.”

Proposed wording: “The president of the ECC, any executive minister, the president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, the president of North Park University, or the dean of North Park Theological Seminary can be removed only by majority vote of the Annual Meeting, after suspension by the Executive Board.”

#### **Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, 7.9.f.ii**

Current wording: “The president of the ECC, any executive minister, the president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, the president of North Park University, or the president and dean of North Park Theological Seminary may resign upon written notice to the Executive Board.”

Proposed wording: “The president of the ECC, any executive minister, the president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, the president of North Park University, or the dean of North Park Theological Seminary may resign upon written notice to the Executive Board.”

#### **Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.9.g.iv**

Current wording: “In the event of a vacancy in the position of president of North Park University or president and dean of North Park Theological Seminary, the Board of Trustees of North Park University, with the approval of the Executive Board of the ECC, shall appoint a person to perform the duties of that position on an interim basis until a new president or president and dean is called by the Annual Meeting and takes office.”

Proposed wording: “In the event of a vacancy in the position of president of North Park University or dean of North Park Theological Seminary, the Board

of Trustees of North Park University, with the approval of the Executive Board of the ECC, shall appoint a person to perform the duties of that position on an interim basis until a new president or dean is called by the Annual Meeting and takes office.”

**Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VIII, Section 8.1.k**

Current wording: “approve the salaries of the following persons upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees of North Park University: the president of North Park University and the president and dean of North Park Theological Seminary”

Proposed wording: “approve the salaries of the following persons upon the recommendation of the Board of Trustees of North Park University: the president of North Park University and the dean of North Park Theological Seminary”

**Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article X, Section 10.3.b.i(3)**

Current wording: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry shall have the following ex-officio members: the president of the ECC, the president of the Covenant Ministerium, the president and dean of North Park Theological Seminary...”

Proposed wording: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry shall have the following ex-officio members: the president of the ECC, the president of the Covenant Ministerium, the dean of North Park Theological Seminary...”

**Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article XI, Section 11.1.b**

Current wording: “The Council of Administrators shall have the following members: ...the president of North Park University; the president and dean of North Park Theological Seminary; the president of National Covenant Properties; and the president of Covenant Trust Company.”

Proposed wording: “The Council of Administrators shall have the following members: ...the president of North Park University; the dean of North Park Theological Seminary; the president of National Covenant Properties; and the president of Covenant Trust Company.”

**Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article XII, Section 12.3.j**

Current wording: “The president and dean of North Park Theological Seminary shall be recommended by the Board of Trustees of North Park University, approved by the Executive Board of the ECC and the annual meeting of the Covenant Ministerium, and called by the Annual Meeting for an indefinite term. The president and dean of North Park Theological Seminary shall be an ordained or licensed ECC minister in good standing.”

Proposed wording: “The dean of North Park Theological Seminary shall be recommended by the Board of Trustees of North Park University, approved by the Executive Board of the ECC and the annual meeting of the Covenant Ministerium, and called by the Annual Meeting for an indefinite term. The dean of North Park Theological Seminary shall be an ordained or licensed ECC minister in good standing.”

**Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article XIV, Section 14.3.a**

Current wording: “The Commission on Pastoral Relations shall have no appointed members but shall consist of the following ex-officio members only:

the president of the ECC, the executive vice president of the ECC, the executive minister of the ordered ministry, the executive minister of Christian formation, the executive minister of church growth and evangelism, the executive minister of world mission, and the president and dean of North Park Theological Seminary.”

Proposed wording: “The Commission on Pastoral Relations shall have no appointed members but shall consist of the following ex-officio members only: the president of the ECC, the executive vice president of the ECC, the executive minister of the ordered ministry, the executive minister of Christian formation, the executive minister of church growth and evangelism, the executive minister of world mission, and the dean of North Park Theological Seminary.”

The motion carried.

### **Vote of Call**

Hawkinson then recommended, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of North Park University, with the concurrence of the Executive Board and the Covenant Ministerium, that David Kersten be called as the dean of North Park Theological Seminary.

The tellers distributed the ballots and David Washington, chair of the tellers, gave instructions.

## **14. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY**

### **Report of the Nominating Committee**

The moderator recognized Thomas Ek, chair of the nominating committee, who reported on the process of nomination, highlighted the gifts and character of Mark Novak, and then recommended on behalf of the Executive Board, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, the election of Mark Novak as executive minister of the ordered ministry.

The moderator called for nominations from the floor. There were none. The tellers distributed the ballots and David Washington, chair of the tellers, gave instructions.

## **17. COVENANT LIFE ROUNDTABLE: SERVING GLOBALLY**

The meeting was recessed for one hour to discuss the topic of serving globally. The roundtable was facilitated by Gary Walter, president; Curt Peterson, executive minister of world mission; David Husby, director of Covenant World Relief; Byron Miller, executive director and president of Paul Carlson Partnership; Reesheda Washington, project leader for Covenant Kids Congo; and Meagan Gillan, executive minister of Women Ministries.

Walter presented a citation to retiring executive director and president of Paul Carlson Partnership Byron Miller, highlighting his ministry to the church during his years of service from 2008 to 2012.

A video was shown on the Covenant’s commitment to being found faithful in serving globally. Each person presented an overview of how each of these ministry areas serves globally.

The assembly reconvened at 3:55 p.m.

## **15. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF NOMINATIONS AND VOTE**

The vice-moderator recognized Hilary Applequist, chair elect of the Board of Nominations, who explained the procedures and task of the board. She explained



the rationale and decision of the 2011 Annual Meeting to go from a two candidate ballot to a single candidate slate for all boards. Applequist then presented the ballot as follows (asterisk indicates incumbent):

EXECUTIVE BOARD

*6-year term*

\*David R. Danielson

*6-year term*

Juana I. Nesta

*6-year term*

Rachel Sands

*6-year term*

Mark J. Seversen

BOARD OF NOMINATIONS

*5-year term*

Janet Batiste

*5-year term*

Marcia J. Gustafson

*5-year term*

Phillip O. Richardson

BOARD OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY

*5-year term*

James Y. Choi

*5-year term*

Renee Franzen

*5-year term*

Andrew J. Sebanc

*4-year term*

Laurel A. Larson

BOARD OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

*5-year term*

Michael S. Chun

*5-year term*

Steven W. Curley

*5-year term*

Grant A. Grecu

*2-year term*

Edward M. Lee

BOARD OF WOMEN MINISTRIES

*5-year term*

Carole M. Cruson

*5-year term*  
Betty L. Hall

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE

*6-year term*  
Ed L. Carey

*6-year term*  
Lisa R. Caridine

*6-year term*  
Mark L. Mohrweis

*2-year term*  
Scott A. Macdonald

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

*5-year term*  
Grant C. Clay

*5-year term*  
Dawn E. Helwig

*5-year term*  
Steve Johnson

*5-year term*  
Michael L. Jordan

*2-year term*  
F. Albert Tizon

ANNUAL MEETING OFFICERS FOR 2013 and 2014

**Moderator**

*2-year term*  
Stanley B. Long

**Vice-Moderator**

*2-year term*  
Amanda L. Olson

The vice-moderator called for nominations from the floor after each candidate. There were none. The tellers distributed the ballots and David Washington, chair of the tellers, gave instructions.

14. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY, CONTINUED

The moderator reported that Mark Novak was elected to a four-year term as executive minister of the ordered ministry by a vote of 326 to 0.

13. NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY AND NORTH PARK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, CONTINUED

The moderator reported that David Kersten was called as dean of North Park Theological Seminary by a vote of 325 to 1.

## 24. REPORT FROM COVENANT MINISTRIES OF BENEVOLENCE

The moderator recognized David Dwight, president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, who referred to his report as found in the delegate notebooks, then reported that in a very challenging health care environment, the Board of Benevolence is evaluating the future of hospital ownership. Dwight indicated that some options include continuing as they currently operate with two private hospitals, building on existing partnerships, exploring a joint venture opportunity, or changing ownership. Dwight asked for wisdom and guidance during this time of decision.

## CELEBRATING THE MISSION ITEM—WOMEN MINISTRIES

A video was shown inviting people to become a Women Ministries Friend and sharing the personal story of two women's experiences with Women Ministries in their local churches.

## 26. REPORT FROM WOMEN MINISTRIES

The moderator recognized Meagan Gillan, executive minister of women ministries, who reported strong participation in ministries such as AVA, Break the Chains, and sending supplies and gifts to Congo. Gillan extended an invitation to support the ministry by becoming a Women Ministries Friend as well as attending Triennial in the summer of 2013.

## 13. NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY AND NORTH PARK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY, CONTINUED; AND

## 14. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY, CONTINUED

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, president, who introduced David Kersten as the newly called dean of North Park Theological Seminary and Mark Novak as the newly elected executive minister of the ordered ministry. He thanked them for their willingness to serve in these capacities and they responded with gratitude.

David Parkyn, president of North Park University, prayed for Kersten.

Tom Ek, chair of the nominating committee, prayed for Novak.

## 27. REPORT FROM COVENANT TRUST COMPANY

The moderator recognized Ann Wiesbrock, president of Covenant Trust Company, who reported on the mission and ministry of Covenant Trust Company, sharing the stories of several investors who are all achieving their financial goals, investing in areas of their passion, and benefitting Covenant ministries.

## 29. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTINUATION OF COMMISSIONS

### **Commission on Biblical Gender Equality**

The moderator recognized Donn Engebretson, executive vice-president, who highlighted some of the resources of the commission and then recommended, on behalf of the Executive Board, that the Commission on Biblical Gender Equality be extended for another five years.

