

C O V E N A N T

YEARBOOK

STATISTICAL DATA & RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES

2014-15 EDITION

Minutes of the Annual Meeting

Minutes of the 129th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church

Hyatt Regency O'Hare
Grand Ballroom
Chicago, Illinois
June 27-28, 2014

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

Friday, June 27, 2014
8:33 a.m.

1. MORNING WORSHIP

Moderator Stanley Long called the business session of the 129th Annual Meeting to order at 8:33 a.m., beginning with a time of worship. Nicole Bullock, pastor of Blue Oaks Covenant Church in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota, gave a meditation.

2. OPENING STATEMENT BY THE MODERATOR

Moderator Stanley Long explained procedures, issued an opening statement, and introduced the officers and supporting staff.

Rebecca Gonzalez, executive director of operations, announced in Spanish that supporting material for various agenda items were written in Spanish and available to delegates.

3. GREETING FROM CENTRAL CONFERENCE, SUPERINTENDENT JEROME NELSON

Superintendent Jerome Nelson greeted the assembly from the Central Conference and its churches, and thanked all who participated in Experience Chicagoland.

4. REPORT ON CREDENTIALS AND MOTION

The moderator recognized Connie Carrillo, 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 129th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church."

The motion carried.

Carrillo then reported that registration thus far include 304 credentialed voting delegates and 144 additional registrants in various non-voting categories for a total registered conference attendance of 448.

5. ACTION ON THE STANDING RULES

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

STANDING RULES OF ORDER 2014 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 privi-

leges. 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, other than the proposed Constitution and Bylaw amendments, shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes, except as otherwise specified in these standing rules and the agenda. No amendment or other subsidiary motion to a main motion shall be allowed until debate on the main motion has ceased or ten (10) minutes have passed.

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

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

4) Action on Proposed Constitution and Bylaw Amendments and Related Transition Plan

Given the interrelatedness of the proposed amendments, the proposed Constitution and Bylaws Amendments and related Transition Plan shall be acted upon by the Annual Meeting in three motions for three separate packages—Denominational Ministries, Officers, and Corporations—and debated seriatim within the package. A motion to divide the question for any of these three motions shall not be in order.

Debate on any of the amendments as numbered within the Constitution and Bylaw changes in the delegate materials will occur within the time frame for the individual motions for a package as follows: Denominational Ministries—45 minutes; Officers—30 minutes, Corporations—10 minutes. Approval of each of the three motions shall require a two-thirds majority vote.

5) Submission of Motions in Writing

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

6) 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.

7) Consent Agenda

Items on the Consent Agenda are routine, procedural, informational, self-explanatory non-controversial items that require action but generally don't require discussion or debate. Acting on these items move the meeting along allowing for more time for

substantive issues. Items on the Consent Agenda may be removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of any two delegates. Items removed from the Consent Agenda shall be acted upon by the assembly at a place in the agenda determined by the moderator. If the Consent Agenda is not adopted by the unanimous consent of the meeting then each of the items on the Consent Agenda shall be acted upon by the assembly as a separate motion at a place in the agenda determined by the moderator.

8) 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.)

9) Modification of Agenda Order

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

Agenda Committee Members

- Stanley B. Long, *moderator*
- Gary B. Walter, *president of the Covenant*
- Amanda L. Olson, *vice-moderator*
- Evelyn M.R. Johnson, *secretary of the Covenant*
- Eric D. Filkin, *parliamentarian*

The motion to adopt the standing rules carried.

The moderator announced that Amanda Olson, vice-moderator, would be absent Saturday, and gave notice of appointment of Sue Poston as vice-moderator pro tem for Saturday. There was no objection from the assembly.

6. ACTION ON THE PROPOSED AGENDA

The moderator recognized Evelyn Johnson, interim executive vice-president, who on behalf of the Executive Board recommended the adoption of the agenda as follows:

Times Certain

Friday	
8:30-12:00 p.m.	Morning Business Session with Worship
1:30-4:30 p.m.	Afternoon Business Session
Saturday	
8:30-12:00 p.m.	Morning Business Session with Worship
10:00 a.m.	Clergy Lifetime Service Recognition
10:15 a.m.	Ministerial Credentials
11:00 a.m.	2015 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 Central Conference, Superintendent Jerome Nelson
4. Report on Credentials and Motion
 - a. Credentialing Report #1
 - b. Credentialing Report #2
 - c. Credentialing Report #3
5. Action on the Standing Rules
6. Action on the Proposed Agenda *Esta material también se encuentra en Español*
7. Approval of Honorary Delegates and Resource Persons
 - a. Honorary Delegates
 - b. Resource Persons

MEMBERSHIP IN THE MISSION

8. Churches Removed from the Roster
 - a. Recognition and Prayer
9. Churches Applying for Membership in the Evangelical Covenant Church
 - a. Recognition and Prayer (30-minute report)

STATE OF THE MISSION

10. Report of the President

ORGANIZING FOR MISSION

11. Report/Introduction to Mission Priority Alignment
12. 2014 Constitution and Bylaw Amendments
- 12a. 2015 Constitution Amendment

SERVANT LEADERSHIP FOR THE MISSION

13. Report of the Board of Nominations and Vote
14. Actions to Be Taken from the Ordered Ministry (Time Certain–Saturday, 10:15 a.m.)
 - a. Presentation of Candidates for Transfer of Ordination
 - b. Presentation of Candidates for Commissioning
 - c. Presentation of Candidates for Ordination to Word and Service
 - d. Presentation of Candidates for Ordination to Word and Sacrament
 - e. Approval of Licenses
 - f. Change in Standing
 - g. Changes in the Rules for the Ordered Ministry

HONORING FAITHFUL SERVICE IN THE MISSION

15. Clergy Lifetime Service Recognition (Time Certain–Saturday, 10:00 a.m.)
16. Recognition of Jay and Ellen Haworth, retiring missionaries
17. Recognition of Doreen Olson, retiring executive minister of Christian formation
18. Recognition of Dean Lundgren, retiring vice-president for finance
19. Recognition of Executive Board Members Concluding Term of Service

FUNDING THE MISSION

20. Fiscal Year 2013 Financial Report
21. Presentation and Adoption of the 2015 Mission and Ministry Budget (Time Certain – Saturday 11:00 a.m.)

DIMENSIONS OF THE MISSION

22. Mission and Ministry Leadership Report
23. Report from Women Ministries
24. Report from Covenant Trust Company
25. Report from Covenant Ministries of Benevolence
26. Report from North Park University
27. Report from Paul Carlson Partnership
28. Report from the National Covenant Properties
29. Mission and Ministry Leadership Response to Delegate Questions

LIVING FAITHFULLY IN THE MISSION

30. Commission on Christian Action
 - a. Recommendation on Resolution on Immigration
(30-minute report) *Este material también se encuentra en Español*

CONSENT AGENDA

31. Recommendations for Continuation of Commissions
 - a. Commission on Christian Action
 - b. Commission on Worship
32. Approval of Minutes of 129th Annual Meeting
33. Arrangements for 2015 Annual Meeting

PREPARING TO GO FORTH IN MISSION

34. Prayer for the Mission and Ministry of the ECC
35. Close of the Meeting
 - a. Delegate Evaluation
 - b. Report to Congregations
 - c. Closing Statement
 - i. Resolution of Sympathy
 - ii. Resolution of Gratitude
36. Adjournment
37. Benediction

Annual Meeting Officers

Moderator: Stanley B. Long

Vice-Moderator: Amanda L. Olson

Secretary: Deani C. Jordan

Parliamentarian

Eric D. Filkin

The motion to adopt the agenda carried.

7. APPROVAL HONORARY DELEGATES AND RESOURCE PERSONS

The moderator recognized Evelyn Johnson, interim executive vice-president, who recommended the approval of the following persons as honorary delegates:

Award Recipients: Lou Setter, T.W. Anderson Layperson Award recipient; Craig Anderson, Irving Lambert Urban Ministries Award recipient.

Emeriti: Paul Larsen, president emeritus of the Covenant; Glenn and Sharon Palmberg, president emeritus of the Covenant and his wife; LeRoy Johnson, president emeritus of Covenant Trust Company; Robert and Novella Larson,

executive secretary emeritus of church growth and evangelism and his wife; and Don Meyer, executive minister emeritus of communications.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Johnson then recommended the approval of the following persons as resource persons:

Donn Engebretson, Cynthia Halverson, Advancement; Elliott Johnson, Bethany Benefit Services; Edward Delgado, CHET; Steve Burger, Aune Carlson, Tim Ciccone, J. Wilson Herrera, Millie Lungren, Department of Christian Formation; John Teter, Fredrik Wall, John Wenrich, Department of Church Growth and Evangelism; Jane Swanson-Nystrom, Communications; Cecilia Williams, Department of Compassion, Mercy, and Justice; Harold Spooner, Covenant Initiatives for Care; David Husby, Covenant World Relief; Rob Hall, Rollin Persson, National Covenant Properties; Marti Burger, Rebecca Gonzalez, Operations; Carol Lawson, Theresa Marks, Danielle Ng, Department of the Ordered Ministry; Eric Filkin, Parliamentarian; Meritt Lohr Sawyer, Paul Carlson Partnership; Byron Amundsen, Kim Crawford, Nancy Jo Hoover, John Kerl, Letha Kerl, Eugenio Restrepo, Pia Restrepo, Baxter Swenson, Margie Swenson, Department of World Mission.

The motion was seconded and carried.

The moderator recognized Curt Peterson, executive minister of world mission, who introduced the following international guests:

Sunil Sardar, director of Truthseekers, New Dehli; Simon Kamau, moderator of ECC Kenya; John Kiruga, Dagoretti Covenant Church, Kenya.

8. CHURCHES REMOVED FROM THE ROSTER

The moderator recognized Evelyn Johnson, interim executive vice-president, who highlighted the legacy of churches that, for a variety of reasons, were closed.

Johnson 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:

Evangelical Covenant Church of Montclair, Montclair, NJ (closed)
Pathway Evangelical Covenant Church, Boise, ID (closed)
Minnehaha Covenant Church, Spokane, WA (closed)
Bethany Covenant Church, Richfield, MN (closed)
Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico, San Francisco, CA (closed)
New Hope Covenant Church, Glendale, AZ (closed)
Salem Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico, Los Angeles, CA (closed)

The motion to remove the churches from the roster carried.

Will Davidson, member of the Executive Board, led in prayer, thanking God for ministry of those churches.

9. CHURCHES APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

The moderator recognized Dick Lucco, interim executive minister of church growth and evangelism, to present the churches applying for membership. Lucco

recognized conference superintendents, associate superintendents, and directors of church planting to introduce pastors and representatives from each church applying for membership.

Lucco, upon the recommendation of the respective conferences and regions, and on behalf of the Executive Board, moved that the 129th Annual Meeting accept the following churches into membership in the Evangelical Covenant Church:

Church	Approximate Membership	Approximate Attendance
CENTRAL CONFERENCE		
Harvest Covenant Church Milwaukee, Wisconsin	50	60
Outpour Covenant Church St. Louis, Missouri	in process	55
Redeemer Life Covenant Church Vernon Hills, Illinois	30	130
Chicago Woori Church Schaumburg, Illinois	65	50
St. Paul's Covenant Church Franklin Park, Illinois	62	45
St. Peter's Faith Health Covenant Church Calumet City, Illinois	39	25
EAST COAST CONFERENCE		
Metro Hope Covenant Church Harlem, New York	40	80
GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE		
Sanctuary Columbus Columbus, Ohio	30	180
Life Church of Mt. Juliet Mt. Juliet, Tennessee	70	100
MIDSOUTH CONFERENCE		
Gretna Covenant Church Gretna, Louisiana	46	31
Centro Cristiano Las Buenas Nuevas Church Houston, Texas	200	150
MIDWEST CONFERENCE		
Christ the Servant Covenant Church Olathe, Kansas	40	45
Grace Place Berthoud, Colorado	364	1,000

Renew Covenant Church Carroll, Iowa	38	100
Restoration Covenant Church Arvada, Colorado	in process	100
NORTH PACIFIC (PACIFIC NORTHWEST) CONFERENCE		
City of Rain Covenant Church Kent, Washington	in process	70
Headwaters Covenant Church Helena, Montana	in process	36
Hope Covenant Church Lake Stevens, Washington	in process	98
Emmanuel Bible Church Seattle, Washington	35	60
Yakima Covenant Church Yakima, Washington	100	60
NORTHWEST CONFERENCE		
New City Covenant Church Edina, Minnesota	in process	50
MainStreet Covenant Church Mound, Minnesota	in process	67
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE		
Filipino-American ECC Sacramento, California	25	67
Gracia Y Paz Covenant Church Chula Vista, California	40	70
Marin Asian Community Church San Rafael, California	45	80
Recreate Church San Jose, California	in process	70
SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE		
Kingdom Covenant Ministry Atlanta, Georgia	55	55

By conference groupings, the churches were accepted into membership of the Evangelical Covenant Church and the moderator declared them to be full members.

