



## Action on Churches Applying for Membership

Based upon the recommendation of the respective conferences, the Covenant Executive Board recommends to the 136th Annual Meeting that the following churches be accepted into membership in the Evangelical Covenant Church.

CHURCH	APPROXIMATE MEMBERSHIP	APPROXIMATE ATTENDANCE
<b>Central Conference</b>		
Core Community Covenant Church Chicago, IL	8	30
<b>East Coast Conference</b>		
Mosaic Covenant Church New York City, NY	15	100
Mestizo Community Covenant Church Providence, RI	45	75
<b>Great Lakes Conference</b>		
One Church Louisville, Inc. Louisville, KY	100	50
<b>Northwest Conference</b>		
Lakeside Covenant Church Victoria, MN	45	100
Midcurrent Covenant Church Hudson, WI	50	200
<b>Pacific Northwest Conference</b>		
Encounter Covenant Church Bellevue, WA	100	200

## REPORT ON CHURCHES JOINING THE COVENANT

The mission of the Covenant is stronger, richer, and more diverse because of the seven churches joining this year. Each of these churches brings a ministry that will enrich the kingdom contribution of the whole Covenant denomination, and each church will be enriched by its connection with the Covenant. Following is a synopsis of each congregation. Each story testifies to both the handiwork of God in raising up a ministry and the faithfulness of committed people in carrying out that ministry. What may be less visible is the role every Covenanter plays. By making possible the pastoral assessment center, financial resources, training, and other support services, every Covenanter has a place in these stories.

### Central Conference

**Core Community Covenant Church**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**Pastor: Max Kholodenko**

**Average Attendance: 30**

In March 2021, Core Community Covenant Church was initially planted with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, then affirmed through the discernment, wisdom, and counsel of trusted elders and mentors, and ultimately embraced by Pastors Max and Trisha Kholodenko. After some personal internal wrestling, and even a candid sense of fear and trembling, Core began to take shape as a discipleship ministry with a small fellowship of believers. Soon after their first official gathering on April 11, 2021, things began to fall into place. Individuals stepped forward to commit as charter members to form our core launch team. By June, Core had established their mission, vision, guiding documents, core tenets of faith, model for practice and growth, as well as confirmed a meeting space with a local church partner, opened our first accounts, and became initially incorporated as Core Christian Community Church. As a community, Core set their hearts to center concerns and conflict in ways that both honor diversity and foster unity. With this in mind, we decided on the name Core. We decided to formalize our membership after a group of key stakeholders who shared this heartbeat and began the process to be recognized as a member church in the Covenant.

### East Coast Conference

**Mosaic Covenant Church**  
**New York City, NY**  
**Pastor: Amanda Sadlier**

**Average Attendance: 100**

Mosaic Covenant Church in New York City was planted through the Covenant with lead planters Amanda and Dan Sadlier in the spring of 2014 on Roosevelt Island. After a six-month residency with

Hope Church NYC in Astoria, Queens, Hope Roosevelt Island Covenant Church was launched. The name was changed to Mosaic Covenant Church in 2020 after discerning to transition from the Hope Church NYC network of churches. The church initially met on Sunday afternoons due to space limitations in the city. The founding congregation consisted of a diverse group of people who were representative of the neighborhood. Many elderly, individuals with disabilities, and young international families were part of the core. The early years of the church were characterized by new confessions of faith and baptisms, as many of the core members were not Christians when they joined the team. Outreach into the community was conducted through English classes, sports leagues, and more. Meeting in the afternoon was a challenge, so the leadership team attempted to find space for morning services. For a few months, we experimented with an underground black box theater across the street for a morning service in addition to our afternoon option. In the winter of 2018, the Catholic church that had been meeting in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd in the mornings (where Hope (Mosaic) met in the evenings), built another meeting space and the space became available for a morning service. In the summer of 2018, Amanda Sadlier was assessed and recommended to take over as lead pastor from her husband, Dan, who was planting another congregation in West Queens. She was installed as the lead pastor on May 5, 2019. Mosaic shifted to fully digital worship for months during the pandemic. Mosaic responded to the challenges of being a new church in the pandemic through establishing and operating a food pantry in Sunnyside, Queens, providing connection groups for individuals and families, and continuing to plant new churches that are preaching the message of Christ. Mosaic helped launch another congregation in early 2022 in Paramus, New Jersey, and has supported church planting efforts in Chicago and Los Angeles.

**Mestizo Community Covenant Church**  
**Providence, RI**  
**Pastor: Richard Jakubowski**

**Average Attendance: 75**

Mestizo Community Covenant Church, which began as Sanctuary North Covenant Church, held its first preview service on Pentecost Sunday 2016 in the northwest corner of Providence, Rhode Island. From its birth, its intention was to be a local, Holy Spirit-guided, multiethnic expression of God's church. Mestizo Community Covenant sought to continually embody our biblical values of worship, equality, empowerment, and empathy. The congregation reflects the mosaic with eight languages and a variety of beautiful cultures and perspectives. The faith community consists of various ages, individuals from diverse economic backgrounds, and social statuses. From the newly arrived refugee to the single mother, to the neighbor in recovery, to the undocumented family next door, Mestizo Community Covenant come together in God's love to see one another and find unity in God's beloved community, his local church. They exist to embrace God's beauty through their diverse makeup of people. They

embrace their “Mestizo” identity, one that has a mixture of culture and backgrounds, and desire to grow and be challenged by each other’s “otherness.”