The motion carried.

### **Commission on Covenant History**

The moderator recognized Peter Hawkinson, chair of the Commission on Covenant History, who highlighted some of the resources of the commission and then recommended, on behalf of the Executive Board, that the Commission on Covenant History be extended for another five years.

The motion carried.

Engbretson shared items of concern for Covenant family who are in need and led the group in prayer.

The assembly recessed at 4:41 p.m.

### THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

Saturday, June 23, 2012

8:30 a.m.

#### 1. MORNING WORSHIP, CONTINUED

Vice-moderator Beth Ernest called the business session to order at 8:30 a.m., beginning with a time of worship. The worship team led a time of singing and Grace Shim, missionary in Thailand, gave a meditation.

Jen McDonald, Annual Meeting worship team member, announced in Spanish that supporting material for various agenda items were written in Spanish and available to delegates.

#### 19. T.W. ANDERSON OUTSTANDING LAYPERSON AWARD

The moderator recognized Gary Walter to present the T.W. Anderson Outstanding Layperson Award to Roger and Joanne Olsen, members of Ravenswood Evangelical Covenant Church in Chicago, Illinois. Walter presented the citation, which included highlights of their servant leadership and service to their church and community.

Roger responded, thanking those who have been instrumental in granting the award and sharing the honor with those they have worked with over the years. Roger acknowledged the power and might of God, especially in his healing powers so that Joanne could be standing with him on stage after her battle with cancer the last few years.

#### 15. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF NOMINATIONS AND VOTE, CONTINUED

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

##### EXECUTIVE BOARD

*6-year term*

David R. Danielson (260)

*6-year term*

Juana I. Nesta (263)

*6-year term*

Rachel Sands (260)

*6-year term*

Mark J. Severson (256)

##### BOARD OF NOMINATIONS

*5-year term*

Janet Batiste (261)

*5-year term*

Marcia J. Gustafson (261)

*5-year term*

Phillip O. Richardson (259)

#### BOARD OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY

*5-year term*

James Y. Choi (261)

*5-year term*

Renee Franzen (258)

*5-year term*

Andrew J. Sebanc (258)

*4-year term*

Laurel A. Larson (260)

#### BOARD OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

*5-year term*

Michael S. Chun (258)

*5-year term*

Steven W. Curley (260)

*5-year term*

Grant A. Grecu (257)

*2-year term*

Edward M. Lee (261)

#### BOARD OF WOMEN MINISTRIES

*5-year term*

Carole M. Cruson (262)

*5-year term*

Betty L. Hall (260)

#### BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE

*6-year term*

Ed L. Carey (259)

*6-year term*

Lisa R. Caridine (260)

*6-year term*

Mark L. Mohrweis (258)

*2-year term*

Scott A. Macdonald (259)

#### BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

*5-year term*

Grant C. Clay (256)

*5-year term*

Dawn E. Helwig (258)

*5-year term*

Steve Johnson (256)

*5-year term*

Michael L. Jordan (259)

*2-year term*

F. Albert Tizon (251)

#### ANNUAL MEETING OFFICERS FOR 2013 and 2014

##### **Moderator**

*2-year term*

Stanley B. Long (257)

##### **Vice-Moderator**

*2-year term*

Amanda L. Olson (255)

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

#### 20. CLERGY LIFETIME SERVICE RECOGNITION

The vice-moderator recognized David Kersten, executive minister of the ordered ministry, who offered a word of explanation for this award which recognizes those who have served in credentialed ministry when they turn sixty-five years old. Kersten called those present from the following list forward to be recognized and Gary Walter presented them with plaques of recognition (asterisk indicates those present for the award):

David Michael Anderson, Parkland, Florida  
Daniel Floyd Anderson, Batavia, Illinois  
\*Robert Victor Bergquist, Bedford, New Hampshire  
John Douglas Bruce, Oakland, California  
John Algeo Cassis, Debarry, Florida  
\*Jerry Ernest Daniels, Soldotna, Alaska  
Daryl Lynn Darst, Lincoln, California  
\*John Wallace Frye, Grand Rapids, Michigan  
\*Nancy Ruth Gordon, San Dimas, California  
David Allen Hicks, Aptos, California  
\*David Carl Hillberg, West Palm Beach, Florida  
\*David Norman Jobe, Renton, Washington  
\*Robert LeRoy Johnson, Stromsburg, Nebraska  
Cathleen Marie Johnson, Des Moines, Washington  
Phillip James Ladd, Peoria, Illinois  
Vicki Healy Marxen, Oshkosh, Wisconsin  
\*Jeffrey Melvin Norman, Modesto, California  
Richard Brian Nystrom, Urbandale, Iowa  
\*Gregg Perry Oliver, Twisp, Washington  
Douglas Edward Olson, University Place, Washington  
\*Doreen La Von Olson, Chicago, Illinois

Byron Richard Parrish, Glendale, Arizona  
\*Curtis Dean Peterson, Park Ridge, Illinois  
\*Stephen Eric Pitts, Minnetonka, Minnesota  
\*Judy Lynn Swanberg, Plantation, Florida  
\*Keith Lynn Tungseth, Seattle, Washington  
\*Harry Alan Walles, Pendleton, Oregon  
Paul Roger Warder, Bartlesville, Oklahoma

Walter invited the assembly to affirm and bless this group and the larger group they represent by applause and prayed for them.

#### CELEBRATING THE MISSION ITEM—CHIC

Marti Burger, director of youth and young adult ministries, reported on the ministry of CHIC, followed by a video and prayer for kingdom impact through the upcoming event.

#### 16. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM THE ORDERED MINISTRY

The moderator recognized David Kersten, executive minister of the ordered ministry, who gathered the candidates being presented for credentialing.

#### **Rules for the Ordered Ministry Amendments**

Kersten then reviewed the proposed amendments in six parts and presented the following recommendation: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry moves that the 127th Annual Meeting approve the amendments to the Rules for the Ordered Ministry as found in the delegates’ notebook Agenda Item 16.a:”

1) From Ordination to Specialized Ministry to Ordination to Word and Service

#### **Proposed Amendment to Article II, Section 2.1**

Current wording: “...One may be ordained to word and sacrament or ordained to specialized ministry. The appropriate ordination is determined solely by the form of ministry to which one is called. It is possible to move from ordained to specialized ministry to ordained to word and sacrament in which case the person shall participate in the rite of ordination to word and sacrament and the former ordination shall be taken up into the latter...If a person ordained to word and sacrament is called to a specialized ministry, additional education may be required.”

Proposed wording: “...One may be ordained to word and sacrament or ordained to word and service. The appropriate ordination is determined solely by the form of ministry to which one is called. It is possible to move from ordained to word and service to ordained to word and sacrament in which case the person shall participate in the rite of ordination to word and sacrament and the former ordination shall be taken up into the latter...If a person ordained to word and sacrament is called to a specialized ministry under ordination to word and service, additional education may be required.”

And as found in the following places:

Article II, Section 2.1

Article IV

Article IV, Section 4.1

Article IV, Section 4.2.a.iv

Article IV, Section 4.3.c  
Article IV, Section 4.4.b  
Article IV, Section 4.4.g  
Article IV, Section 4.5  
Article VII, Section 7.2.d  
Article IX, Section 9.2.a  
Article IX, Section 9.3.a  
Article XI, Section 11.2.a.i(1)  
Article XI, Section 11.2.a.ii(2)

2) Eliminate “full-time” in the requirements for Ordination to Word and Sacrament

### **Proposed Amendment for Article III, Section 3.3.c**

Current wording: “The candidate may either be engaged in full-time pastoral ministry or some other form of ministry approved by the Board. The candidate serving in a non-pastoral ministry shall demonstrate its relationship to a local ECC congregation.”

Proposed wording: “The candidate may either be engaged in pastoral ministry or some other form of ministry approved by the Board. The candidate serving in a non-pastoral ministry shall demonstrate its relationship to a local ECC congregation.”

3) Add “World Christian Studies” to the list of specializations allowing those who are called to serve in mission organizations or in the church beyond the US and Canada an area of unique preparation.

### **Proposed Amendment to Article IV, Section 4.1**

Current wording: “...administration/leadership, adult ministries, camping, children’s ministries, Christian education (all age levels), discipleship ministries, health ministries, music ministries, worship ministries, youth ministries, or other professional specialization as determined by the Board...”

Proposed wording: “...administration/leadership, adult ministries, camping, children’s ministries, Christian education (all age levels), discipleship ministries, health ministries, music ministries, worship ministries, youth ministries, world Christian studies, or other professional specialization as determined by the Board...”

### **Proposed Amendment to Article VI, Section 6.1**

Current wording: “...including administration/leadership, adult ministries, camping, children’s ministries, Christian education (all age levels), discipleship ministries, health ministries, music ministries, worship ministries, youth ministries, or other professional specialization as determined by the Board...”

Proposed wording: “...including administration/leadership, adult ministries, camping, children’s ministries, Christian education (all age levels), discipleship ministries, health ministries, music ministries, worship ministries, youth ministries, world Christian studies, or other professional specialization as determined by the Board...”

4) Change the number of academic semester hours required for a specialization from thirteen to twelve.



### **Proposed Amendment to Article IV, Section 4.2.a.i**

Current wording: "A Master of Arts degree or its equivalent from a seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (a two-year program comprising sixty semester credit hours or its equivalent) with an appropriate area of specialization totaling thirteen semester credit hours or its equivalent."