John Teter, team leader for church planting, encouraged delegates to thank God for the new Covenant congregations and then prayed.

10. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, president, to give his report. Walter highlighted the Covenant's core identity in being a cord of three strands—the local church, the regional conference, and the denomination. That partnership is making

a difference in the world as we explore the five strategic mission priorities together. Walter gave an overview of the five mission priorities as they applied out in the world, in churches, and in affiliate organizations.

Walter then called to the stage Aune Carlson, team leader for young adult ministries; John Wenrich, director of congregational vitality; Cecilia Williams, director of compassion, mercy, and justice ministry initiatives; Ed Delgado, president of Centro Hispano de Estudios Teológicos; Meritt Lohr Sawyer, executive director of Paul Carlson Partnership; Donn Engebretson, director of global advancement and project leader for Covenant Kids Congo; and Greg Yee, superintendent of the Pacific Northwest Conference. Each talked about their ministry areas.

Walter noted the untimely death of Jerry Umanos, a Covenanter from Chicago area, who had been murdered earlier in the year in the medical compound he worked at in Afghanistan. Umanos modeled what it means to be a humble servant of Jesus Christ.

Walter encouraged delegates to pray for the Evangelical Covenant Church as a movement; to be unreserved in our commitment to Jesus and to one another.

Samuel Chang, chair of the Executive Board, prayed for Walter and the ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

22. MISSION AND MINISTRY LEADERSHIP REPORT

Vice-moderator Amanda Olson referred to the annual report book that was provided at registration, inviting delegates to submit questions to her in writing by the end of the day for responses from administrators on Saturday.

20. FISCAL YEAR 2013 FINANCIAL REPORT

The moderator recognized Dean Lundgren, vice-president for finance and treasurer; who gave a financial report for 2013. The auditors gave a clean report. There were no audit exceptions, no material weaknesses, and no disagreements with management.

Lundgren, who was retiring in the coming weeks, thanked the assembly for the privilege of serving them.

Tom Sprague, chair of the Executive Board finance committee, prayed for Lundgren and the future of Covenant finances.

24. REPORT FROM COVENANT TRUST COMPANY

The moderator recognized Ann Wiesbrock, president of Covenant Trust Company, who introduced a video, and then reported on the mission and ministry of Covenant Trust Company.

28. REPORT FROM NATIONAL COVENANT PROPERTIES

The moderator recognized Steve Dawson, president of National Covenant Properties, who gave his report, indicating that National Covenant Properties exists to help Covenant churches with their properties through loans or real estate services.

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

The assembly recessed at 11:59 a.m.

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

Friday, June 27, 2014

1:35 p.m.

4b. CREDENTIALING REPORT #2

The moderator recognized Connie Carrillo for the second report from the credentials committee. Registration thus far included 333 credentialed voting delegates and 152 additional registrants in various non-voting categories for a total registered conference attendance of 485.

11. REPORT/INTRO TO MISSION PRIORITY ALIGNMENT

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, president, who gave a presentation on the reorganization plan and related amendments. He reviewed the new management structure outlined in delegate notebooks, indicating that the proposed changes would result in more alignment with the five mission priorities. Walter gave thanks to the mission priority alignment team that worked on the reorganization.

The moderator recognized Evelyn Johnson, who proposed the following motion: "The Covenant Executive Board recommends that the Constitution and Bylaw amendments approved by the 129th Covenant Annual Meeting be effective August 1, 2014."

The motion carried.

12. 2014 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The moderator outlined the process for voting on amendments, and then recognized Evelyn Johnson, who recommended, on behalf of the Executive Board, the adoption of bylaw amendments related to denominational ministries as follows:

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article X, Section 10.1.

Current wording:

Section 10.1. The following denominational ministries shall be governed by the Executive Board of the ECC as the agent of the Annual Meeting: Christian Formation; Church Growth and Evangelism; Communication; Compassion, Mercy, and Justice; and World Mission.

a. *Christian Formation.*

- i. The executive minister of Christian formation shall direct the implementation of the decisions and policies of the Annual Meeting and the Executive Board of the ECC concerning Christian formation.
- ii. The executive minister of Christian formation shall be accountable to the president of the ECC for decisions and actions taken by the executive minister of Christian formation to support and promote Christian formation within the ECC.

b. *Church Growth and Evangelism.*

- i. The executive minister of church growth and evangelism shall direct the implementation of the decisions and policies of the Annual Meeting and the Executive Board of the ECC concerning church growth and evangelism.
- ii. The executive minister of church growth and evangelism shall be accountable to the president of the ECC for decisions and actions taken by the executive minister of church growth and evangelism to support and promote church growth and evangelism within the ECC.

- c. **Communication.**
 - i. The executive minister of communication shall
 - (1) direct the implementation of the decisions and policies of the Annual Meeting and the Executive Board of the ECC concerning denominational communication, and
 - (2) be the editor of *The Covenant Companion* and any other publications specifically designated by the Executive Board of the ECC.
 - ii. The executive minister of communication shall be accountable to the president of the ECC for decisions and actions taken by the executive minister of communication to communicate the identity and mission of the ECC.
- d. **Compassion, Mercy, and Justice.**
 - i. The executive minister of compassion, mercy, and justice shall direct the implementation of the decisions and policies of the Annual Meeting and the Executive Board of the ECC concerning ministries of compassion, mercy, and justice.
 - ii. The executive minister of compassion, mercy, and justice shall be accountable to the president of the ECC for decisions and actions taken by the executive minister of compassion, mercy, and justice to support and promote ministries of compassion, mercy, and justice within the ECC.
- e. **World Mission.**
 - i. The executive minister of world mission shall direct the implementation of the decisions of the Annual Meeting and the Executive Board of the ECC concerning world mission.
 - ii. The executive minister of world mission shall be accountable to the president of the ECC for decisions and actions taken by the executive minister of world mission to support and promote world mission within the ECC.

Proposed wording:

Section 10.1. Mission Priorities.

- a. In order to carry out its mission, the ECC organizes its ministries around mission priorities. The mission priorities are:
 - i. start and strengthen churches—starting and strengthening healthy, missional churches in the United States and Canada;
 - ii. make and deepen disciples—helping people experience new life in Christ and grow deeper in Christ in a lifelong journey of faith;
 - iii. love mercy and do justice—walking humbly with God to address hurts and the cause of those hurts;
 - iv. develop leaders—developing and strengthening leaders, both lay and clergy; and
 - v. serve globally—pursuing the mission priorities internationally.
- b. Each mission priority shall be led by an executive minister.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article X, Section 10.6.

Re-number Section 10.2 The Board of Nominations to be Section 10.5; Section 10.3 The Ordered Ministry to be Section 10.4; Section 10.4 Board of Pensions and Benefits to be Section 10.6; add new section 10.2 Executive Ministers.

Current wording:

Section 10.6 Executive Ministers.

- a. Each executive minister shall report to the president of the ECC.
- b. Each executive minister other than the executive minister of communication shall be elected by the Annual Meeting for a term of four years. The executive minister of communication shall be called by the Annual Meeting for an indefinite term.
- c. An executive minister who is succeeding an incumbent shall take office on September 1 in the year of the new executive minister's election or call. If there is no incumbent, the new executive minister may take office immediately upon election or call.
- d. An executive minister shall devote full-time service to this position.
- e. Each executive minister shall work in cooperation with the regional conferences and ECC congregations.
- f. Prior to the preparation of the annual ECC coordinated budget, each executive minister other than the executive minister for Women Ministries shall submit to the vice president for finance of the ECC a proposed annual budget for the denominational ministry directed by that executive minister.
- g. Each executive minister other than the executive minister for Women Ministries is responsible to the Executive Board of the ECC for all non-budget expenditures.

Proposed wording:

Section 10.2. Executive Ministers.

- a. An executive minister shall be elected by the Annual Meeting to give leadership to a mission priority. An executive minister is accountable for outcomes related to that mission priority, including the implementation of decisions and policies of the Annual Meeting and the Executive Board of the ECC.
- b. An executive minister shall lead the mission priority by proposing and implementing strategies, proposing and managing income and expense, and proposing and managing team members.
- c. An executive minister shall pursue coordination and collaboration across the mission priorities, ensuring a comprehensive, integrated mission strategy.
- d. An executive minister shall be accountable to the president by reporting through the executive director of ministry development.
- e. An executive minister shall contribute to the overall mission of the ECC by serving on the Council of Administrators and as an advisor to the Executive Board.
- f. By mutual agreement with the president, any board, council, commission, committee, or association of the ECC or any board or committee of a corporation established by the ECC may invite an executive minister as a representative of the president of the ECC, with the status of an advisor to a meeting of the group.
- g. Each executive minister shall be elected or re-elected by the Annual Meeting for a term of four years. Each term shall begin on September 1 following the Annual Meeting at which the executive minister was elected.

Proposed Deletion to Bylaws Article X, Section 10.5.

Current wording:

Section 10.5. Women Ministries.

a. The denominational ministry of Women Ministries is governed by the Annual Meeting of the ECC, the Executive Board of the ECC as the agent of the Annual Meeting, and the Board of Women Ministries.

b. *Board of Women Ministries.*

i. The Board of Women Ministries shall have twelve elected members and the ex-officio members identified in these Bylaws. Each member of the Board of Women Ministries serves all ECC congregations.

(1) Candidates for the Board of Women Ministries shall be slated according to the procedures of the Board of Nominations and elected by the Annual Meeting. The Board of Women Ministries may recommend candidates to the Board of Nominations.

(2) The Board of Women Ministries shall have the following ex-officio members: the president of the ECC, the executive minister of Women Ministries, the chair of the conference presidents of Women Ministries, and a liaison from the Executive Board of the ECC appointed by the Executive Board of the ECC.

(3) The Board of Women Ministries may have advisors as provided in its own procedural rules.

ii. The Board of Women Ministries shall appoint an elected member to be a liaison to and ex-officio member of the Executive Board of the ECC.

iii. The Board of Women Ministries shall

(1) elect its own officers,

(2) develop its own procedural rules for approval by the Executive Board of the ECC and file a copy of the approved rules with the corporate secretary of the ECC;

(3) develop its own budget;

(4) submit a report to the Annual Meeting and submit to the Executive Board of the ECC any reports requested by the Executive Board of the ECC; and

(5) submit all matters involving major changes of policy to the Executive Board of the ECC for approval.

iv. The Board of Women Ministries shall recommend a candidate for the position of executive minister of Women Ministries to the Executive Board of the ECC.

c. ***Executive Minister of Women Ministries.*** The executive minister of Women Ministries shall

i. direct the implementation of the decisions and policies of the Annual Meeting, the Executive Board of the ECC, and the Board of Women Ministries concerning the organized work and activities of women within the ECC; and

ii. be accountable to the president of the ECC and to the Board of Women Ministries for decisions and actions taken to support and promote the organized work and activities of women within the ECC.

d. Women Ministries shall bear its own administrative costs and submit annual audited financial reports to the Executive Board of the ECC.

Proposed wording: Delete in entirety.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.9.a.ii

Current wording: “One candidate for president of the ECC shall be nominated by a Presidential Nominating Committee consisting of the following:… the Board of Pensions and Benefits, the Board of Trustees of North Park University, and the Board of Women Ministries; and the chairs of the regional conferences.”