### **Great Lakes Conference**

**One Church Louisville, Inc.  
Louisville, KY  
Pastor: Matt Ness**

**Average Attendance: 100**

One Church began from a vision of a more unified church. The Soul Center and The Avenue were two churches worshipping within a few blocks of each other. The Soul Center was predominately African American and The Avenue predominately white. The churches did outreach together and worshiped separately. Over coffee Ja’Mel Armstrong wondered if the two churches should become one. Over the next year, he and Matt Ness worked to make this a reality. Despite some rocky moments, One Church emerged to become a distinct community that provides a safe home for people of diverse backgrounds. In One Church’s new space at the Chapel of St. Philip, Sundays have become a time for dialogue and discussion about what faith looks like in our city. They have a group of trained spiritual directors helping people connect with God, and they have intentional discipleship spaces where people are learning more about Jesus and themselves. Currently their most effective ministry initiative is their intentional discipleship program called “Slow Invasion” with their spiritual direction groups and small groups. People come to One Church hurting from life and needing a space to heal. Thankfully, for a some in Louisville, One Church has become that place.

### **Pacific Northwest Conference**

**Encounter Covenant Church  
Bellevue, WA  
Pastor: Michael Lee**

**Average Attendance: 200**

Encounter Church was launched in April of 2022. The church was known as All Nations Community Church, established in Bellevue in 2010 at Newport High School. Encounter was a mobile church that has been meeting at Newport High School for the past 10 years and moved to its current location at Bellevue College in 2021. Most of the congregation is currently ethnically Asian American, but they are committed to becoming more ethnically diverse, a multiethnic congregation.

Encounter has adult worship, children’s worship, and youth worship on Sundays. They have launched college and young adult ministries, and both are growing rapidly, with people traveling from as far as Tacoma and Federal Way to attend. On weekdays, Encounter has life groups, Bible study groups, and

interest groups to help church members to get plugged in and become part of the community. They are most proud of their justice ministry, which was launched in 2020. This ministry includes several programs: first, the racial justice ministry, which seeks justice and equity for people of all races by standing with the BIPOC community to end systemic and individualized racism as a tangible expression of God's love. Second, the Foster Care initiative ministry with Olive Crest was launched. It sought to break the cycle of social, material, and spiritual poverty of children in crisis in the Seattle area and offer them the opportunity to grow up in a safe, secure, and Christ-centered home. Additionally, they partnered ROOTS (Rising Out of The Shadows), a young adult shelter that helps combat homelessness, and REST (Real Escape from the Sex Trade) shelter who helps people in sex trafficking by offering pathways to freedom, safety, and hope to individuals who have experienced the sex trade.

### **Northwest Conference**

**Lakeside Covenant Church**  
**Victoria, MN**  
**Pastor: Steve Anderson**

**Average Attendance: 100**

Lakeside Covenant Church is a gathering of friends and neighbors that launched in the fall of 2017. Located in the Southwest Metro of the Twin Cities, Minnesota, Lakeside began with a desire to create space where they invite each other to belong because they are loved by God. At Lakeside Covenant, people bring real questions, grow in faith, believe in Jesus, and become the people God dreamed us to be. Lakeside's vision is to share life, pursue Jesus, and change the world. Pastor Steve Anderson and his family developed a burden to reach people in their community who may have given up on church but not on God. After Steve shared the vision for planting a church in the Chanhassen area, Excelsior Covenant, where Pastor Steve served for nearly 19 years, supported this new movement with great excitement. From the beginning, Lakeside formed a trusted relationship with the local school where they meet weekly for worship. Lakeside has developed a partnership to meet needs within the school community in unique ways. The Covenant church plant training intensive equipped Pastor Steve and the Lakeside launch team with strategic vision and mission to start strong and lead well.

**Midcurrent Covenant Church**  
**Hudson, WI**  
**Pastor: Sten Carlson**

**Average Attendance: 200**

Midcurrent Church is a church plant in Hudson, Wisconsin in its fifth year as a plant. It is sitting alongside the St. Croix River, which serves as the natural border between Minnesota and Wisconsin. Its founding pastor, Sten Carlson, served on staff at Cedarbrook Church in Menomonie, Wisconsin, for four years as a worship and teaching pastor prior to planting Midcurrent. Cedarbrook Church has

blessed, celebrated, and supported the Carlson family in their effort to plant Midcurrent. The mutual support, partnership, and collaboration of these two churches is strong. For its first five years, Midcurrent met in an event space located at YMCA Camp St. Croix in Hudson. In this upcoming summer 2022, Midcurrent will have leased, built out, and moved into a new 11,000 square-foot facility in downtown Hudson. This new facility will give Midcurrent a permanent presence in the community, accommodate its continued growth, and provide a more adequate environment for its Sunday morning kids ministry, which serves up to 100 kids every week. Midcurrent is thrilled to become the home for so many young families—many of whom are new to faith and church or are participating in the life of a local church for the first time in a long time. Sten, and his wife, Erica, are grateful to the Covenant and the Northwest Conference for their investment in church planting and for their support throughout this journey.