Proposed wording: "A Master of Arts degree or its equivalent from a seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (a two-year program comprising sixty semester credit hours or its equivalent) with an appropriate area of specialization totaling twelve semester credit hours or its equivalent."

### **Proposed Amendment to Article VI, Section 6.2.a**

Current wording: "Candidates shall have completed a minimum of the following: a bachelor's degree from an accredited college, including at least thirteen semester hours in the designated area of specialization..."

Proposed wording: "Candidates shall have completed a minimum of the following: a bachelor's degree from an accredited college, including at least twelve semester hours in the designated area of specialization..."

5) Eliminate granting a permanent license upon retirement

### **Proposed Amendment to Article IX, Section 9.1.b**

Current wording: "Credentialing in the ECC does not automatically qualify a person for the housing allowance provided by the current laws of the Internal Revenue Service. The license becomes permanent upon retirement for an individual who has served at least five years."

Proposed wording: "Credentialing in the ECC does not automatically qualify a person for the housing allowance provided by the current laws of the Internal Revenue Service."

6) Add the Covenant Orientation course, Vocational Excellence, as a requirement for bi-vocational ministers.

### **Proposed Amendment to Article IX, Section 9.5.a**

Current wording: "The bi-vocational ministry license shall provide credentials for those persons who are involved in the pastoral ministry of the ECC while normally engaged in secular work as the major source of livelihood...CO is not required but recommended."

Proposed wording: "The bi-vocational ministry license shall provide credentials for those persons who are involved in the pastoral ministry of the ECC while normally engaged in secular work as the major source of livelihood...The Vocational Excellence class in CO is required."

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

Carol Lawson, director of staff ministry, presented the following motion: "The Board of the Ordered Ministry with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, recommends that the 127th Annual Meeting approve the following persons' application to transfer their ordination to the Evangelical Covenant Church:"

Edward J. Arroyo, Central Carolina Community Covenant, Asheboro, NC,  
Assemblies Of God

Timothy H. Dally, Pasadena Covenant Church, Pasadena, CA, Blendville  
Christian Church, Joplin, MO  
Kristine O. Heckard, The Valleys Evangelical Covenant Church, Halifax, PA,  
United Church of Christ  
Theodore B. Law, Access Evangelical Covenant Church, Houston, TX, West  
Houston Chinese Church  
Troy D. Parson, U.S. Army Chaplain, International Ministerial Fellowship  
William J. Salyards, Shepherd Of The Hills Church, Shingle Springs, CA,  
United Pentecostal Church

Each candidate was voted upon individually. The motions carried.

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

Lawson presented the following motion: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, moves that the 127th Annual Meeting grant commissioning of the following persons:”

Kari M. Jacott, Linwood Covenant Church, Wyoming, MN, Youth Ministries  
Matthew W. Nightingale, Redeemer Covenant Church, Tulsa, OK, Music  
Ministries  
Ramon W. Noble, Edmonton Institute for Women, Edmonton, AB, Music  
Ministries

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:

Ramon W. Noble by Sally Carlson, Julia Stein Sandstrom

Each candidate was voted upon individually. The motions carried.

### **Presentation of Candidates for Ordination to Specialized Ministry**

Lawson presented the following motion: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, moves that the 127th Annual Meeting grant ordination to specialized ministry of the following persons:”

F. Carol Bob, Carolinas Medical Center, Monroe, NC, Pastoral Care  
Dawn S. Bodi, Evangelical Covenant Church, Lafayette, IN, Christian  
Formation  
Daniel K. Booker, Covenant Offices, Chicago, IL, Adult and Family  
Ministries  
Michael Dale Brown, Christ Community Covenant Church, Arvada, CO,  
Spiritual Formation  
Katherine Burns Martinez, Crossroads Covenant Church, Loveland, CO,  
Spiritual Formation  
Julia Stein Sandstrom, Evangelical Covenant of Canada, Winnipeg, MB,  
Discipleship

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 specialized ministry:

F. Carol Bob by Cheryl Clark

Dawn S. Bodi by Sally Carlson, Donn Engebretson, Kurt Kincanon, Stacey Littlefield, Cheryl Speakman, Jeff Speakman, Paul Ziemer  
Daniel K. Booker by Sally Carlson  
Michael Dale Brown by Win Jackson Houwen, Richard Mylander, Tammy Swanson-Draheim  
Katherine Burns Martinez by Win Jackson Houwen, Richard Mylander, Tammy Swanson-Draheim,  
Julia Stein Sandstrom by Sally Carlson, Win Jackson Houwen, Carolyn Poterek, Richard Stein, Karen Stein, Tammy Swanson-Draheim

Each candidate was voted upon individually. The motions carried.

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

David Kersten, executive minister of the ordered ministry, presented the following motion: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, moves that the 127th Annual Meeting grant ordination to word and sacrament of the following persons:”

Marcelo M. Alvarado, Iglesia Misionera Hispanoamericana, Pasadena, CA  
Gail S. Bantum, Quest, Seattle, WA  
Casey C. Barton, Great Exchange Covenant Church, Santa Clara, CA  
David O.R. Beetham, Kalamazoo Covenant Church, Kalamazoo, MI  
Jonathan W. Bergstrom, The Storehouse Covenant Church, Chicago, IL  
Brian L. Borin, First Covenant Church, Portland, OR  
Thomas G. Bowen Jr., Pathway Covenant Church, Boise, ID  
Bruce A. Bruns, Anchor Covenant Church, Lake Geneva, WI  
E. Kirsten Burdick, North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL  
Aune M. Carlson, Covenant Offices, Chicago, IL  
Erik D. Carlson, Dawson Covenant Church, Dawson, MN  
Pamela J. Carlson, Mahtowa Covenant Church, Mahtowa, MN  
Cheryll A. Clark, Guayaquil, Ecuador  
Richard E. Conrad, NewSong Covenant Church, Beaumont, TX  
Jill A. Craig, Prairie Hills Covenant Church, Sioux Falls, SD  
Ethel L. Davis, Community Covenant Church, Calumet Park, IL  
Robert A. Fraser, Pine Lake Covenant Church, Sammamish, WA  
Catherine Gilliard, New Life Covenant Church, Atlanta, GA  
Noah C. Hormann, Creekside Covenant Church, Redmond, WA  
Betty Howard, Key Largo Community Covenant, Key Largo, FL  
John M. Hudson, Pilgrim Congregational Church, Green Bay, WI  
John P. Human, Providence ElderPlace, Seattle, WA  
Jeffrey M. Kahl, Saranac Community Church, Saranac, MI  
Todd M. Kardell, Redeemer Covenant church, Brooklyn Park, MN  
Woong G. Kim, Worship Frontier Covenant Church, Bedford, MA  
Youngki Kim, Lakeview Covenant Church, Northbrook, IL  
Mark W. Kirchgastner, Dolores Park Church, San Francisco, CA  
Michael R. Langer, Glen Ellyn Evangelical Covenant Church, Glen Ellyn, IL  
Denise B. Lindberg, Community Covenant Church, Santa Barbara, CA  
Laurie Dawn Lindholm, Community Covenant Church, Santa Cruz, CA  
L. Michael McCain, Salem Mission Covenant Church, Pennock, MN  
Erin M. McDermott, Harbert Community Church, Harbert, MI

Bruce McGregor, Freedom Covenant Church, Kansas City, MO  
 Blake J. Merwin, Harbor Covenant Church, Gig Harbor, WA  
 Glen E. Morden, Patterson Covenant Church, Patterson, CA  
 Peter J. Morris, Arbor Covenant Church, Madison, WI  
 Rebecca M. Przybylski, New Harvest Christian Church, Oregon, OH  
 Alexander W. Rahill, Life Covenant Church, Canton, MI  
 Geila Rajae, Seattle Cancer Care Alliance, Seattle, WA  
 Jordan P. Reed, Hope Center Covenant Church, Pleasant Hill, CA  
 John M. Rose, Rancho Vista Covenant Church, Chula Vista, CA  
 Gregory D. Satterberg, Lund Mission Covenant Church, Stockholm, WI  
 Joe B. Scruggs III, Redeemer Covenant Church, Tulsa, OK  
 Cary P. Slater, Covenant Church of Easton, Easton, CT  
 Christopher T. Studenski, Emmanuel Covenant Church, Roseville, MN  
 Lon F. Swanson, KICY, Nome, AK  
 Dawn B. Taloyo, Trinity Covenant Church, Salem, OR  
 Jason P. Ulven, U.S. Navy Chaplain  
 Nicholas J. Von Stein, Redeemer Covenant Church, Downey, CA  
 Daniel P. Wheeler, Evangelical Covenant Church, Fairmont, MN  
 Brian D. Wright, Colorado Ridge Covenant Church, Westminster, CO  
 Brian C. Zahasky, Libertyville Covenant Church, Libertyville, IL

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:

Gail S. Bantum by Carolyn Poterek  
 David O.R. Beetham by Kelly Thomas Casey  
 Brian L. Borin by Carolyn Poterek  
 Bruce A. Bruns by Rita Kay Lochner  
 E. Kirsten Burdick by Sally Carlson, Carolyn Poterek  
 Aune M. Carlson by Sally Carlson, Trix Carlson, Donn Engebretson, Timothy L. Johnson, Richard Mylander, Carolyn Poterek, Julia Stein Sandstrom  
 Erik D. Carlson by Greg Carlson, Joyce Carlson, Ralph Carlson  
 Pamela J. Carlson by Sally Carlson, Trix Carlson, Timothy L. Johnson  
 Cheryll A. Clark by Sally Carlson  
 Jill A. Craig by Sally Carlson  
 Ethel L. Davis by Rita Kay Lochner  
 Catherine Gilliard by Win Jackson Houwen, Rita Kay Lochner, Tammy Swanson-Draheim  
 Noah C. Hormann by Carolyn Poterek  
 Betty Howard by Trix Carlson, Kathie Norman  
 John M. Hudson by Donn Engebretson, Robert Olson  
 John P. Human by David A. Johnson  
 Jeffrey M. Kahl by Beth Ernest  
 Todd M. Kardell by Rob Schwanz  
 Michael R. Langer by Rita Kay Lochner  
 Laurie Dawn Lindholm by Kathie Norman  
 Erin M. McDermott by Win Jackson Houwen, Richard Mylander, Tammy Swanson-Draheim

Bruce McGregor by Win Jackson Houwen, Richard Mylander, Tammy Swanson-Draheim

Blake J. Merwin by David A. Johnson, Carolyn Poterek

Peter J. Morris by Rodney Johnson, Timothy L. Johnson, Toni Morris, Carolyn Poterek

Rebecca M. Przybylski by Beth Ernest

Alexander W. Rahill by Trix Carlson, Beth Ernest

Geila Rajae by Beth Ernest, Carolyn Poterek

Jordan P. Reed by Kathie Glenn, Lee Glenn, Dean Honnette

Gregory D. Satterberg by Tim Boynton, David Danielson, Karen Danielson, Barry Hanson, David Satterberg

Cary P. Slater by Craig Carlson

Dawn B. Taloyo by Sandra Chan, Carolyn Poterek

Jason P. Ulven by Sally Carlson, Donn Engebretson, Jeffrey Norman, Kathie Norman

Daniel P. Wheeler by Sally Carlson, Timothy L. Johnson

Brian D. Wright by Win Jackson Houwen, Richard Mylander, Carolyn Poterek, Tammy Swanson-Draheim

Brian C. Zahasky by Sally Carlson, David Danielson, Karen Danielson, Richard Mylander, Owen Youngman

Each candidate was voted upon individually. The motions carried.

### **Approval of Licenses**

David Kersten referred the assembly to the list of applications for licensure and presented the following recommendation: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, moves that the 127th Annual Meeting grant ministerial license as follows:” The list included ministry license, bi-vocational ministry license, and world mission license. The names of those with ministerial license appears in the roll of ministers in the Covenant Yearbook, 2012-2013 edition.

The motion carried.

Kersten called upon Ed Delgado, president of CHET, to pray for all of the candidates.

The moderator led the assembly in singing “The Servant Song.”

### **Change in Standing**

Kersten presented the following reports:

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, reports to the 127th Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following ministers has been moved from active to inactive: Richard Cudmore, Thomas Ervasti, Sandra Klein, Brian Weld, Kerith Weld.”

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, reports to the 127th Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following minister has been moved from active to leave of absence: Gladys Haralu.”

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, reports to the 127th Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following ministers have been moved from inactive to active: Elton Nelson, Darin Youngs.”

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, reports to the 127th Annual Meeting that Eva Cudmore has transferred her

ordination standing to the Covenant Church of Sweden.”

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, reports to the 127th Annual Meeting that the following individuals have resigned their ordination standing and requested that their names be removed from the roster of Covenant ministers: Richard Emery, John Solie.”

Kersten presented the following recommendation:

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, recommends to the 127th Annual Meeting the dismissal of the following person from the ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church and that his name be removed from the roster of Covenant ministers: Richard Klawitter.”

The motion carried.

Kersten prayed.

### 30. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2013 MISSION AND MINISTRY BUDGET

The moderator recognized Dean Lundgren, vice-president for finance, who gave a presentation on the mission and ministry budget for fiscal year 2013 and a proposed mission and ministry budget of \$22,308,200.

Lundgren presented the following motion: “The Executive Board recommends to the 127th Covenant Annual Meeting a Mission and Ministry Budget of \$22,308,200 for the fiscal year of 2013. The Mission and Ministry expense budget is as follows:”

<b>Budget</b>	<b>Proposed 2013</b>	<b>% of 2013</b>
World Mission	\$ 10,646,429	47.7%
Compassion, Mercy, and Justice	\$ 3,910,237	17.5%
Church Growth and Evangelism	\$ 3,640,930	16.3%
Ordered Ministry	\$ 1,647,592	7.4%
Christian Formation	\$ 1,323,013	5.9%
North Park University (and Seminary)	\$ 1,140,000	5.1%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 22,308,200</b>	

The motion carried.

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

### CELEBRATING THE MISSION ITEM—WORD OF WITNESS

A video was shown on Peyton Johnson, pastor of Lakeview Community Church in Tarpon Springs, Florida, who shared his experience starting the church seventeen years ago and the eventual adoption into the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) after experiencing the Midwinter Conference and the Navigate ministry resource of the ECC.

### 31. COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN ACTION

The moderator recognized Liz VerHage, chair of the Commission on Christian Action, who reported on the results of last year’s survey from the commission and indicated that two resolutions are being brought to this year’s Annual Meeting. The Resolution on Stewardship and Generosity will be spread on the minutes for consideration at next year’s Annual Meeting. The Resolution on Domestic Violence will be voted on this year.

#### **Report on Resolution on Stewardship and Generosity**

VerHage then proposed the following draft resolution by the Commission on

Christian Action with the concurrence of the Executive Board to be spread on the minutes of the 2012 Annual Meeting for consideration at the 2013 Annual Meeting:

## 2012 RESOLUTION ON STEWARDSHIP AND GENEROSITY

### **Introduction**

This resolution invites followers of Christ to live out our identity as generous stewards of God's material and spiritual gifts. It seeks to remind us that the good (and sometimes hard) news of Scripture is that we are dependent on God to sustain us and shape our understanding of wealth and possessions. It calls the church to be a formational community that counter-culturally embraces biblical stewardship and generosity as foundational to our life, faith, and witness.

### **The Biblical Foundation: A God of Abundance**

The biblical story reveals a God of abundance who graciously invites us to be stewards of creation and reflect God's generous nature.

**1) Creation reveals a God of abundant giving.** The book of Genesis teaches us that God's intrinsic abundance overflowed in the act of creation. God created all things and declared them good (Genesis 1:31a). Human beings are created in God's image. We are called to be stewards of God's abundance by taking the role of caretakers, maintaining right relationships within creation, and depending on God's daily provision (Matthew 6:30-33). Stories such as the widow's oil (2 Kings 4:1-7) remind us of God's generosity. Jesus' miracles of the feeding of the multitudes (Matthew 14:13-25; John 6:1-15), the abundant catches of fish for the disciples (John 21:1-14), and turning water into wine (John 2:1-12) are all profound signs of the abundance of our giving God.

**2) Sin distorts our understanding of God's abundance and our relationship to God's gifts.** This distortion rejects God as the Giver and Sustainer of life and fosters a false sense of self-sufficiency. The story of manna in the desert reveals both God's care for us, and the human tendency to let fear lead us to hoard (Exodus 16). The Bible, as well as human history, witnesses to the destruction caused when humans reject their role as stewards (Genesis 3:17-19; Hosea 9:1-2; Joel 1:1-12), and live lives shaped instead by greed, fear, and idolatry (Exodus 16:20; Romans 1:25). This fragments our relationships with God, each other, and the rest of creation and leads to the devaluation of human beings made in the image of God. Injustice and oppression become normal when our relationships with God and each other become secondary to our relationship with things (Isaiah 3:13-15).

**3) God begins to restore humanity's dependence on God's abundance.** God called ancient Israel to be a light to the nations, a community committed to trust God with every aspect of life. Their central practice was keeping the rhythm of Sabbath—a call to cease from work one day each week in order to worship God, engage in community, and rest (Hebrews 4; Exodus 20:8-11). Sabbath reminds God's people that the work of redemption depends on God. Sabbath calls God's people to set aside the illusion that our labor sustains our lives and recognize God as the Giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17-18). Sabbath provides the means by which right

relationships with God, each other, and the rest of creation can be maintained. God also challenged the people to practice a more comprehensive Sabbath in God's call to the Year of Jubilee. Jubilee was intended to be a cyclical celebration that enabled the land to stay fruitful, released people from debt and slavery, protected people from unjust acquisition of property, and ensured that each person had access to the basic necessities of life (Leviticus 25). Jesus used the language of Jubilee to describe his ministry (Luke 4:14-21). Sabbath and Jubilee challenge us to live lives of stewardship, generosity, and justice as followers of Jesus.

**4) God's abundance is fully revealed in Jesus Christ.** Jesus is God's abundance in the flesh, the very presence and fullness of God. Through the gift of Christ, the kingdom of God and its call to radical living powerfully break into our world. The Gospel accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus continually address our identity as stewards and challenge our assumptions about wealth and consumption: Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16), the sower (Matthew 13), the good Samaritan (Luke 10), the great banquet (Matthew 22), the shrewd manager (Luke 16), the vineyard and the tenants (Matthew 21), the rich young ruler, the widow in the temple (Luke 21), and his meeting with Zacchaeus (Luke 19), to name a few. Jesus' death and resurrection revealed the abundant life and power of God over sin, death, destruction, and false dependencies and freed humanity to live in right relationship with God, each other, and the rest of creation.