Proposed wording: “One candidate for president of the ECC shall be nominated by a Presidential Nominating Committee consisting of the following:… the Board of Pensions and Benefits, and the Board of Trustees of North Park University; and the chairs of the regional conferences.”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.9.c.v(2)

Current wording: “A delegate making a nomination may provide descriptive information similar in scope and content to that provided to the Annual Meeting with respect to the candidate nominated by the Presidential Nominating Committee, the Executive Board, the Board of the Ordered Ministry, or the Board of Women Ministries.”

Proposed wording: “A delegate making a nomination may provide descriptive information similar in scope and content to that provided to the Annual Meeting with respect to the candidate nominated by the Presidential Nominating Committee, the Executive Board, or the Board of the Ordered Ministry.”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.10.b.

Current wording: “The Board of Nominations shall nominate candidates for the Executive Board…the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the Board of Pensions and Benefits, and the Board of Women Ministries....”

Proposed wording: “The Board of Nominations shall nominate candidates for the Executive Board…the Board of the Ordered Ministry, and the Board of Pensions and Benefits....”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.10.d.

Current wording: “One candidate shall be nominated for each position to be filled on the Executive Board of the ECC, the Board of Nominations, the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the Board of Women Ministries....”

Proposed wording: “One candidate shall be nominated for each position to be filled on the Executive Board of the ECC, the Board of Nominations, the Board of the Ordered Ministry....”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.10.g.ii

Current wording: “two or three members of the Board of Nominations, the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the Board of Pensions and Benefits, and the Board of Women Ministries shall be elected each year for a term of five years;”

Proposed wording: “two or three members of the Board of Nominations, the Board of the Ordered Ministry, and the Board of Pensions and Benefits shall be elected each year for a term of five years;”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.10.m.i

Current wording: “By vote of three-fourths of its elected and ex-officio members, the Executive Board may suspend an elected member of the Executive Board or any other board for cause. The Executive Board may suspend an elected member of the Board of Nominations...the Board of Pensions and Benefits, or the Board of Women Ministries for cause...”

Proposed wording: “By vote of three-fourths of its elected and ex-officio members, the Executive Board may suspend an elected member of the Executive Board or any other board for cause. The Executive Board may suspend an elected member of the Board of Nominations... or the Board of Pensions and Benefits for cause...”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VIII, Section 8.2.a.iv

Current wording: “*Liaisons from the Executive Board.* The Executive Board shall appoint elected members of the Executive Board to serve as liaisons to and ex-officio members of the Board of Directors of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence...the Board of Pensions and Benefits, and the Board of Women Ministries...”

Proposed wording: “*Liaisons from the Executive Board.* The Executive Board shall appoint elected members of the Executive Board to serve as liaisons to and ex-officio members of the Board of Directors of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence,... and the Board of Pensions and Benefits...”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VIII, Section 8.2.b.

Current wording: “The Executive Board shall have the following ex-officio members: the president of the ECC, a conference superintendent designated by the Council of Superintendents who serves as liaison from that council, an elected member of the Board of Women Ministries who serves as a liaison from that board to the Executive Board...”

Proposed wording: “The Executive Board shall have the following ex-officio members: the president of the ECC, a conference superintendent designated by the Council of Superintendents who serves as liaison from that council...”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article X, Section 10.5.b.vi(2) (re-numbered from 10.2.)

Current wording: “provide qualified candidates for election by the Annual Meeting to the Executive Board of the ECC...the Board of Pensions and Benefits, and the Board of Women Ministries; and”

Proposed wording: “provide qualified candidates for election by the Annual Meeting to the Executive Board of the ECC,...and the Board of Pensions and Benefits; and”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.9.b.i

Current wording: “The executive minister of Christian formation; the executive minister of church growth and evangelism; the executive minister of compassion, mercy, and justice; the executive minister of the ordered ministry; the executive minister of Women Ministries; and the executive minister of world mission shall be elected by the Annual Meeting. Each election shall be by ballot.”

Proposed wording: “The executive minister of love mercy and do justice, the executive minister of make and deepen disciples, the executive minister of the ordered ministry, the executive minister of serve globally, the executive minister of start and strengthen churches shall be elected by the Annual Meeting. Each election shall be by ballot.”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.9.b.ii

Current wording: “One candidate each for the positions of executive minister of Christian formation; executive minister of church growth and evangelism; executive minister of compassion, mercy, and justice; and executive minister of world mission shall be nominated by the Executive Board.

Proposed wording: “One candidate each for the positions of executive minister of love mercy and do justice, the executive minister of make and deepen disciples, the executive minister of serve globally, and the executive minister of start and strengthen churches shall be nominated by the Executive Board.”

Proposed Deletion to Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.9.b.vi

Current wording: “One candidate for the position of executive minister of Women Ministries shall be nominated by the Board of Women Ministries, with the concurrence of the Executive Board.”

Proposed wording: Delete in its entirety

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.4.d.

Current wording: “The ECC Department of World Mission shall be entitled to up to 26 delegates to the Annual Meeting. The delegates will be determined by the executive minister of world mission in consultation with the regional and country coordinators.”

Proposed wording: “The ECC ministry of serve globally shall be entitled to up to 26 delegates to the Annual Meeting. The delegates will be determined by the executive minister of serve globally in consultation with the regional and country coordinators.”

Proposed Addition to Bylaws Article XI, Section 10.3. (previously The Ordered Ministry.)

Current wording: None

Proposed wording:

Section 10.3. Executive Directors.

a. Executive directors shall be appointed by the president with concurrence of the Executive Board to give leadership to areas in support of the implementation of mission priorities. Each executive director is accountable for outcomes related to that mission support service, including the implementation of decisions and policies of the Annual Meeting and the Executive Board of the ECC.

b. The executive director of ministry development shall represent the president to coordinate and bring collaboration across the mission priorities, ensuring a comprehensive, integrated mission strategy and maximized use of human and financial resources. The executive director of ministry development works with executive ministers in finalizing decisions related to strategy, finances, and staffing. The executive director of ministry development ensures coordinated and collaborative efforts with mission support services and regional conferences.

c. The executive directors of mission support services shall be: the executive director of advancement ; the executive director of communications, who shall serve as editor of the denominational magazine; the executive director of finance, who shall also hold the office of corporate treasurer and be the chief financial officer of the ECC; and the executive director of operations.

d. An executive director shall lead an area by proposing and implementing strategies, proposing and managing income and expense, and proposing and managing team members.

e. An executive director shall report to and be accountable to the president.

f. An executive director shall contribute to the overall mission of the ECC by serving on the Council of Administrators and as an advisor to the Executive Board.

g. By mutual agreement with the president, any board, council, commission, committee, or association of the ECC or any board or committee of a corporation established by the ECC may invite an executive director as a representative of the president of the ECC, with the status of an advisor to a meeting of the group.

h. **Temporary Absence or Disability.** In the temporary absence or temporary disability of an executive director, the president may appoint with the concurrence of the Executive Board a person to perform the duties of that position on an interim basis for the duration of the temporary absence or temporary disability.

i. **Vacancies.** The Executive Board shall declare the position of any executive director vacant upon the removal, resignation, permanent incapacity, or death of the person holding that position.

i. **Removal.** By vote of two-thirds of its elected members, the Executive Board may remove an executive director.

ii. **Resignation.** An executive director may resign upon written notice to the Executive Board.

iii. **Permanent Incapacity.** The Executive Board shall develop a policy for determining permanent incapacity.

iv. **Filling Vacancy.** When a vacancy occurs in the position of an executive director, the president shall appoint with the concurrence of the Executive Board a person to perform the duties of the vacated position on an interim basis, until such time as a permanent replacement is appointed by the president with concurrence of the Executive Board.”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article X, Section 10.4.c. (re-numbered from 10.3.)

Current wording:

c. **Executive Minister of the Ordered Ministry.** The executive minister of the ordered ministry shall

ii. be an ex-officio member of the executive committee of the Covenant Ministerium; and

iii. together with the Board of the Ordered Ministry and the Covenant Ministerium, develop and administer policies and programs to encourage, support, and care for ministers and missionaries.

Proposed wording:

- c. ***Executive Minister of the Ordered Ministry.*** The executive minister of the ordered ministry shall
- ii. be an ex-officio member of the executive committee of the Covenant Ministerium,
 - iii. together with the Board of the Ordered Ministry and the Covenant Ministerium, develop and administer policies and programs to encourage, support, and care for ministers and missionaries; and
 - iv. serve as the leader for the mission priority of develop leaders and as an advisor to the Executive Board standing committee on develop leaders.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.9.d.

Current wording:

d. ***Executive Ministers, Corporate Presidents, and Dean of North Park Theological Seminary Called by the Annual Meeting.***

- i. 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.
 - (1)The Executive Board shall recommend a candidate to be called as executive minister of communication by the Annual Meeting.

Proposed wording:

d. ***Corporate Presidents, and Dean of North Park Theological Seminary Called by the Annual Meeting.***

- i. The Annual Meeting shall call 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.g.ii

Current wording: “In the event of a vacancy in the position of any executive minister, the Executive Board shall appoint a person to serve as interim executive minister until a successor executive minister is elected or called by the Annual Meeting and takes office.”

Proposed wording: “In the event of a vacancy in the position of any executive minister, the Executive Board shall appoint a person to serve as interim executive minister until a successor executive minister is elected by the Annual Meeting and takes office.”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VIII, Section 8.3.

Current wording:

a. ***Standing Committees.***

- i. At the pleasure of the Executive Board, each elected member of the Executive Board shall serve on at least one standing committee any given time. Any liaison to the Executive Board may serve on one or two standing committees at any given time, upon the liaison’s request and the Executive Board’s granting of that request.
- ii. Standing committees may have ex-officio members.

- iii. Standing committees may have advisors appointed by the Executive Board.
- b. ***Standing Committees for Denominational Ministries.***
 - i. The Executive Board shall have the following standing committees for denominational ministries: Christian Formation; Church Growth and Evangelism; Communication; Compassion, Mercy, and Justice; and World Mission.
 - ii. The Christian Formation Committee shall have seven members who are elected members of the Executive Board. The Church Growth and Evangelism Committee shall have seven members who are elected members of the Executive Board. The Communication Committee shall have seven members who are elected members of the Executive Board. The Compassion, Mercy, and Justice Committee shall have seven members who are elected members of the Executive Board. If the liaison from the Board of Benevolence requests assignment to the Compassion, Mercy, and Justice Committee, the Executive Board shall grant that request. The World Mission Committee shall have seven members who are elected members of the Executive Board. A majority of the voting members of each committee shall be elected members of the Executive Board.
 - iii. *Christian Formation Committee.*
 - (1) The Christian Formation Committee shall develop and recommend to the Executive Board policies for forming persons in Christian faith and preparing them for ministry in the Christian community and the world.
 - (2) The executive minister of Christian formation shall be an advisor to the Christian Formation Committee.
 - (3) The Executive Board shall appoint one appropriate member of the faculty of North Park Theological Seminary as an advisor to the Christian Formation Committee.
 - iv. *Church Growth and Evangelism Committee.*
 - (1) The Church Growth and Evangelism Committee shall develop and recommend to the Executive Board policies in the United States and Canada for establishing new congregations, promoting the growth and health of ECC congregations, and bringing persons to Christian faith.
 - (2) The executive minister of church growth and evangelism shall be an advisor to the Church Growth and Evangelism Committee.
 - (3) The conference superintendent who is an ex-officio member of the Executive Board shall be an ex-officio member of the Church Growth and Evangelism Committee.
 - (4) The Executive Board shall appoint one appropriate member of the faculty of North Park Theological Seminary as an advisor to the Church Growth and Evangelism Committee.
 - v. *Communication Committee.*
 - (1) The Communication Committee shall develop and recommend to the Executive Board policies for communicating the identity and mission of the ECC.

(2)The executive minister of communication shall be an advisor to the Communication Committee.

vi. *Compassion, Mercy, and Justice Committee.*

(1)The Compassion, Mercy, and Justice Committee shall develop and recommend to the Executive Board policies for the ECC’s ministries of compassion, mercy, and justice.

(2)The executive minister of compassion, mercy, and justice shall be an advisor to the Compassion, Mercy, and Justice Committee.

vii. *World Mission Committee.*

(1)The World Mission Committee shall develop and recommend to the Executive Board policies in places other than the United States and Canada for establishing new churches, promoting the growth and health of these churches, and bringing persons to Christian faith.

(2)The executive minister of world mission shall be an advisor to the World Mission Committee.

(3)The Executive Board shall appoint one appropriate member of the faculty of North Park Theological Seminary as an advisor to the World Mission Committee.

c. ***Standing Administrative Committees.***

i. The Executive Board shall have the following standing administrative committees: Finance and Personnel.

ii. The Finance Committee shall have five members who are elected members of the Executive Board and up to two additional members appointed by the Executive Board. The Personnel Committee shall have seven members who are elected members of the Executive Board. A majority of the voting members of each committee shall be elected members of the Executive Board.

iii. *Finance Committee.*

(1)The Finance Committee shall

(a)develop and recommend to the Executive Board policies concerning the financial governance of the ECC,

(b)make recommendations concerning financial matters for which the Executive Board is responsible,

(c)perform all of the duties and fulfill all of the requirements of an audit committee, and

(d)take any actions delegated to it by the Executive Board that can legally be delegated to it.

(2)The vice president for finance shall be an advisor to the Finance Committee.

iv. *Personnel Committee.*

(1)The Personnel Committee shall

(a)develop and recommend to the Executive Board policies concerning the employment, performance, and compensation of officers and employees of the ECC,

(b)review and make recommendations concerning the performance and compensation of the president of the ECC,

(c)review and make recommendations concerning the compensa-

- tion of any other persons whose compensation is required to be approved by the Executive Board, and
- (d) take any actions delegated to it by the Executive Board that can legally be delegated to it.
- (2) The executive vice president shall be an advisor to the Personnel Committee.

Proposed wording:

a. The Executive Board shall organize itself into committees for purpose of receiving reports, developing policies, and making recommendations to the Executive Board for a committee's specific area of focus.

b. The standing committees shall be: develop leaders, love mercy and do justice, make and deepen disciples, serve globally, start and strengthen churches, communications, finance, and personnel.

c. Each elected member of the Executive Board shall serve on at least one standing committee at any given time.

d. Each standing committee shall have five to seven members who are elected members of the Executive Board. The executive minister of the mission priority of the committee or executive director of the support service shall be an advisor to the committee with the related focus of the executive minister or executive director. The committee may have members who are ex-officio members of the Executive Board. The Executive Board may appoint additional advisors, including appropriate members of the faculty of North Park Theological Seminary.

e. Each standing committee shall develop procedural rules to be approved by the Executive Board.

f. The Executive Board may establish additional standing committees or ad hoc committees as appropriate to advance the ECC mission.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VIII, Section 8.1.i.

Current wording: "approve the salaries of the officers of the ECC and the executive ministers."

Proposed wording: "approve the salaries of the officers of the ECC, executive ministers, and executive directors."

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

Current wording: "The Council of Administrators shall have the following members: the president of the ECC; the executive vice president of the ECC; the vice president for finance of the ECC; the executive minister of Christian formation; the executive minister of church growth and evangelism; the executive minister of communication; the executive minister of compassion, mercy, and justice; the executive minister of the ordered ministry; the executive minister of Women Ministries; the executive minister of world mission; the president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence; 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 wording: "The Council of Administrators shall have the following members: the president of the ECC, the executive minister of love mercy and do justice, the executive minister of make and deepen disciples, the executive minister of the ordered ministry, the executive minister of serve globally, the

executive minister of start and strengthen churches, the executive director of ministry development, the executive director of advancement, the executive director of communications, the executive director of finance, the executive director of operations, the president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, 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 XI, Section 11.2.b.

Current wording: “The superintendents of the regional conferences of the ECC are members of the Council of Superintendents. The Council of Superintendents shall have the following ex-officio members: the president of the ECC, the executive minister of church growth and evangelism, and the executive minister of the ordered ministry.”

Proposed wording: “The superintendents of the regional conferences of the ECC are members of the Council of Superintendents. The Council of Superintendents shall have the following ex-officio members: the president of the ECC, the executive minister of start and strengthen churches, the executive minister of the ordered ministry, and the executive director of ministry development.”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws XIV, Section 14.3.

Current wording:

Section 14.3. Commission on Pastoral Relations.

a. 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.

b. The conference superintendents shall be advisors to the Commission on Pastoral Relations.

Proposed wording: “**Section 14.3. Commission on Pastoral Relations.** 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, all executive ministers, the executive director of ministry development, the dean of North Park Theological Seminary, and all regional conference superintendents.”

Amendments to Glossary:

Delete “departments” from definition of entity. Replace “ministry of world mission” with “ministry of serve globally” in definition of World Mission Region.

After discussion, the motion carried.

Johnson then presented the following motion: “The Covenant Executive Board recommends the adoption of amendments to the Constitution removing the position of vice president and to the Bylaws related to the positions of executive vice president and vice president for finance.”

Proposed Amendment to Constitution Article VI, Section 6.1.

Current wording: “The ECC shall have a president, one or more vice presidents, a corporate secretary, and a corporate treasurer. The Bylaws may provide for assistant officers.”

Proposed wording: “The ECC shall have a president, a corporate secretary, and a corporate treasurer. The Bylaws may provide for assistant officers.”

Proposed Deletion to Constitution Article VI, Section 6.4.

Current wording: “The vice president(s) shall be selected as provided in the Bylaws. Each vice president shall have the duties and responsibilities provided in the Bylaws, and the duties and responsibilities assigned by the president that are consistent with this Constitution and Bylaws.”

Proposed wording: Delete in its entirety.

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VI, Section 6.1.

Current wording: “The ECC has the following officers: a president, an executive vice president, a vice president for finance, a corporate secretary, a corporate treasurer, an assistant corporate secretary, and an assistant corporate treasurer.

Proposed wording: “The ECC has the following officers: a president, a corporate secretary, a corporate treasurer, an assistant corporate secretary, and an assistant corporate treasurer.”

Proposed Deletion to Bylaws Article VI, Section 6.4.

Current wording:

Section 6.4. The Vice Presidents.

a. *Specific Duties and Responsibilities.*

- i. *Executive Vice President.* The executive vice president shall be the chief operating officer of the ECC and shall be responsible for the employment policies of the ECC. The executive vice president shall also perform the duties of the president of the ECC that the president has delegated to the executive vice president and that the president has the right to delegate under this Constitution and Bylaws and applicable laws. The president may not delegate the right to vote or the right to attend any meeting.
- ii. *Vice President for Finance.* The vice president for finance shall be the chief financial officer of the ECC. The vice president for finance shall be responsible for
 - (1) developing and managing processes relating to all financial transactions of the ECC, including receipting, investing, and distributing funds according to approved budgets or with proper authorization;
 - (2) preparing, in conjunction with the Council of Administrators, an annual ECC coordinated budget for recommendation to the Executive Board of the ECC;
 - (3) having the financial statements of the ECC prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and audited annually by an independent firm of certified public accountants selected by the Executive Board of the ECC;
 - (4) preparing a strategic financial plan for the ECC; and

(5) maintaining appropriate insurance coverage and risk management practices for the ECC.

- b. **General Duties.** Each vice president shall also perform any other duties assigned by the Executive Board that are consistent with this Constitution and Bylaws. A vice president designated by the president of the ECC may be invited by any board, council, commission, committee, or association of the ECC or any board or committee of a corporation established by the ECC to attend any meeting of that board, council, commission, committee, or association as a representative of the president of the ECC, with the status of an advisor to that meeting.

Proposed wording: Delete in its entirety.

Proposed Amendments to Bylaws Article VI, Sections 6.5., 6.6., 6.9., 6.10., 6.11., 6.12.

Current wording:

Section 6.5. The Corporate Secretary. The executive vice president shall also hold the office of corporate secretary. The corporate secretary shall perform all of the duties of a corporate secretary required by law...

Section 6.6. The Corporate Treasurer. The vice president for finance shall also hold the office of corporate treasurer. The corporate treasurer shall perform all of the duties of a corporate treasurer required by law...

Section 6.9. Selection of Officers Other Than the President. No later than December 1 in the first year of a president's initial term, the president of the ECC shall recommend one or more candidates to the Executive Board for each of the following positions: executive vice president, vice president for finance, corporate secretary, corporate treasurer, assistant corporate secretary, and assistant corporate treasurer...

Section 6.10. Terms of Office of Officers Other Than the President. The term of each vice president, the corporate secretary, the corporate treasurer...is indefinite in length but shall terminate not later than the day before the effective date of the Executive Board's appointment of a successor to that position.

Section 6.11. Temporary Absence or Temporary Disability of an Officer Other Than the President. In the temporary absence or temporary disability of a vice president, the corporate secretary, the corporate treasurer...the Executive Board may, upon the recommendation of the president of the ECC, appoint a person to perform the duties of that position...

Section 6.12. Vacancies in the Positions of Officers Other Than the President.

a. The Executive Board shall declare the position of any vice president, the corporate secretary, the corporate treasurer...vacant upon the removal, resignation, permanent incapacity, or death of the person holding that office.

- i. *Removal.* By vote of two-thirds of its elected members, the Executive Board may remove any vice president, the corporate secretary, the corporate treasurer...
- ii. *Resignation.* Any vice president, the corporate secretary, the corporate

treasurer, the assistant corporate secretary, or the assistant corporate treasurer may resign upon written notice to the Executive Board.

b. When a vacancy occurs in the position of any vice president, the corporate secretary, the corporate treasurer, the assistant corporate secretary, or the assistant corporate treasurer, the Executive Board shall, upon the recommendation of the president of the ECC, appoint a person to perform the duties of that position on an interim basis...

Proposed wording:

Section 6.5. The Corporate Secretary. The corporate secretary shall perform all of the duties of a corporate secretary required by law...

Section 6.6. The Corporate Treasurer. The corporate treasurer shall perform all of the duties of a corporate treasurer required by law...

Section 6.9. Selection of Officers Other Than the President. No later than December 1 in the first year of a president's initial term, the president of the ECC shall recommend one or more candidates to the Executive Board for each of the following positions: corporate secretary, corporate treasurer, assistant corporate secretary, and assistant corporate treasurer...

Section 6.10. Terms of Office of Officers Other Than the President. The term of the corporate secretary, the corporate treasurer...is indefinite in length but shall terminate not later than the day before the effective date of the Executive Board's appointment of a successor to that position.

Section 6.11. Temporary Absence or Temporary Disability of an Officer Other Than the President. In the temporary absence or temporary disability of the corporate secretary, the corporate treasurer...the Executive Board may, upon the recommendation of the president of the ECC, appoint a person to perform the duties of that position...

Section 6.12. Vacancies in the Positions of Officers Other Than the President.

a. The Executive Board shall declare the position of the corporate secretary, the corporate treasurer...vacant upon the removal, resignation, permanent incapacity, or death of the person holding that office.

i. *Removal.* By vote of two-thirds of its elected members, the Executive Board may remove the corporate secretary, the corporate treasurer...

ii. *Resignation.* The corporate secretary, the corporate treasurer, the assistant corporate secretary, or the assistant corporate treasurer may resign upon written notice to the Executive Board.

b. When a vacancy occurs in the position of the corporate secretary, the corporate treasurer, the assistant corporate secretary, or the assistant corporate treasurer, the Executive Board shall, upon the recommendation of the president of the ECC, appoint a person to perform the duties of that position on an interim basis...

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.4.e.

Current wording: "The president of the ECC, the executive vice president, the vice president for finance, the members of the Executive Board, the mem-

bers of the Council of Superintendents, and the members of the Council of Administrators shall be ex-officio delegates.”

Proposed wording: “The president of the ECC, the members of the Executive Board, the members of the Council of Superintendents, and the members of the Council of Administrators shall be ex-officio delegates.”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article X, Section 10.6.b.ii, (re-numbered from 10.4.)

Current wording: “The Board of Pensions and Benefits shall have the following ex-officio members: the vice-president for finance of the ECC, the executive minister of the ordered ministry, a liaison from the Council of Superintendents appointed by the president of the ECC, and a liaison from the Executive Board of the ECC appointed by the Executive Board of the ECC.”

Proposed wording: “The Board of Pensions and Benefits shall have the following ex-officio members: the executive director of finance, the executive minister of the ordered ministry, a liaison from the Council of Superintendents appointed by the president of the ECC, and a liaison from the Executive Board of the ECC appointed by the Executive Board of the ECC.”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article XI, Section 11.1.a.