**5) God calls the church to be a community of abundant generosity and stewardship.** The church is Christ's body which reflects God's abundant grace and provision (Acts 1:8) and which looks forward to the final consummation of creation. The early church models an inclusive community of mutual dependence that crosses economic divides and provides care for those inside and outside the church: "All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need" (Acts 2:44-45). The New Testament church also demonstrated Christ's teaching in its consistent call to care for the poor (Galatians 2:10; James 1:27) as a mark of the in-breaking kingdom of God. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, the church is emboldened to live a life of liberated stewardship as we await the coming of God's final kingdom.

### **Consumerism Threatens Generous Stewardship**

Modern North American culture promotes harmful messages about wealth and possessions that directly compete with the biblical story. It is hard to be generous stewards in a culture that believes more is always better, we are what we own, and that security is found in possessions.

When we succumb to these beliefs, we develop harmful habits that interfere with our call to be generous stewards. These habits have led many to take on substantial consumer debt by purchasing unnecessary products, often with little thought for who made them, under what conditions, and at what cost to creation. These habits also promote a sense of entitlement that ensnares both rich and poor alike, fostering selfishness, greed, and fear, while many in our world struggle to access basics like clean water and daily food. Consumerism runs so deep that sometimes even humans are seen as commodities, evidenced



by a pervasive human trafficking industry.

Christians are not immune from the influence of consumerism. We are tempted to approach God for our own selfish gain, treat prayer like an ATM, or view church as a marketplace where we pick and choose religious services that meet our desires. When we in the church fail to reorient our lives from these disordered relationships with wealth and possessions, we decrease our capacity to live counter-culturally, be radically generous, and share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed to a broken world.

### **Our Call: Stewardship and Generosity**

God calls us to live as generous stewards in response to his abundance and sustenance. Christ's life, death, and resurrection free us to see wealth and possessions differently, to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness" (Matthew 6:33). The Holy Spirit reminds us that our identity is secure because of our relationship with God in Christ, not from what we own and control (Romans 8:16).

God calls the church to be the primary formational community that shapes disciples for lives of stewardship and generosity. Whether we have much or little, we are all called to put our hope and trust in God, be content and thankful, and to give abundantly and cheerfully (Luke 12:16-21; 16:9-13; Phil. 4:11-13). Scripture also contains a specific and emphatic call to those who have much: "Command those who are rich in this present world not be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life" (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

The church is also called to be the place where we continually retell and hear the good news of God's grace and abundance. The church provides the context to confess that we all fail to live out our call to be generous stewards. We are each invited to participate in the learning community of the church in order to re-form and reframe our lives. We are salt and light for a world that desperately needs a hope-filled alternative for how to view wealth and possessions.

### **Our Response**

Living into our call to be stewards who depend on God's gracious giving and character is no doubt a lifelong journey. We commit ourselves to depend on God's abundant provisions to sustain us in our daily walk individually and together.

Therefore, be it RESOLVED that Covenant congregations and individuals endeavor to:

- 1) Encourage more open conversations about possessions, personal finances, and stewardship in order to break the taboos surrounding these issues as we submit all of life to Christ's Lordship.
- 2) Teach stewardship and generosity to adults, youth, and children by using discipleship materials that address money and consumption; useful resources could include the Covenant Stewardship Starter Kit, the Covenant Stewardship webpage, money management and estate planning services

with Covenant Trust Company, and also materials that speak specifically to personal finances such as “Good Sense” or “Crown Ministries.”

3) Engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, solitude, fasting and reflection on Scripture, allowing space for the Holy Spirit to reform us, remind us about our identity, and ground us in God’s providing character.

4) Practice Sabbath-keeping, affirming that keeping the Sabbath is a God-given antidote to the belief that our efforts alone protect and sustain our lives.

5) Create a culture of generosity in our congregations through tithing and the giving of our time, talents, and service so that the church becomes a radical example of sacrifice and self-giving to the world.

6) Intentionally create discussion around how we obey God’s command of Jubilee in our present-day context, acknowledging the challenge of interpreting the contemporary implications of leaving land fallow, remitting debts, freeing slaves, and returning property.

7) Practice stewardship from a global perspective by becoming informed about global implications of production and consumption.

8) Intentionally include creation care as part of our stewardship and investigate practices that help us reduce consumption personally and corporately, such as recycling, composting, eating and cooking only what we need, and limiting the use of unnecessary packaging in our purchases.

9) Become responsible consumers by understanding the true costs of the products we buy and supporting fair trade, local growers, and local businesses.

10) Support global development efforts that help provide for all, such as micro-finance, women’s empowerment, community development, equal access to education, food security, and access to clean water.

11) Support organizations that promote economic justice through holistic and biblical methods, such as Covenant World Relief, Paul Carlson Partnership, Covenant World Mission, World Vision, Bread for the World, Habitat for Humanity, Christian Community Development Association, and Opportunity International.

The presentation was followed by a time of discussion from the floor.

## 21. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING LEADERSHIP

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, president, who presented citations to the following outgoing leadership, highlighting their ministry to the church during their time of service:

David Kersten, executive minister of the ordered ministry from 2001-2012

Mark Novak, superintendent of the North Pacific Conference from 1999-2012

Richard Lucco, superintendent of the Great Lakes Conference from 2002-2012

Don Meyer, executive minister of communication from 1997-2012

Each responded with thanks.

## 22. RECOGNITION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS CONCLUDING TERMS OF SERVICE

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, who expressed appreciation on behalf of the Evangelical Covenant Church to Penny Barham, Carol Friar, Garth McGrath, and

Lindsay Small for their service on the Executive Board and presented them with gifts on behalf of the Executive Board.

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

Curt Peterson, executive minister of world mission, and Donn Engebretson, executive vice president, responded to questions that had been submitted the previous day regarding their ministry areas.

## CELEBRATING THE MISSION ITEM—GIVE IT FORWARD

A video was shown on partnering with Covenant World Relief to give hope to children and communities in need.

The assembly recessed at 11:54 a.m.

## FOURTH BUSINESS SESSION

Thursday, June 30, 2011

1:31 p.m.

### 4C. CREDENTIALING REPORT #3 (FINAL)

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

<b>Representing</b>	<b>Delegates</b>	<b>Churches</b>
Conferences/Regions		
Canada	2	2
Central	68	33
East Coast	20	13
Great Lakes	25	10
Midsouth	13	7
Midwest	33	20
North Pacific	32	19
Northwest	57	26
Pacific Southwest	63	34
Southeast	6	5
Alaska	2	2
Total Delegates from Conferences/Regions	321	171
General		
Officers of the Covenant	3	0
Executive Board	29	8
Council of Administrators	12	0
Annual Meeting Officers	3	2
Board of Nominations	1	0
Covenant Ministerium	2	0
Assoc. of Cov. Camps and Conf. Centers	1	0
Commission Delegates	1	0
World Mission Fields	13	1
Regional Conferences	24	4
Regions Mission Organizations (ECCAK)	1	0

Total of General Delegates	90	15
<b>TOTAL CREDENTIALLED DELEGATES</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>186</b>
Honorary Delegates	11	1
Advisors from Covenant Institutions	2	1
Advisors from Non-member Churches	0	0
Resource People	34	1
Registered General Conferees	116	40
Exhibitors	23	0
Support Staff	15	1
Total Additional Attendees	201	45
<b>Total Registered Conference Attendance</b>	<b>612</b>	<b>231</b>

**CELEBRATING THE MISSION ITEM—BAPTISMS IN THAILAND**

A video was shown on the baptism of 45 people who participate in programs at the Center for HIV/AIDS-affected Communities, operated by the Sustainable Development Research Foundation, in Ranote, Thailand.

**31. COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN ACTION, CONTINUED**

**Recommendation on Resolution on Domestic Violence**

The vice-moderator recognized Liz VerHage, chair of the Commission on Christian Action, who recommended on behalf of the Executive Board the adoption of the following resolution on Domestic Violence:

**2012 RESOLUTION ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

WHEREAS, God created women and men in the image of God, equal in dignity, worth, rights, and authority, and sin has distorted God’s created order (Genesis 1:26-27; Galatians 3:28);

WHEREAS, domestic violence includes all forms of physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, verbal, spiritual, and financial abuse, including what is often a pattern of battering, threats, intimidation, isolation, and economic coercion, used by one person to exert power and/or control over another person in the context of intimate, dating, family, or household relationships;

WHEREAS, the epidemic of domestic violence is found in all types of communities and family structures, and devastates young and old women, children, and men;

WHEREAS, those experiencing domestic violence often suffer in silence and feel deep and misplaced shame and stigma because of their abuser’s choices;

WHEREAS, domestic violence is present in our churches, and abusers, victims and survivors alike are often our brothers and sisters in Christ; and while God calls the church to expose violence and injustice, the church has too often remained silent and failed to speak out about domestic violence or encourage those who are experiencing it to ask for help (Prov. 31:8-9);

WHEREAS, scripture teaches that human relationships should be characterized by mutual respect and kindness (Colossians 3:19; Mark 12:31); using power and control is explicitly censured in stories like that of Amnon and Tamar (2 Samuel 13); and because domestic violence is never acceptable, appropriate,

or biblically defensible, scripture should never be used to minimize or justify domestic violence;

WHEREAS, Christ longs to free, protect, empower, and heal all experiencing domestic violence, and calls abusers to repentance and transformation (Psalm 82:3-4; Matt. 11:28-30); and Christ calls the church to be a safe haven of truth, hope, healing, peace, protection and restoration (if possible), for those impacted by domestic violence, to victims first, but also to abusers;

WHEREAS, the Covenant ministry, Advocacy for Victims of Abuse (AVA) ([covchurch.org/abuse/](http://covchurch.org/abuse/)), is an accessible resource to help churches and individuals respond holistically to abuse in all its forms through education, awareness, training, and support for victims, as well as primary responders.