Current wording: “The Council of Administrators, in conjunction with the vice president for finance of the ECC recommend an annual ECC coordinated budget to the Executive Board of the ECC.”

Proposed wording: “The Council of Administrators, in conjunction with the executive director of finance of the ECC recommend an annual ECC coordinated budget to the Executive Board of the ECC.”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article XII, Section 12.3.g.

Current wording: “The Board of Trustees may submit requests for appropriations to be included in the annual ECC coordinated budget. These requests for appropriations shall be submitted to the vice president for finance of the ECC and the Council of Administrators for consideration in the preparation of the annual ECC coordinated budget. Each request for appropriations shall include a copy of the budget of North Park University.”

Proposed wording: “The Board of Trustees may submit requests for appropriations to be included in the annual ECC coordinated budget. These requests for appropriations shall be submitted to the executive director of finance of the ECC and the Council of Administrators for consideration in the preparation of the annual ECC coordinated budget. Each request for appropriations shall include a copy

The motion carried.

Johnson then presented the following motion: “The Covenant Executive Board recommends the adoption of the bylaw amendment naming the President of Covenant Trust Company as the executive director of Covenant Estate Planning Services.”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article XII, Section 12.6.

Current wording: “Covenant Trust Company is a non-depository trust company chartered and regulated by the Illinois Office of Banks and Real Estate, Bureau of Banks and Trust Companies. The voting members of the Executive Board of the ECC by proxy elect the directors of Covenant Trust Company.”

Proposed wording: “Covenant Trust Company is a non-depository trust company chartered and regulated by the Illinois Office of Banks and Real Estate, Bureau of Banks and Trust Companies. The voting members of the Executive Board of the ECC by proxy elect the directors of Covenant Trust Company. The president of Covenant Trust Company shall serve as executive director of Covenant Estate Planning Services.”

The motion carried.

CELEBRATING THE MISSION—NAVIGATE

A video was shown highlighting Navigate, a ministry resource experience designed to help and strengthen established churches.

13. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF NOMINATIONS AND VOTE

The moderator recognized Hilary Applequist, chair 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 explained how delegates can nominate candidates from the floor, and then presented the ballot as follows:

EXECUTIVE BOARD

6-year term

Michael O. Emerson

6-year term

Donna R. Erickson

6-year term

Michael L. Jordan

6-year term

Jenell M. Pluim

1-year term

John C. Stewart

BOARD OF NOMINATIONS

5-year term

Britt M. Dahlstrom

5-year term

Sarah R. Robinson

BOARD OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY

5-year term

Clyde Ohta

5-year term

Mark Pattie III

BOARD OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

5-year term

Gilbert D. Friesen

5-year term
Edward M. Lee

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE

6-year term
Robert H. Anderson

6-year term
Arthur B. DeRooy

6-year term
Richard P. Nelson

6-year term
Mary L. Palmer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

5-year term
Kanyere F. Eaton

5-year term
Beth L. Fredrickson

5-year term
Christine Rosell

5-year term
Owen R. Youngman

ANNUAL MEETING OFFICERS FOR 2015 and 2016

Moderator

2-year term
Amanda L. Olson

Vice-Moderator

2-year term
Shaun D. Marshall

The moderator called for nominations from the floor. There were none. The moderator declared nominations closed. The tellers distributed the ballots and Amanda Olson, vice-moderator, gave instructions. Applequist prayed for the candidates.

CELEBRATING THE MISSION—CHIC PROMO

The moderator recognized Marti Burger, director of events, and Tim Ciccone, youth ministry leader, who presented an overview of CHIC 2015, which will be held July 12-17 at the University of Tennessee. A video was then shown.

23. REPORT FROM WOMEN MINISTRIES

The moderator recognized Meagan Gillan, executive minister of women ministries, who gave her report, highlighting the ministries of women ministries and sharing that Triennial 2016 will take place in Kansas City, Missouri. Walter presented Gillan with a gift to celebrate her leadership and mark the transition of Women Ministries from a separate entity to a ministry within the Make and Deepen Disciples priority.

25. REPORT FROM COVENANT MINISTRIES OF BENEVOLENCE

The moderator recognized David Dwight, president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, who gave his report and gave an update on the ministries of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence and the pending closure of the sale of the Emanuel Medical Center in Turlock, California.

26. REPORT FROM NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

The moderator recognized David Parkyn, president of North Park University, who gave his report. He announced the completion of Campaign North Park, indicating that they were able to exceed the initial goal. He reported that construction of the new facility would be completed this summer.

CELEBRATING THE MISSION—NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

A video celebrating Campaign North Park University was shown. Parkyn invited the assembly to the dedication of the facility on Friday, September 12.

19. RECOGNITION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS CONCLUDING TERM OF SERVICE

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, who expressed appreciation on behalf of the Evangelical Covenant Church to Rosmarie Anabalón, Sally Carlson, Samuel Chang, Gilbert Friesen, Safy Jacob, and BK Woodson for their service to the Executive Board and presented them with gifts on behalf of the Executive Board.

14. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM THE ORDERED MINISTRY

The moderator recognized Mark Novak, executive minister of the ordered ministry, and Carol Lawson, director of ministry services.

Changes in the Rules for the Ordered Ministry

Novak presented the following motion, and Lawson reviewed the rationale for the proposed amendment. “The Board of the Ordered Ministry with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium recommends to the 129th Covenant Annual Meeting the following amendments to the Rules for the Ordered Ministry related to the number of required semester hours of graduate credit required for candidates for Ordination to Word and Service.”

Proposed Amendment to Rules 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 twelve 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 program comprised of forty-eight semester hours or its equivalent) with an appropriate area of specialization totaling twelve semester credit hours or its equivalent.

Proposed Amendment to Rules Article IV, Section 4.2.a.iii

Current wording: “A non-theological master’s degree in the area of specialization, and at least one year of full-time graduate theological studies (thirty semester hours or its equivalent) taken for credit from a seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Studies...”

Proposed wording: “A non-theological master’s degree in the area of specialization, and at least one year of full-time graduate theological studies (twenty-four semester

hours or its equivalent) taken for credit from a seminary accredited by the Association of Theological Studies...”

The motion carried.

The moderator gave a point of privilege to Evelyn Johnson, interim executive vice-president, who presented a gift to vice-moderator Amanda Olson for her service.

The assembly recessed at 3:46 p.m.

THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

Saturday, June 28, 2014

8:31 a.m.

1. MORNING WORSHIP

Moderator Stanley Long called the business session of the 129th Annual Meeting to order at 8:31 a.m., beginning with a time of worship. The worship team led a time of singing and Darrell Nelson, pastor of Mission Covenant Church in Poplar, Wisconsin, gave a meditation.

The moderator encouraged delegates to engage with one another on what their church means to them.

27. REPORT FROM PAUL CARLSON PARTNERSHIP

The moderator recognized Meritt Lohr Sawyer, executive director of Paul Carlson Partnership, who gave her report. A video was shown on the Congo Clinic Initiative. Sawyer noted that this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of the martyrdom of Paul Carlson.

13. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF NOMINATIONS AND VOTE, CONTINUED

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

EXECUTIVE BOARD

6-year term

Michael O. Emerson (266)

6-year term

Donna R. Erickson (264)

6-year term

Michael L. Jordan (241)

6-year term

Jenell M. Pluim (269)

1-year term

John C. Stewart (266)

BOARD OF NOMINATIONS

5-year term

Britt M. Dahlstrom (266)

5-year term

Sarah R. Robinson (268)

BOARD OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY

5-year term

Clyde Ohta (266)

5-year term

Mark Pattie III (267)

BOARD OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

5-year term

Gilbert D. Friesen (264)

5-year term

Edward M. Lee (268)

BOARD OF BENEVOLENCE

6-year term

Robert H. Anderson (265)

6-year term

Arthur B. DeRooy (264)

6-year term

Richard P. Nelson (267)

6-year term

Mary L. Palmer (266)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

5-year term

Kanyere F. Eaton (265)

5-year term

Beth L. Fredrickson (268)

5-year term

Christine Rosell (264)

5-year term

Owen R. Youngman (265)

ANNUAL MEETING OFFICERS FOR 2014 and 2015

Moderator

2-year term

Amanda L. Olson (271)

Vice-Moderator

2-year term

Shaun D. Marshall (272)

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

4C. CREDENTIALING REPORT #3 (FINAL)

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

Representing	Delegates	Churches
Conferences/Regions		
Canada	1	1
Central	68	39
East Coast	22	13
Great Lakes	32	17
Midsouth	9	8
Midwest	29	17
North Pacific (Pacific Northwest)	32	19
Northwest	62	31
Pacific Southwest	17	12
Southeast	5	4
Alaska	0	0
Total Delegates from Conferences/Regions	277	161
General		
Officers of the Covenant	3	0
Executive Board	22	10
Council of Administrators	11	0
Annual Meeting Officers	3	2
Board of Nominations	1	1
Covenant Ministerium	2	1
Assoc. of Cov. Camps and Conf. Centers	2	1
Commission Delegates	1	1
World Mission Fields	5	0
Regional Conferences	27	8
Regions Mission Organizations (ECCAK)	1	0
Total of General Delegates	78	24
TOTAL CREDENTIALLED DELEGATES	355	185
Honorary Delegates	7	0
Advisers from Covenant Institutions	6	6
Advisers from Non-member Churches	0	0
Resource People	34	1
Registered General Conferees	81	18
Exhibitors	13	0
Support Staff	25	0
Total Additional Attendees	166	25
Total Registered Conference Attendance	521	210

15. CLERGY LIFETIME SERVICE RECOGNITION

The moderator recognized Mark Novak, 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. Novak called

those present from the following list forward to be recognized, and Gary Walter, president, presented them with plaques of recognition (asterisk indicates those present for the award):

Philip J. Anderson, Hovland, Minnesota
*Norman G. Bagaas, Tucson, Arizona
Lorraine R. Beaumont, Davis, California
*Garth T. Bolinder, Rogers, Arkansas
John A. Carlini, Chicago, Illinois
Gregory D. Chantler, Tacoma, Washington
Rocky A. Cook, Plantation, Florida
James I. Danielson, Norway, Michigan
*Allyson B. Dickie, Chicago, Illinois
Rock E. Doddridge, Asheville, North Carolina
Carl R. Elwood, Chitina, Alaska
Timothy D. Fretheim, Port Coquitlam, British Columbia
Mark A. Frykholm, Worcester, Massachusetts
*Daniel E. Fullerton, Pomeroy, Iowa
*Jay L. Haworth, Chicago, Illinois
N. David Hill, Grand Rapids, Michigan
*Elizabeth M. Jensen, Venice, Florida
Suk Jib Kim, Mundelein, Illinois
Lorne R. Lauder, Neotsu, Oregon
Bruce M. Lawson, Chicago, Illinois
*Michael D. Murphy, Evansville, Minnesota
*Jerome O. Nelson, Chicago, Illinois
David L. Ness, Grand Rapids, Michigan
*José João Orr, Emo, Ontario
*John E. Peterson, Omaha, Nebraska
Dennis P. Pool, Shoreline, Washington
*Michael S. Przybylski, Detroit, Michigan
Allan M. Redenuis, Fort Dodge, Iowa
*Jeffrey D. Schirle, Crystal Lake, Illinois
*Margaret E. Swenson, Chicago, Illinois
*D. James Tait II, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Bruce E. Thorson, Northbrook, Illinois
Renée W. Willett, Oak Park, Illinois

14. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM THE ORDERED MINISTRY

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

Presentation of Candidates for Transfer of Ordination

Lawson presented the following motion: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, recommends that the 129th Annual Meeting approve the following persons’ application to transfer their ordination to the Evangelical Covenant Church:”

Kirt E. Anderson, Naples Community Church, Naples, Florida, from Presbyterian Church USA

Mary L. Hendrickson, re-entering call process from Presbyterian Church USA

Peter Kim, Redeemer Life, Libertyville, Illinois, from Presbyterian Church in America

Matthew J. Marzluft, Village Covenant Church, Azusa, California, from Presbyterian Church USA

Timothy B. Smith, re-entering call process from Presbyterian Church USA

Anibal Vasquez, Primera Iglesia del Pacto, Bell Gardens, California, from Templos Evangelicos de Santiago