THEREFORE, as Covenant individuals and congregations, we RESOLVE to:

- 1) Move beyond denial and disbelief and break the silence on domestic violence by acknowledging through teaching, preaching, and leadership the existence of abuse in our churches, and by encouraging victims and survivors to seek help and healing;
- 2) Address domestic violence within our congregations and create a safe place for victims/survivors;
- 3) Refuse to tolerate or defend instances of domestic violence and create systems for reporting abuse;
- 4) Educate ourselves about the signs of domestic violence and services available in the community;
- 5) Prevent domestic violence by mentoring and educating youth and young adults;
- 6) Equip pastors and leaders to be informed advocates, able to provide safety, encouragement, and community support by using the AVA Online Tutorial ([ava-online.org/index](http://ava-online.org/index)) and availing ourselves of trained AVA coordinators at the local and conference level;
- 7) Make available the “Mending the Soul” Bible Study to those experiencing or recovering from domestic violence; and
- 8) Establish local AVA advocates in our congregations.

Debate followed.

A delegate made a motion to amend point one under RESOLVE from “the existence of abuse in our churches” to “the existence of domestic violence that occurs within our churches.”

The motion was seconded.

Debate followed.

A delegate made a motion to amend the proposed amendment to “...within our society and churches.”

The motion was seconded.

The motion to amend the proposed amendment carried.

The motion to accept the resolution as amended carried.

VerHage invited Yvonne DeV Vaughn, director of Advocacy for Victims of Abuse (AVA), forward to share about the AVA project.

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

The moderator opened the floor to delegates to pray for the mission and ministry

of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Vice-moderator Beth Ernest closed.

### 33. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

#### **Approval of Minutes of 127th Covenant Annual Meeting**

The moderator recognized Donn Engebretson, executive vice-president, who presented the following recommendation: “The minutes of the 127th 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.

#### **Completion of Delegate Evaluation**

The moderator recognized Donn Engebretson, executive vice-president, who gave instructions for completion of the 2012 Annual Meeting evaluation forms that will be emailed to delegates.

#### **Report to Congregations**

The moderator recognized Don Meyer, executive minister of communication, who expressed appreciation to the Department of Communication for their work during this Annual Meeting. Delegates were encouraged to bring a report to their churches by using the document that will be emailed to them.

#### **Arrangements for 2013 Annual Meeting**

The moderator recognized Luke Palmerlee, events manager, who announced that the 128th Covenant Annual Meeting would be held in Detroit, Michigan, June 27-29, 2013.

#### **Closing Statement**

The moderator recognized Donn Engebretson, 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 were read in remembrance and gratitude within the Memorial Prayer during the celebration of Holy Communion at our Friday Evening Worship Service.

RESOLVED, that the 127th 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 Friday Evening Worship Service in which a prayer of remembrance and thanksgiving was given for their lives and ministry.

The following Covenant pastors, missionaries, and pastors’ spouses died since June 26, 2011:

#### **Pastors**

Douglas L. Ferguson, June 26, 2011, Omaha, Nebraska  
M. Randolph Thompson, July 21, 2011, Chicago, Illinois  
Worth V. Hodgin, August 20, 2011, Mercer Island, Washington  
Allan C. Johnson, January 17, 2012, Milwaukie, Oregon  
Donald B. Krause, February 7, 2012, Minneapolis, Minnesota  
L. Earl Towner, February 8, 2012, Barnes, Wisconsin  
Pembroke W. Taylor, March 14, 2012, Batavia, Illinois

Donald L. Olson, March 15, 2012, Glenburn, Maine  
Howard H. Carlstrom, March 24, 2012, Northbrook, Illinois  
J. Curtis Jennings, April 2, 2012, Longview, Texas  
Ernest A. Matson, April 2, 2012, Marshfield, Wisconsin  
Kenneth P. Lundell, April 27, 2012, St. Louis Park, Minnesota  
Wesley D. Morris, April 29, 2012, Calgary, Alberta  
Donald J. Pearson, May 7, 2012, Golden Valley, Minnesota  
George O. Welch, May 7, 2012, Northbrook, Illinois  
Roger W. Wiganosky, May 13, 2012, Stanwood, Washington  
C. LaVerne Erickson, May 18, 2012, Northbrook, Illinois  
Donald A. Swanson, May 25, 2012, Freeport, Illinois

### **Missionaries**

Evangeline Dennis, August 19, 2011, Wetaskiwin, Alberta  
Sigrid Nelson, August 22, 2011, Batavia, Illinois  
Norman E. Dwight, November 9, 2011, Turlock, California  
L. Daniel Ericson, January 8, 2012, Plantation, Florida  
Irene Anderson, February 3, 2012, Golden Valley, Minnesota  
Clitus Olson, February 19, 2012, Westminster, Colorado  
Ruth A. Burkett, February 29, 2012, Westminster, Colorado

### **Pastors' Spouses**

Elaine Ahlstedt (Jerome), June 29, 2011, Spring Valley, California  
Bonnie Gelaude (Ronald), July 7, 2011, Howell, Michigan  
Sandra Mosby (Jerry), July 14, 2011, Bronx, New York  
Karen Springer (Paul), August 6, 2011, Turlock, California  
Joyce Ekstam (Harry), August 25, 2011, Batavia, Illinois  
Lily Smith (Clifford), August 27, 2011, Portland, Oregon  
Margaret Lindholm (C. Gustav Anderson, Leonard Lindholm), September 18,  
2011, Roseau, Minnesota  
Ingeborg Skurdal (Sverre), October 11, 2011, Red Wing, Minnesota  
Evelyn Agard (Clarence), October 17, 2011, Spring Valley, California  
Hazel Dokken (Justin), October 18, 2011, Golden Valley, Minnesota  
Dory Anderson (Ray), December 8, 2011, Westminster, Colorado  
June Bjorklund (Clifford), January 12, 2012, Northbrook, Illinois  
Helen Lewis (Douglas), January 22, 2012, Twisp, Washington  
Beth Swanson (Earl D.), February 13, 2012, Fort Mill, South Carolina  
Beatrice Bjorklund (Paul), April 16, 2012, Mercer Island, Washington  
Dennior Moline (Russell), April 29, 2012, Port Angeles, Washington  
R. Marlys Carlson (Wallace), May 5, 2012, Kent, Washington  
June Rask (Ejnar), May 17, 2012, Cromwell, Connecticut  
Margaret Larson (Edward), May 27, 2012, Mercer Island, Washington  
Lillian Hanson (Ralph), May 28, 2012, Mercer Island, Washington

The motion was seconded and carried.

Engbretson then presented the following resolution of gratitude:

RESOLVED, that the 127th 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 and to being in it together:

To the Pacific Southwest Conference and Conference Superintendent, Efreem Smith. In particular we want to thank Anita Eyer and Nelly Bothi for connecting the Annual Meeting planning team with volunteers and resources from the Pacific Southwest Conference that blessed our time together.

Thanks to a superlative group of volunteers who welcomed us with enthusiasm, guided us to our places, served as ushers, and generally made our visit to California absolutely wonderful. Special thanks to our California friends, staff and family members of Evangelical Covenant Church pastors, Covenant Offices and Conference Offices, and Annual Meeting delegates who served above and beyond the call of duty to share the volunteer work of this great meeting: Steve Armfield, Jason Backlund, Paul and Britta Burger, Celina Camarillo, Pauline Carlson, Trix Carlson, Tricia Cisneros, Mary Cunningham, Janine Davis, Jody Eidnes, Cheryl Ek, Steve and Judy Eng, Sally Engebretson, Lola Engwall, John Frye, Chris Hagberg, Safy Jacob, Kari and Margy Jacott, Kelly Gillan Johnston, Kurt Kincanon, Brian Lindholm, Stacey Littlefield, Dru McLeland, Miriam & John Notehelfer, Marilyn Novak, Nils Peterson, Sue and Mike Rader, Lisandro Restrepo, Patty Shepherd, Larry and Debbie Sherman, Karen Stein, Jeanne Swanberg, Bruce and Jo Anne Taylor, Rich and Alyce Thomas, Melissa and Fredrik Wall, and Dan Wolter.

To Bethany Benefit Service and Covenant Pensions who blessed our meeting with the marvelous gift of morning refreshments and mugs.

To National Covenant Properties for their generous gift of afternoon refreshments and travel mugs.

To North Park University who provided our lanyards and name badge holders; and by sponsoring our fellowship together to honor new seminary dean, Dave Kersten, at our Friday evening reception.

To Steve Burger, director of children's ministry, and coordinator Diane Borden, children's director at Fort Collins Covenant Church, together with Dean and Pat Anderson, Shellie Kurth, Char Peterson, Sara Sosa and their hardworking and faithful team of wonderful youth volunteers: Olivia Borden, Linnea Olfelt, Luke Shelton, Amanda Shim, Terra Burgoyne, Matthew Eng, Jennie Eng, and Emma Sosa. You cared for our children and led them into deeper understanding of what it means to serve globally as they gave service in the name of Christ and provided us with a profound example for what it means to faithfully follow the heart of our God into the world.