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

Presentation of Candidates for Commissioning

Lawson presented the following motion: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, recommends that the 129th Annual Meeting grant commissioning to the following persons:”

James C. Condap, Pilgrim Pines Conference Center, Swanzey, New Hampshire, youth ministries

Brian C. Gleason, Hillside Covenant Church, Walnut Creek, California, youth ministries

Ian A. Longtin, Hope Center Covenant Church, Pleasant Hill, California, leadership

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

Presentation of Candidates for Ordination to Word and Service

Lawson presented the following motion: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, recommends that the 129th Annual Meeting grant ordination to word and service to the following persons:”

Daphne L. DeMaris, Radiant Health Resources, Grosse Pointe, Michigan, counseling

Renee L. Franzen, Brookdale Covenant Church, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, counseling

Richard A. Gordon, River Ridge Covenant Church, Olympia, Washington, adult ministries

Corena R. Hoyt, Young Life, Manville, Rhode Island, leadership

Kurt E. Kincanon, Evangelical Covenant Church, Lafayette, Indiana, administration

Amy E. Oxendale, North Park University, Chicago, Illinois, discipleship ministries

Goffrey M. Twigg, North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago, Illinois, and Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church, Oak Lawn, Illinois, worship ministries

Kirsten D. Wagenius, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, St. Cloud, Minnesota,
administration/ leadership

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

Renee L. Franzen by Herb Frost
Kurt E. Kincanon by Sally Carlson
Amy E. Oxendale by Sally Carlson, Juana Nesta
Kirsten D. Wagenius by Sally Carlson

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

Presentation of Candidates for Ordination to Word and Sacrament

Lawson presented the following motion: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, recommends that the 129th Annual Meeting grant ordination to word and sacrament to the following persons:”

Eric W. Abramson, Bloomington Covenant Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Nathan D. Albert, Christ Church, East Greenwich, Rhode Island
Sharon R. Anderson, Pine Lake Covenant Church, Sammamish, Washington
José A. Angulo, Iglesia Del Pacto Eagle Rock, Los Angeles, California
Christina N. Bouris, Winnetka Evangelical Covenant Church, Wilmette, Illinois
Todd M. Bratulich, First Covenant Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Laurel F. Buwalda, Sanford Health, Sioux Falls, South Dakota
Javier Carrillo, Turlock Covenant Church, Turlock, California
Darren W. Catron, Community Covenant Church, West Peabody, Massachusetts
Timothy R. Ciccone, Covenant Offices, Chicago, Illinois
Paul W. Couleur, Country Evangelical Covenant Church, Campton Hills, Illinois
Joshua R. Danielson, re-entering call process
Peter M. Dibley, First Evangelical Covenant Church, Rockford, Illinois
Thomas M. Dierenfeld, LifeSpring Covenant Church, Loveland, Colorado
David C. Diller, re-entering call process
Seth M. Dombach, Headwaters Covenant Church, Helena, Montana
Ronald J. Ferguson, Monadnock Covenant Church, Keene, New Hampshire
Allan C. Folmar, emergency response chaplain, Renton, Washington
Carol H. Gibbs, re-entering call process
Marvin A. Gibbs, re-entering call process
Christopher W. Gothold, Harbor Covenant Church, Gig Harbor, Washington
Florediva Graterol, Centro Hispano de Estudios Teológicos, Compton, California
Deborah J. Griffith-Samuels, Central Conference, Chicago, Illinois
Paul D. Guiliano, Paradise Holtzschwamm Evangelical Covenant Church,
Thomasville, Pennsylvania
Corrie M. Gustafson, Punahou School, Honolulu, Hawaii
Mark E. Harder, Evangelical Covenant Church, Donaldson, Indiana
Eric W. Hedberg, Emmanuel Evangelical Covenant Church, Surrey, British
Columbia

Bruce E. Helgeson, Hope Evangelical Covenant Church, Grand Forks, North Dakota

Neal C. Herr, First Evangelical Covenant Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan

David E. Hugare, Zion Covenant Church, Ellsworth, Wisconsin

Douglas K. Humphreys, Creekside Covenant Church, Redmond, Washington

José Humphreys, Metro Hope Covenant Church, New York, New York

Derrick Jackson, Life Covenant Church, Holmdel, New Jersey

Robert T. Jacobson, Restoration Covenant Church, Burnsville, Minnesota

Joel O. Johnson, Rochester Covenant Church, Rochester, Minnesota

Abby J. Jones, Evangelical Covenant Church, Stromsburg, Nebraska

Scott E. Jorgenson, re-entering call process

Joel A. Jueckstock, Maple Grove Hospital, Maple Grove, Minnesota

Erin A. Kerr, Evangelical Free Church–Fullerton, Fullerton, California

Abraham H. Kim, Compass Christian Center, Federal Way, Washington

Ara Koliantz, Evangelical Covenant Church, Lafayette, Indiana

Carmen Bensink Lewis, Bridge Covenant Church, Salem, Oregon

Scott Bensink Lewis, Bridge Covenant Church, Salem, Oregon

John R. Lindt, Bethel Mission Covenant Church, Wallace, Michigan

Jorden J. Meyers, Covenant Offices, Chicago, Illinois

Melissa Millis, Trinity Church, Indianapolis, Indiana

Jason O. Mohn, First Covenant Church, Everett, Washington

James A. Murphy, Evangelical Covenant Church, Bemidji, Minnesota

Clay E. Napier, United Hospice of Coastal Carolina, New Bern, North Carolina

Piedad Peña-Restrepo, World Mission: Latin America

Soudinh Penkhay, Brookdale Covenant Church, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota

Judy B. Peterson, Excelsior Covenant Church, Excelsior, Minnesota

David G. Robinson, Cannon Beach Community Church, Cannon Beach, Oregon

David L. Scherrer, Christ Community Covenant Church, Arvada, Colorado

Timothy J. Smith Jr., New Song Covenant Church, Anchorage, Alaska

Jane E. Spriggs, Monticello Covenant Church, Monticello, Minnesota

Elise A. Steel, North Park Covenant Church, Chicago, Illinois

Jo Anne Taylor, First United Methodist Church, New Ulm, Minnesota

Kyle S. Thomsen, University Covenant Church, Davis, California

James R. Tyberg, Pasadena Covenant Church, Pasadena, California

D. Chad Wible, Sierra Bible Church, Murphys, California

Richard D. Wild, Riverside Covenant Church, Riverside, Rhode Island

Samuel Williams, Avenue Community Church, Markham, Ontario

Micah J. Witham, Awaken Covenant Community, Lilydale, Minnesota

Benjamin D. Zabel, First Evangelical Covenant Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan

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:

Nathan D. Albert by Sally Carlson, David Danielson, Karen Danielson

Sharon R. Anderson by Carolyn Poterek

José A. Angulo by Juana Nesta

Javier Carrillo by Sally Carlson

Timothy R. Ciccone by Sally Carlson, Juana Nesta, Carolyn Poterek

Paul W. Couleur by Sally Carlson, Carolyn Poterek, James Sundholm
Joshua R. Danielson by Sally Carlson, David Danielson, Karen Danielson,
Carolyn Poterek
Thomas M. Dierenfeld by Sally Carlson
David C. Diller by Carolyn Poterek
Floredilia Graterol by Juana Nesta
Deborah J. Griffith-Samuels by Sally Carlson, Carolyn Poterek
Paul D. Guiliano by Herb Frost, Martha Freeman
Corrie M. Gustafson by Bruce Heimkes, Stacey Heimkes
Mark E. Harder by Sally Carlson
Eric W. Hedberg by Sally Carlson, Carolyn Poterek, Julia Sandstrom
Bruce E. Helgeson by Sally Carlson
Neal C. Herr by Carolyn Poterek
David E. Hugare by Jeff Stockwell, Rich Theilen
Joel O. Johnson by Herb Frost
Abby J. Jones, by Jeff Houston
Scott E. Jorgenson by Herb Frost
Joel A. Jueckstock by Sue Poston
Carmen Bensink Lewis by Sally Carlson, Carolyn Poterek
Scott Bensink Lewis by Sally Carlson, Carolyn Poterek
Jorden J. Meyers by Sally Carlson, Juana Nesta
Piedad Peña-Restrepo by Juana Nesta
Soudinh Penkhay by Rich Theilen
Judy B. Peterson by Sally Carlson, Herb Frost, Rich Theilen
Jo Anne Taylor by Rich Theilen
Samuel Williams by Sally Carlson, Julia Sandstrom
Benjamin D. Zabel by Michael Zabel

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

Approval of Licenses

Mark Novak referred the assembly to the list of applicants for licensure and presented the following recommendation: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, moves that the 129th Annual Meeting grant ministerial license as follows:” The list included ministry license and bi-vocational ministry license. The names of those with ministerial license appears in the roll of ministers in the *Covenant Yearbook*, 2014-2015 edition.

The motion carried.

Change in Standing

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

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, reports to the 129th Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following ministers has been moved from active to inactive: Mark P. Andrews, James Bowman, Michale Dale Brown, Marie Carlson, Julia Carr, Steven Cray, Karl Freeberg, Darrah Garvin, Royce Garvin, Ronna Husby, Daniel G. Larson, Patricia Larson, Thomas Luchsinger, Luke Pederson, Nancy M. Reed.”

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

isterium, reports to the 129th Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following minister has been moved from inactive to active: Kathy Brawley, Richard Cudmore, Rebekah Eklund, Adria Pearson, Glenn Rounseville.”

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, reports to the 129th Annual Meeting that Philip Brockett has transferred his ordination standing to the United Church of Christ.”

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, reports to the 129th Annual Meeting that the following individuals have resigned their ministerial standing and requested that their names be removed from the roster of Covenant ministers: Craig D. Larson, Douglas Stapleton, Shelly Timber.”

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, recommends to the 129th Annual Meeting that the ordination standing of Steven Hickey be reinstated.”

Novak then presented the following recommendation:

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, recommends to the 129th Annual Meeting the dismissal of the following person from the ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church and the removal of his name from the roster of Covenant ministers: Michael Sulak.”

The motion carried.

Timothy B. Johnson, chair of the ministerium, prayed.

CELEBRATING THE MISSION—COVENANT KIDS CONGO

The moderator recognized Donn Engebretson, project leader for Covenant Kids Congo, who introduced a video celebrating the ministry of Covenant Kids Congo.

The moderator recommended that the time certain of Agenda Item 21 be moved up by approximately 40 minutes. The motion was seconded and carried.

21. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2015 MISSION AND MINISTRY BUDGET

The moderator recognized Dean Lundgren, vice-president for finance and treasurer, who gave a presentation on the mission and ministry budget for fiscal year 2015 and a proposed mission and ministry budget of \$24,714,000. Lundgren noted that the budget is being presented by the five mission priorities, not by departments as they had been in the past.

Lundgren presented the following motion: “The Executive Board recommends the fiscal year 2015 Mission and Ministry Budget in the amount of \$24,714,000 for adoption by the 2014 Covenant Annual Meeting.” The mission and ministry expense budget is as follows:

Serve Globally	\$ 12,317,568
Start and Strengthen Churches	\$ 3,195,794
Make and Deepen Disciples	\$ 1,347,129
Love Mercy and Do Justice	\$ 512,660
Develop Leaders	\$ 2,073,500
Communications	\$ 1,268,645
Shared Services (3)	\$ 3,988,704

After a time of discussion, the motion carried.

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

33. COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN ACTION

The moderator recognized Liz VerHage, chair of the Commission on Christian Action, who gave an overview of the Commission and process of writing, reviewing, and approving resolutions. VerHage introduced Evelmyn Ivens, member of the Commission on Christian Action, who read several excerpts from the resolution.

Recommendation on Resolution on Immigration

VerHage then recommended, on behalf of the Executive Board, the adoption of the following resolution on Immigration:

2014 RESOLUTION ON IMMIGRATION

Introduction

In remembrance of our denomination's history, at the 125th anniversary celebration of the Evangelical Covenant Church in 2010 we affirmed that we began as an immigrant church and celebrated that today we continue to be an immigrant church.¹ The early immigrants of the Covenant Church faced profound challenges as they entered a new nation. These Covenant ancestors were strengthened in their journey through faith in Jesus Christ, who was no stranger to the experiences of immigrants.

We want to consider how both our history as an immigrant church in an immigrant nation and our biblically rooted faith in Jesus Christ may speak prophetically to our present context. How does our history and our common faith inform how we understand the difficult and complex issues surrounding immigration? How do we in the church engage the immigration conversation distinctly as Christians? How do we resist the political ideologies, fear, and stereotypes that keep us from engaging in thoughtful, informed dialogue?

This resolution is about reframing the conversation about immigration, both within our churches and in our communities. It is about helping us address issues of immigration from a Christian perspective as biblically informed people. As the Covenant Resource Paper on Compassion, Mercy, and Justice reminds us, the church must pursue God's justice by asking, "How do we join God in making things right in our broken world?"

The Biblical Foundation

The Bible tells us that all people, regardless of national origin or citizenship status, are made in the image of God and must be treated with dignity and respect (Genesis 1:26-27).

In the Old Testament, God's relationship with humanity centers on a covenant with an immigrant, Abraham, and his descendants, the people of Israel, whose famine-induced migration to Egypt led to their enslavement. When God liberated them they set out as immigrants in hope toward a land "flowing with milk and honey" (Exodus 3:7-10).

After Israel settled into the land of Canaan, God commanded that "the foreigners residing among you must be treated as your native-born. Love them as yourself, for you were foreigners in Egypt" (Leviticus 19:33-34).² This command reflects God's character as the one who "loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing" (Deuteronomy 10:18). God's concern and care for the immigrant runs throughout the Law and the Prophets, guiding the people when they were settled in their homeland and when they

were in exile, a minority population working to remain faithful in a strange land (Exodus 23:9; Numbers 15:14; Deuteronomy 24:21; 26:12; Psalm 146:9; Jeremiah 7:6; Ezekiel 22:7; Zechariah 7:10; Malachi 3:5).

The book of Ruth shows these commands in action, telling the story of Ruth the Moabite, a widow who left her homeland, culture, and religion for the unknown land, people, and God of her Israelite mother-in-law, Naomi. Displaced, grieving, and vulnerable, Ruth survived on the kindness of her adopted people, eventually remarried, and became a full member of the community.

Jesus, a descendant of Ruth (Matthew 1:5), began his life as a sojourner, journeying in the womb to Bethlehem by political decree, and then fleeing to Egypt with his parents after his birth to escape political violence (Luke 2:1-7; Matthew 2:13). His ministry was marked by care for the poor and marginalized, often crossing borders, stretching boundaries, and challenging unjust laws in the process (John 4; Luke 15:21-28; Matthew 12:1-14). Jesus also took the Old Testament commands a step further, saying, “I was a stranger and you invited me in” (Matthew 25:35). His death reconciled humanity with God and created a new family that included non-Israelites who had been “separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise” (Ephesians 2:12).

As the church spread throughout the Roman Empire, it showed hospitality to strangers and foreigners (Hebrews 13:2), and shared the good news of Jesus with people of all nationalities and social classes. Early Christians wrestled with the challenges of being citizens of heaven and citizens of local cities, regions, and nations. On the one hand, they were instructed to “be subject to the governing authorities.... [who] hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong” (Romans 13:1-3; cf. 1 Peter 2:13-17). They recognized that respecting government authorities and the law promoted Christian witness. On the other hand, early Christians also knew the teaching of the prophets that legal structures are sometimes a source of injustice (Amos 5:12-15; Micah 7:2-3) and that God calls his people to speak up for reform (Isaiah 10:1-4; Jeremiah 7:1-7). Their experience also showed that there were times when civil disobedience was required for the sake of the gospel, times when “we must obey God rather than human beings” (Acts 5:29). Ultimately, they looked forward to the New Jerusalem, a city in which “the nations will walk by its light.... On no day will its gates ever be shut” (Revelation 21:24-25).

Immigration Reality

Throughout history, people have migrated. Whether for reasons of opportunity, interest, asylum, poverty, or oppression, human beings are “people on the move.” Regardless of causes, migration is usually traumatic, separating people from their native homes, communities, and cultures. Migration also poses difficult questions for host communities and nations as they discern how to respond to immigrants in their midst.

The United States³ has a complicated history in regard to welcoming the immigrant and foreigner. On the one hand, immigration has created a rich mosaic of people who have contributed significantly to our cultural, economic, and spiritual life. We are a nation of immigrants, and according to the Census Bureau, forty million foreign-born persons currently live in the United States, making up 13 percent of the population.⁴ Since 1975, the United States has

also welcomed more than three million refugees.⁵ A plaque within the Statue of Liberty proclaims, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free.” However, U.S. history also includes the permanent displacement of the only people who did not immigrate to this land, the Native Americans, through sanctioned killing and broken treaties, as well as the forced migration and brutal enslavement of generations of Africans. Recent waves of immigrants to the United States have often been subject to unjust hiring practices and attitudes, especially during times of national economic challenge.

When the people who first formed the Evangelical Covenant Church came to the United States from Sweden in the late nineteenth century, federal immigration law as we know it did not exist. Many who immigrated were able to start new lives in the United States without a visa. The first significant prohibitions to immigration occurred when Asian immigrants were prevented from becoming citizens with the passage of the Naturalization Act of 1870, followed by the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, which banned immigration from China. Over the next four decades the United States also passed laws preventing entry of the sick and illiterate. In 1921 and 1924 Congress passed quotas that made it extremely difficult to immigrate, particularly for those outside of northern and western European countries. In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson overhauled the policies, making immigration law based on family connections and employability.

Current U.S. immigration law is very complex, often arbitrarily enforced, and has resulted in more than eleven million people living and working in the United States who are considered “undocumented” or without legal status. Our immigration system provides limited legal ways for people to flee poverty or war, and does not take into account the high demand for jobs (both “high-skilled” and “low-skilled”) in the United States.⁶ The current system also suffers from a backlog of family reunification applications, resulting in long waits that divide families for as many as ten to twenty years, and unintended and unjust consequences related to black market documents, crowded detention centers, and human trafficking.⁷

Faith leaders from across the theological spectrum, along with a growing number of business leaders and politicians, all agree that current immigration law needs to be reformed. According to the Evangelical Immigration Table: “Our national immigration laws have created a moral, economic and political crisis in America. Initiatives to remedy this crisis have led to polarization and name calling in which opponents have misrepresented each other’s positions as open borders and amnesty versus deportations of millions. This false choice has led to an unacceptable political stalemate at the federal level at a tragic human cost.”⁸ Speaking to the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Leith Anderson, president of the National Association of Evangelicals, noted, “The current backlog in family reunification petitions, with waiting periods stretching into years and even decades, is shortsighted and immoral. It causes much suffering and tempts desperate people to work around our laws where our system offers no realistic possibilities for timely family reunion.”⁹

The Call

As Christians we are called to be salt and light in the national discourse on immigration by imitating Christ’s spirit of compassion and hospitality along-

side an appropriate respect for the law. Our dialogue on immigration should reflect that we are talking about human beings and families loved by God and for whom Christ died. At its core, the immigration debate is about real people, many of whom are members of our Covenant family—mothers, fathers, children, grandmothers, and grandfathers, each with their own walk of faith and story to share. The church should challenge the dehumanization of any person, whether it is occurring in political policies, the media, in our churches, or around the water cooler. This includes examining how we speak of immigration and the words we use to describe immigrants. This may lead to asking different questions than those within the political debates, such as:

- How can we address these issues from a biblical foundation?
- How can we show hospitality to and care for immigrants regardless of legal status as people made in the image of God?
- How do we balance care for people while respecting the rule of the law?
- How can we advocate for ethical immigration policy?
- How can we acknowledge the positive contributions of immigrants who “seek the welfare” of their newfound homes (Jeremiah 29:4-7)?

The Response

As followers of Christ who was himself a “stranger with no place to lay his head,” we are invited to advocate for the vulnerable and marginalized among us as an act of discipleship. We are reminded by the Covenant’s 2004 Resolution on Kingdom Values and Global Citizenship, that “being the by-product of immigrant movements we have, when at our best, extended compassion to the sojourner and the stranger.”

Therefore, be it resolved that the 129th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church calls Covenant churches and Covenanters to:

- 1) Allow our worship and our biblical story to prepare us for healthy, Christian dialogue about immigration.
- 2) Enter into meaningful relationships with immigrant neighbors and immigrant churches by creating a safe space to share and hear stories.
- 3) Pray and advocate for our sisters and brothers who are caught in and suffer from the complexities of our current immigration system, as well as our lawmakers and immigration enforcement personnel.
- 4) Advocate for fair and humane immigration laws and policies that:
 - foster respect for the rule of law and border control;
 - establish law enforcement initiatives that are consistent with humanitarian values;
 - reform the family-based immigration system to reduce waiting times and reunite separated families;
 - advocate for the end of profiling actions that diminish personhood and create a culture of fear and division within society;
 - expand legal avenues for workers to enter the United States and work in a safe and legal manner with their rights and due process fully protected;

- address the needs of the estimated 11 million people who are currently undocumented by creating a path toward legal immigration status or citizenship for those who qualify and satisfy specific criteria; and
 - advocate for labor laws that protect immigrants of any legal standing from exploitative labor conditions and human trafficking.
- 5) Support international development organizations, such as Covenant World Relief, Covenant World Mission, Bread for the World, and others that address the root causes of migration from a biblical perspective, including the economic disparities between sending and receiving nations, and the life-threatening realities of violence and poverty around the globe.

Endnotes

1. “Now, as Then, We Are an Immigrant Church,” <http://CovChurch.tv/am2010-immigrant-church>
2. Scripture taken from the New International Version.
3. Even though the ECC is composed of churches in both the United States and Canada, this resolution only addresses U.S. immigration in order to contain and clarify one national conversation on immigration. We acknowledge that Canada and other countries also have important and varied realities when it comes to the context for acting out our faith in response to questions about immigration.
4. <http://www.state.gov/j/prm/migration/index.htm>
5. <http://www.state.gov/j/prm/ra/index.htm>
6. For example, only 10,000 employer-sponsored workers are allowed to enter the country legally each year for jobs that do not require a high degree of education or training.
7. *Welcoming the Stranger: Discovering and Living God's Heart for Immigrants* (National Association of Evangelicals and World Relief), p.38.
8. The Evangelical Immigration Table, Evangelical Statement of Principles for Immigration Reform, <http://evangelicalimmigrationtable.com> (signed by nearly 200 evangelical leaders, including ECC President Gary Walter).
9. Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Refugees, Hearing on Faith Based Community Perspectives on Comprehensive Immigration Reform (Oct. 8, 2009), <http://www.judiciary.senate.gov/pdf/10-08-09%20Anderson%20testimony.pdf>.

During debate, the following amendment to the resolution was proposed:

Add new Response 1): “Our nation has the right, through fair and humane immigration laws, to control immigration.”

Amend current Response 4) (to be re-numbered to 5):

Delete bullet points and add to lead in clause after “policies” the following: “that expand lawful immigration”

Add new Response 7): “explore ways to bring the good news of Jesus Christ to immigrants.”

The motion to amend was seconded. Debate followed, and the motion to amend failed.

There was a motion to extend the debate on the original motion for 10 minutes. The motion was seconded and carried. Discussion followed.

There was a motion to take the vote by ballot. The motion was seconded and failed.

The motion to accept the resolution as presented carried by standing vote. Stacey Heimkes, member of the Executive Board, prayed.

The assembly recessed at 11:59 a.m.

FOURTH BUSINESS SESSION

Saturday, June 28, 2014

1:32 p.m.

16. RECOGNITION OF JAY AND ELLEN HAWORTH, RETIRING MISSIONARIES

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, president, and Curt Peterson, executive minister of world mission. Peterson presented a citation of recognition to Jay and Ellen Haworth for thirty-two faithful ministry as missionaries to Japan, from 1983 to 2015.

Jay and Ellen responded with gratitude to the Lord and friends for allowing them the privilege of serving in Japan over the years.

17. RECOGNITION OF DOREEN OLSON, RETIRING EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF CHRISTIAN FORMATION

Walter then presented a citation of recognition to Doreen Olson for sixteen years of service as executive minister of Christian formation to the Evangelical Covenant Church, from 1998 to 2014.

Olson expressed gratitude for the privilege and honor to be called by God and equipped by God to serve in this movement with people who long to follow Christ. She thanked her husband, Mark, for his support through the years.