To our moderator, Robert Bergquist; vice-moderator, Beth Ernest; parliamentarian, Greg Englund; secretary, Sandra Norris; and backup secretary, Tricia Cisneros, who actually is the highly competent glue that holds almost everything in this Annual Meeting business session together; these faithful servants, filled with diligence and the deeply evident joy of the Lord led us in the deliberations that will help form and guide our service to Christ.

To Kerry Staurseth who served as recruiter, trainer and guide for the credentials, tellers and sergeants-at-arms committees and countless other critical tasks assisting the Covenant Events Office team.

To the tellers chair, David Washington, together with Trix Carlson, Greg McKelvey, Ed Lee, Victoria Murray Voht, Jeffrey Norris, Linda Pointer, Sharee



Smeby, Karen Stein, Robert Olson, Mike Coglean, Ed Burgess, Nancy Burgess, and Richard Stein who guided us through the process of choosing leaders to guide our faithfulness in Christ; the sergeants-at-arms chair, Steven Hoden, Sr., together with Andy Sebanc, Robbie Collins, Alan Smeby, Cortney Wall, James DeClouette, Jim Coslow, Barb Coslow, Bruce Wyand, Chris Wall, Diana Grabemeyer, Wiley Samuels Jr., and William Grabemeyer who kept us faithfully supplied with all the things we needed to make our decisions well; to the committee on credentials under chair Lisa Caridine, together with Renee Willett, Lisa Kirchgestner, and Peter Tullson who counted us and counted us well.

To our worship leaders, Matthew Anderson and Josef Rasheed who, together led the entire process of our worship with excellence, sensitivity and great creativity together with the worship team, Max Butler, Janet Gadsden, Michael Hill, Jen McDonald, Geoff Twigg, Craig Turner, and Randall Wilkens who with great care and grace filled imagination guided us to worship our God with reverence and joy. Special thanks to Geoff Twigg who coordinated our service of Holy Communion and the worship altar.

To Tim Peterson who, along with the production team of Joe Kress and Dan Peterson, managed production for both worship services and business sessions with grace, wisdom, and innovation.

To the team who opened God's word for us with grace, clarity and challenge and reminded us with power why we in the ECC have always been and always will be people who seek to be faithful followers of Christ as guided by God's holy word: Linnea Carnes, Gary Gaddini, Labib Madanat, Curt Peterson, Bob Shim, and Grace Shim.

To Will Davidson, Stacey Heimkes, Dave Hanson, Jim Tyberg, Carrie George, Valeyo Garrett who facilitated table discussion and peer learning at our Friday church chair, church treasurer and get to know you lunches. Special thanks to Evelyn Johnson for recruiting and coordinating our facilitators.

To Debbie Blue, Meagan Gillan, Dave Husby, Curt Peterson, Art Greco, Margaret Logan, Doreen Olson, Steve Burger, John Wenrich, Christine Olfelt, Steve Armfield, Marti Burger, Dave Olson, and Theresa Marks for planning and facilitating our Saturday afternoon workshops. Special thanks to Dick Lucco for planning and organizing these very important events that advance our understanding of our common mission and equip us for God's work in our world.

To John Teter and Carol Sato from Fountain of Life Covenant Church in Long Beach, California and to Ed Salas from Newsong Church in Irvine, California and from Ed Delgado, Catherine Barsotti, Karen Figueroa from CHET in Compton, California for planning wonderful visits that encouraged us about our common mission and gave us new insight into our mission and ministry in our local church context.

To Lina Herrera who reminded us that we are truly all in it together by doing the work of translating the written business material from the 127th Annual Meeting into Spanish.

To Moises Bejarano and Tzair Valencica who did the intensive and challenging work of translating our worship services and business sessions into Spanish with joy and grace.

To Yoonjin Stovall and Warren Dillaway who took great pictures of the

amazingly photogenic Covenant people so to record our gathering and its impact for many years to come.

To the great team who managed communications so that many individuals beyond attendance at this meeting might be blessed by the abundant good news of God's work that we have together shared: Don Meyer, Stan Friedman, Evy Lennard, Joshua Havens, Luke Johnson, Ben Eash, Sarah Johnson, Steven Vélez Luce, David Westerfield, Jane Swanson-Nystrom, Cathy Norman Peterson, Jan Gray, Kevin Kempe, Jon McFadyen, and Deb Hendriksma-Anderson.

To Kevin Kempe who managed the onsite Covenant Bookstore for our Annual Meeting allowing us access to great resources for personal growth in Christ and greater effectiveness in mission and ministry.

To Daniel and Annie Booker, who transported an endless variety of those items essential for an Annual Meeting from 8303 W. Higgins Rd. in Chicago to Irvine, California, and back again.

To the Covenant Events Office staff: events manager, Luke Palmerlee, events coordinator, Katie Burzynski, events operations assistant, Jordan Meyers, and events registrar, Jill Ulven who planned, negotiated, contracted, arranged, detailed, managed, counted, prepared, displayed, developed, equipped and both in general and in every particular worked tirelessly and with both grace and excellence to bring us an outstanding 127th Covenant Annual Meeting.

And most of all, warm thanks to all of the Covenant Church delegates, general conferees and Covenant visitors who gave of their time, their energy and devotion to deliberate on the trajectory of our future 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 127th Covenant Annual Meeting.

The motion was seconded.

The moderator proposed an amendment that Donn Engebretson's name be added to the resolution.

The motion to amend carried.

The motion to accept the resolution as amended carried.

#### 34. ADJOURNMENT

The moderator declared the 127th Covenant Annual Meeting adjourned at 2:38 p.m.

#### 35. BENEDICTION

The assembly ended in benediction.

#### **Annual Meeting Officers**

Moderator: Robert V. Bergquist

Vice-Moderator: Beth I. Ernest

Secretary: Sandra E. Norris

**Parliamentarian**

Gregory J. Englund

## **Roll of Certified Delegates to the 127th Annual Meeting**

### **CANADA CONFERENCE**

Conference Delegates: Jeff Anderson, Ramon Noble, Julia Stein Sandstrom

### **ALBERTA**

Edmonton: Raymond Wall

### **BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Surrey, Green Timbers: Andrew Seban

### **CENTRAL CONFERENCE**

Conference Delegates: Cheryl Borgeson, Jerome Nelson, Debbie Griffith Samuels

### **ILLINOIS**

Batavia: Julie Johnson, Thomas Wright

Calumet Park: Joyce Holmes, Shirley Turner

Campton Hills: Paul Couleur

Chicago, Edgebrook: Jill Lind

Chicago, Grace: Ronna Husby

Chicago, Immanuel: Kip Carnes, Linnea Carnes

Chicago, New Zion: Tina Stringfellow, Alonzo Strong

Chicago, North Park: Lester Carlson, Mark Nilson, Eric Palmquist

Chicago, Oakdale: Lisa Caridine, D. Darrell Griffin, Margo Haynes, Jeremiah

Hines, Delores Humphries, Phillip Richardson, David Washington

Chicago, Ravenswood: Chris Wall, Cortney Wall

Chicago, Resurrection: Luke Oliver

Chicago Heights: Linda Pointer

De Kalb: Steve Larson, Jennifer Zerby

Elgin: Steve Bob, Susan Bob

Galesburg: Rhonda Nelson, William Nelson

Glen Ellyn: Melissa Langer, Michael Langer, David Sveen

Hinsdale: Paul Allen, Rita Kay Lochner, John Scruton-Wilson

Libertyville, Libertyville: Paul Hawkinson, Dwight Nelson, Kathryn Nelson, Brian Zahasky

Mt. Prospect, Northwest: Elizabeth McColl, Paul Thompson

Naperville: Scot Gillan, Dru McLeland

Northbrook, Northbrook: Robert Olson

Oak Park, Fellowship Christian: Wiley Samuels, Renee Willett

Orland Park, Hope: James Bergstrom, Karen Bergstrom

Palatine, DeerGrove: Melissa Wall

Rockford, First: Peter Dibley

Stillman Valley: Richard Lindholtz

Wilmette: John Couleur, Peter Hawkinson, John Lindahl, Kari Lindholm

### **INDIANA**

Lafayette: Stacey Littlefield, Cheryl Speakman, Jeff Speakman

South Bend: Ryan Cooper, SunniJo Cooper

### **MICHIGAN**

Iron River: Jack Hudson, Verl Hudson

## MISSOURI

Kirkwood: Carl Helfrich

## WISCONSIN

Lake Geneva: Alissa Bruns, Bruce Bruns

Madison, Arbor: Rodney Johnson

## **EAST COAST CONFERENCE**

Conference Delegates: Howard Burgoyne, Jason Condon, Kreig Gammelgard

## CONNECTICUT

Berlin: Diane Stevenson

Easton: Craig Carlson, Robert Lindquist, Cary Slater

Manchester: Karen Tullson, Peter Tullson

Thomaston: Tim Olsen

## MASSACHUSETTS

Attleboro: Jay Fast

Springfield: Michael Mirakian

## NEW HAMPSHIRE

Bedford: Steve Hoffman

## NEW JERSEY

Livingston: Susan Gillespie

## NEW YORK

Bronx: Kanyere Eaton, Jacqueline Ravenell

Brooklyn: Conway Boyce

## PENNSYLVANIA

Halifax: Brandi Crum, Michael Crum, Kristine Heckard

Harleysville: James Stanley-Erickson

## RHODE ISLAND

Riverside: Edward Burgess, Nancy Burgess

## **GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE**

Conference Delegates: Dawn Choate, Janine Davis, Larry Sherman

## MICHIGAN

Dearborn: John Aho, Michelle Aho

Dowagiac: Diana Grabemeyer, William Grabemeyer

Farmington Hills: Dennis Carlson, Barb Coslow, Jim Coslow

Grand Rapids, First: Gregory Carlson, Joyce Carlson, Trix Carlson

Grand Rapids, Thornapple: Barbara Hoffman, Tim Hoffman, Brenda Veltman,  
Howard Veltman

Harbert: Peg Kohring, Kyle Small

Hudsonville: John Frye

Kalamazoo: David Beetham, Kelly Casey

Muskegon: Marva Carlson, Ralph Carlson

## NEW YORK

Jamestown: Kathleen Hall, Barbara Hungerford

## OHIO

Ashtabula: Hollis Dillaway, Bruce Wyand

## MIDSOUTH CONFERENCE

Conference Delegates: Garth Bolinder, Paul Cunningham

## NEW MEXICO

Las Cruces: John Hemmer, Judith Kemper, Timothy Smith

## OKLAHOMA

Oklahoma City, Westmoore: Robin Cunningham, Earnest Stuckey II

Tulsa: Matt Nightingale

## TEXAS

Carrollton, Redeemer: Cindy Martin

DeSoto: Rodney Gadsden, Josef Rasheed, Rochelle Rasheed

Houston, Access: Chris Jee

Sugar Land: James DeClouette, Ed Lee

## MIDWEST CONFERENCE

Conference Delegates: Rick Mylander, Tammy Swanson-Draheim

## COLORADO

Castle Rock: Nathan Hartz, Susanna Hartz

Colorado Springs, Faith: Ignatius Tredoux

Colorado Springs, Living Hope: Andrew Westburg

Golden: Andrew Platt, Heather Platt

Littleton: Darlene Thulson, Steve Thulson

Longmont: Win Jackson Houwen, Tracy Welker

## IOWA

Albert City: Gavin Ellis

Mason City: Steve Johnson

Sioux City: Karen Stein, Richard Stein

## KANSAS

Lindsborg: Darrell Cooper, Kate Cooper

Prairie Village: Jorge Chan

Salina: Robbie Collins

Shawnee: Kathie Glenn, Richard Glenn

## MISSOURI

Kearney: Laura Cogan, Michael Cogan

## NEBRASKA

Ceresco: Mike Radar, Sue Radar

Oakland: Steven Hoden

Omaha, Community: John Madvig

Omaha, First: Weston Gibson, Kevin Williams, Pam Williams

Stromsburg: Robert Johnson

Wakefield: Ron Wenstrand, Rose Wenstrand

## **NORTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE**

Conference Delegates: Mark Novak, Don Robinson, Jim Sequeira

### **OREGON**

Eugene, Valley: Daniel Kline, Kay Strom

Salem, Trinity: Daniel Johnson, Ruth Ann Johnson

Tigard: David Greenidge, Patricia Greenidge

### **WASHINGTON**

Arlington: Jessica Ronhaar

Bellevue, Highland: Mark Lindberg, Tony Mullin

Bellevue, Iglesia Latinoamericana: Luis Garcia

Des Moines: Betsey Grayson, David Johnson, Kim Klose

Everett: Bob Higbee, Colleen Higbee

Kent: Keith Carpenter, David Jobe

Mount Vernon: Randall Wilkens

Olympia, River Ridge: Beth Gordon, Dick Gordon, Rick Kendall

Redmond: Doug Humphreys

Sammamish, Pine Lake: Robert Fraser

Seattle, Emerald City: Harvey Drake

Seattle, First: Linda Morris, Tom Morris

Shoreline: Deborah Montzingo

Sumner: Burt Ellison, Mary Hendrickson

Tacoma, Trinity: Tae Jung

Yakima: Colleen Chase, Sherrin Melcher

## **NORTHWEST CONFERENCE**

Conference Delegates: Mark Stromberg

### **MINNESOTA**

Alexandria: Judy Eng, Steve Eng

Bemidji: Dean Nelson, Kathryn Nelson

Blaine: Hollis Kim

Brooklyn Center, Brookdale: Chris Icenogle, Charlene Johnson, Merle Johnson

Brooklyn Park, Redeemer: Todd Kardell, Steve Larson, Rob Schwanz

Buffalo: Bill Miller, Melodie Miller

Dawson: Erik Carlson, Lauren Carlson

Fairmont: Daniel Wheeler, Liz Wheeler

Hector: Steven Hoden

Mahtowa: Miranda McNamara, Shannon McNamara

Maple Grove: Chad Erlenborn

Minneapolis, Bethlehem: Bruce Taylor, Jo Anne Taylor, Derek VanderMolen, Linda VanderMolen

Minneapolis, Bloomington: Timothy Johnson

Moose Lake: Lucia Carlson, Mark Carlson

New Brighton: Mark Pattie, Pam Pitts, Steve Pitts, Addie Sarkela, Dick Sarkela, Kay Sorvik

Richfield: Gregory Ellis

Rochester, Rochester: Herb Frost, Paula Frost, Alan Smeby, Sharee Smeby

Rochester, Salem Road: Karen Danielson

Shoreview: Chris Studenski

St Paul, First: Jeffrey Norris, Donald Pelto, Richard Voth, Victoria Murray Voth

Trimont: Kay Pope, Richard Pope

Willmar: Judy Kleist, Shawn Kleist

Wyoming: Kari Jacott, David Ostercamp

## SOUTH DAKOTA

Sioux Falls: Andrew Burnett, Dawn Burnett, Jill Craig

## WISCONSIN

Poplar: Joseph Cosmos

Stockholm: Barry Hanson, Greg Satterberg

## PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE

Conference Delegates: Nelly Bothi, Bill MacPhee, Efreem Smith

## ARIZONA

Chandler, Hope: William DeVaughn

Gilbert: Kent Bertrand

## CALIFORNIA

Angels Camp: Dusty Bach

Antioch, Nueva Esperanza: Filomeno Nesta, Juana Nesta

Azusa, Vision: Mario DiazCeballos

Bell Gardens: Karen Figueroa, Carmen Floria

Concord, Crossroads: Dan Schrantz

Downey, El Encino: Floredilia Graterol, Carlos Ortiz

El Cajon: Mel Nelson

Escalon: Joel Dorman, Marion Van Vliet

Hilmar: Andrew Postma

Irvine: Stephen Bay, Kenneth Wilson

Kerman, Kerman: Mary LeBeuf, Dan Shelton

Kingsburg, Evangelical: Timothy Boynton, David Satterberg

Los Angeles, Redeemer: Kevin Blue, Ellen Hume

Modesto: Jeffrey Norman, Kathie Norman

Palm Desert: Russell Best, Chris Hushaw

Pasadena, Abundant Life: Camille Wooden

Pasadena, Pasadena: Tim Dally, Jim Tyberg

Pleasant Hill: Dean Honnette, Robin Honnette, Jordan Reed

Redwood City, Peninsula: Gary Gaddini, Lynette Sanchez, Dorothy Toews, Rodney Toews

Rolling Hills Estates: JP Poveda

Sacramento, Valley Hi: Darryl Hutcherson

San Francisco, Dolores Park: Lisa Kirchgester, Mark Kirchgester

San Francisco, Iglesia del Pacto: Laura Fuentes, Mario Romani

San Jose, New Life: Kevin Budd

Santa Barbara, Montecito: Robert Gross, Jon Lemmond, Bill Lindberg, Linda Lindberg

Santa Cruz: Gregory Lindholm

Simi Valley, Nueva Esperanza: Renata Ghione, Roberto Ghione

Spring Valley: Don Garland, Sue Garland

Stockton: Sandra Chan, Charles Locke, Lynette Marston  
Sunnyvale: Casey Barton  
Turlock, Cornerstone: Judith Hedstrom, Amanda Oppenhuizen, Greg  
Oppenhuizen  
Turlock, Turlock: Bill Day, Anita Raya, Kathy Wells  
Union City: Brian Hui  
Visalia: Jason Backlund

## **SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE**

Conference Delegates: Robert Owens

### **FLORIDA**

Miami, Kingdom: Ed Carey  
North Miami: Nathaniel Sutton  
Safety Harbor: Shirley Bragdon, Joan Hill

### **NORTH CAROLINA**

Greensboro: Carol Bob  
Madison: Michael Barham

## **ALASKA REGION**

Regional Director: Curtis Ivanoff  
Fairbanks: Ken Moore  
Nome: Lon Swanson

## **EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH**

President: Gary B. Walter  
Executive Vice-President: Donn N. Engebretson  
Vice-President for Finance: Dean A. Lundgren

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Vice Moderator: Beth Ernest

Secretary: Sandra Norris

## COVENANT ORGANIZATIONS

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Covenant Ministerium: Stephen Bilynskij, Tammy Hallam

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Hilary Applequist

## COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN ACTION

Liz VerHage

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Ecuador: Cheryl Clark

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South Sudan: James Tang

Spain: Eugenio Restrepo, Pia Restrepo

Thailand: Peter Dutton, Ruthie Dutton, Bob Shim, Grace Shim

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Detroit, The Bridge: Janine Davis

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Oklahoma City, Grace: Brent Campbell

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Noreen, Marilyn Noreen, Glenn Palmberg, Sharon Palmberg

Honored Attendees: Joanne Olsen, Roger Olsen, Randall Roth

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Covenant Events: Luke Palmerlee

Covenant Resource Center: Millie Lungren

Covenant World Relief: David Husby

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J. Wilson Herrera

Department of Church Growth and Evangelism: Don Davenport, John Teter,  
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