18. RECOGNITION OF DEAN LUNDGREN, RETIRING VICE PRESIDENT FOR FINANCE

Walter then presented a citation of recognition to Dean Lundgren for twenty-two years of service as vice-president for finance and treasurer for the Evangelical Covenant Church, from 1992 to 2014.

Lundgren responded with appreciation and gratitude to his family for their support; and shared the joy he has experienced in overseeing the supplemental benefits program for pastors and missionaries in need.

Jill Lundgren, Dean's wife, took a moment to thank everyone for the opportunity given to Dean to serve. She expressed a humorous desire that everyone come visit them in Cape Cod as she worries he will be bored in retirement.

29. MISSION AND MINISTRY LEADERSHIP RESPONSE TO DELEGATE QUESTIONS

Dean Lundgren, Gary Walter, David Parkyn, and Evelyn Johnson responded to questions that had been submitted the previous day regarding their ministry areas.

CELEBRATING THE MISSION—CHIC VIDEO

A video on CHIC 2015 was shown.

12A. 2015 CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

The moderator recognized Evelyn Johnson, interim executive vice-president, who provided context for the proposal, and then read the following amendments proposed

by the Executive Board, to be spread on the minutes for consideration at the 2015 Annual Meeting:

Proposed Amendment to Constitution Article VII, Section 7.2

Current wording: “There shall be one regular session of the Annual Meeting each year. At least thirty days before the date of each Annual Meeting, the corporate secretary of the ECC shall send a notice to each member congregation, stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.”

Proposed wording: “The General Assembly shall be convened at least once every two years. At least ninety days before the date of each General Assembly, the corporate secretary of the ECC shall send a notice to each member congregation, stating the time, place, and purpose of the meeting.”

Proposed Amendments to Constitution

Replace the phrase “Annual Meeting” with “General Assembly” in

Article VI, Section 6.2, 6.3

Article VII, Section 7.1, 7.2 (included above), 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6

Article VIII, Section 8.1.a, 8.1.b, 8.2.a.i

Article IX, Section 9.3

Article XI, Section 11.2

Article XVI, Section 16.1, 16.2, 16.3

34. PRAYER FOR THE MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE ECC

The moderator encouraged delegates to pray for the mission and ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Prayers were offered in English, Arabic, and French.

35. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

Delegate Evaluation

The moderator recognized Evelyn Johnson, interim executive vice-president, who gave instructions for completion of the 2014 Annual Meeting evaluation forms that will be emailed to delegates.

Report to Congregations

The moderator recognized Ed Gilbreath, executive minister of communication, who encouraged delegates to bring a report to their churches. A document summary will be available on CovChurch.org as well as emailed to delegates. Gilbreath noted that *The Covenant Companion* is in the midst of a re-design and re-launch, set for 2015.

Closing Statement

The moderator recognized Evelyn Johnson, who presented the following resolution of sympathy:

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

RESOLVED, that the 129th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church express its sympathy to the families of the Covenant pastors, missionaries, and pastors’ spouses who have gone to be with the Lord, and that those families be presented with a program of the worship service in which a prayer of remembrance and thanksgiving will be given for their lives and ministry.

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

Pastors

Richard M. Dahl, March 16, 2009, New Brighton, Minnesota
Richard W. Carlson, July 27, 2013, Oak Park, Illinois
Jerome M. Engseth, August 4, 2013, Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Fred Marley, August 26, 2013, Seattle, Washington
Karen M. Hearl, September 2, 2013, Lincoln, California
Eldon H. Johnson, September 4, 2013, Bemus Point, New York
Sherwood C. Carthen, September 25, 2013, Elk Grove, California
Arthur W. Anderson, September 28, 2013, Lee's Summit, Ohio
Earl M. VanDerVeer, November 22, 2013, Mercer Island, Washington
John C. Wilkens, December 21, 2013, Mount Vernon, Washington
Richard C. Brookes, December 23, 2013, Cambridge, New York
Robert L. Dawson, January 19, 2014, Nashville, Tennessee
David A. McDowell, February 1, 2014, Ellsworth, Wisconsin
David O. Bowden, February 11, 2014, Greensboro, North Carolina
I. Dawn Mortimer, March 27, 2014, Chicago, Illinois
William L. Waters, April 12, 2014, San Jose, California
Alton W. Peterson Jr., May 5, 2014, Spring Valley, California
Gary W. Downing, June 25, 2014, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Missionaries

Carl Edstrom, January 9, 2014, Northbrook, Illinois
Alfred White, March 9, 2014, Mercer Island, Washington
Ruth Barram, April 12, 2014, Parkston, South Dakota
Gladys White, May 14, 2014, Mercer Island, Washington
Russell Camp, May 17, 2014, Spring Valley, California
Helen (Peterson) Yopez, May 19, 2014, Ibarra, Ecuador

Pastors' Spouses

Marion V. Franklin (Theodore), June 6, 2013, Kankakee, Illinois
Dorothy J. Train (Edmund), July 11, 2013, Northbrook, Illinois
Marie Mays (William), July 28, 2013, Spring Valley, California
Marian Newton (Edward), August 7, 2013, Damascus, Oregon
Virginia Mae Glücklich (Walter), October 26, 2013, Citrus Heights, California
Marjorie Anderson (C. Reuben), November 1, 2013, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Patricia Olson (Frederick), November 9, 2013, Vancouver, British Columbia
Clarice Stark (Wayne), December 19, 2013, Turlock, California
Rachael Dawson (Robert), January 22, 2014, Nashville, Tennessee
Virginia O. Anderson (Leonard), January 23, 2014, Forest Lake, Minnesota
Margaret Swanson (Milton), January 23, 2014, Des Moines, Iowa
Virginia R. Johnson (Alden), March 12, 2014, Jamaica Plains, Massachusetts
Joyce Lundell (Kenneth), March 31, 2014, Minneapolis, Minnesota
Gary Pierce (Sally), April 26, 2014, Batavia, Illinois

The motion was seconded and carried.

Johnson requested permission to introduce Rebecca Gonzalez to the assembly as the new executive director of operations, giving leadership to the Annual Meeting.

Johnson then presented the following resolution of gratitude:

RESOLVED, that the 129th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church express its gratitude to those who have envisioned, planned, served, and executed this meeting with excellence and a deep commitment to Christ and his work in and through the Evangelical Covenant Church:

- to the churches of the Central Conference, and particularly the greater Chicago area, and Superintendent Jerome Nelson for welcoming us to this mission region and offering the gift of hospitality;

- to the Central Conference staff and, in particular, Debbie Griffith Samuels and the CMJ team, and North Park University in creating the Experience Chicagoland experience,

- to the moderator, Stanley Long; vice-moderator, Amanda Olson; vice-moderator pro tem, Sue Poston; parliamentarian, Eric Filkin; secretary, Deani Jordan; and backup secretary, Tricia Cisneros, for guiding our business meetings and maintaining accurate records;

- to Barb and Jim Coslow, volunteer coordinators, the sergeant-at-arms (Mark Torgerson, chair) and tellers (Rebecca Przbylski, chair) for overseeing the distribution of materials in the business session and helping us have voice and vote in the meeting;

- to the Credentials Committee (Connie Carrillo, chair), and Jill Ulven, event registrar, who together verified the certified delegates and tallied additional registrants;

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

- to Steve Burger, Christian Formation, Evangelical Covenant Church, for guiding the planning for Covenant Kids Ministry and the volunteers who implemented the plan, Brenda Welker, Betzy Cisneros, Libby Piotrowski;

- to the leaders of fitness sessions, learning experiences, information/dialogue sessions, special interest groups, and affinity groups for providing value added experiences;

- to Joe Poppino and Isaiah Brown, the worship leaders, who with the band members, vocalists, organist, and multiple participants guided us in worship. And, to Geoff Twigg and Josef Rasheed who guided worship planning and mentored our worship leaders;

- to the Oakdale Christian Academy Concert Choir and Terrance Smith, leader, for bringing us a message of hope through music;

- to the preachers who opened God's word during worship times and deepened our understanding of advancing God's mission: Nicole Bullock, Leith Anderson, Darrell Nelson, and Robert Owens;

- to Marco Ambriz and Kelly Johnston for their Thursday evening leadership in highlighting some of the ways God is working in and through the Covenant family;

- to the recipients of the Irving J. Lambert Award (Craig Anderson) and T.W. Anderson Award (Lou Setter) for modeling for us the life of servanthood;

- to the volunteers who are participating as a choir at the Saturday evening worship service;

- to Jeffrey Bondorew who, with his team managed production for both worship services and business sessions;
- to Covenant organizations and institutions who provided support for various dimensions of our experience including:
 - Thursday and Friday morning coffee and mugs, National Covenant Properties
 - Saturday morning coffee and mugs, Covenant Retirement Communities
 - Gather and Celebrate refreshments: Thursday evening, Covenant Trust Company; Friday evening, Christian Formation, Bethany Benefits, Pensions, Pacific Southwest Conference; Saturday evening, Covenant Ministries of Benevolence
 - Charging stations, Association of Covenant Camps and Conference Center
 - Delegate notebooks and assembly cost, Bethany Benefits
 - Annual Meeting lanyards and badges, North Park University/North Park Theological Seminary
 - Experience Chicagoland, North Park University/North Park Theological Seminary and Central Conference
- to the displayers who created visual reminders of our mission focus and introduced us to the multiple resources available to advance Christ's mission through the Evangelical Covenant Church;
- to all the facilitators (ECC, conference, and guest resource persons) for the introduction/dialogue sessions on immigration resolution and restructuring and related bylaw changes;
- to Pia Peña-Restrepo who translated key documents for the business meeting into Spanish. And, to Stephanie Meyers who did the translating of worship services and business sessions into Spanish;
- to the photographers who recorded our gathering and its impact for many years to come; we are thankful to all of you for the stories that will now be told as you return to your context and continue to share God's work in and through us;
- to the staff of Covenant Communications who managed communication services before and during the event including design work, printing, onsite reporting, media services, the Bookstore, and preparing our report for back home;
- to many who transported items essential for the Annual Meeting from 8303 W. Higgins Rd. To the Covenant Events Office staff: Jorden Meyers, Jill Ulven, Hilary Honnette, and Marti Burger, leader, who worked tirelessly with grace and excellence behind the scenes;
- to Covenant leaders (staff and volunteer board, commission, and committee members) who provided input and overall guidance in preparation for Gather 14 and this Annual Business Meeting and served in various roles throughout our time together;
- to all of the Covenant Church delegates, general conferees and guests who gave of their time, energy and devotion to deliberate our future mission and celebrate our commitment to seeing more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world.

RESOLVED, that the Covenant Annual Meeting express its appreciation to those who offered Christian witness, service, skill, organizational excellence, hospitality, and good humor to this 129th Covenant Annual Meeting.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Johnson requested a point of privilege to offer thanks to Jim and Barb Coslow for their commitment to serving as volunteer coordinators of the sergeants and tellers. She presented them with a gift.

Johnson thanked Deani Jordan in her first year as secretary, Tricia Cisneros for her commitment to return to support the Annual Meeting, and welcomed Nilwona Nowlin as the new administrative specialist for governance.

Johnson presented Eric Filkin, parliamentarian, and Stanley Long, moderator, with gifts for their service.

36. ADJOURNMENT

Eric Filkin prayed, and the moderator declared the 129th Covenant Annual Meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

37. BENEDICTION

CONSENT AGENDA

31. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTINUATION OF COMMISSIONS

Commission on Christian Action

“Recommendation, on behalf of the Executive Board, that the Commission on Christian Action be extended for another five years.” This item was accepted as a consent item.

Commission on Worship

“Recommendation, on behalf of the Executive Board, that the Commission on Worship be extended for another five years.” This item was accepted as a consent item.

32. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF 129TH COVENANT ANNUAL MEETING

“The minutes of the 129th 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.” This item was accepted as a consent item.

33. ARRANGEMENTS FOR 2015 ANNUAL MEETING

“The 130th Covenant Annual Meeting will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, June 25-27, 2015.” This item was accepted as a consent item.

Annual Meeting Officers

Moderator: Stanley B. Long

Vice-Moderator: Amanda L. Olson

Secretary: Deani C. Jordan

Parliamentarian

Eric D. Filkin