



Action on Removal of Churches from the Roster of the Evangelical Covenant Church

COVENANT REGIONAL CONFERENCE	CHURCH NAME	REASON FOR REMOVAL
Central	Immanuel	Closed
East Coast	The Church at Hemlock Farms	Withdrawn
East Coast	Pilgrim Covenant Church	Withdrawn
East Coast	Trinity Covenant Church	Withdrawn
East Coast	Hilltop Covenant Church	Closed
Great Lakes	Artisan	Withdrawn
Great Lakes	Gateway Community Church	Withdrawn
Great Lakes	Nueva Vida	Withdrawn
Midwest	Brookwood Covenant	Closed
Midwest	Fellowship Covenant	Withdrawn
Pacific Northwest	Sunset Covenant	Closed
Pacific Southwest	Convergence Covenant Church	Closed
Pacific Southwest	Jehova Es Mi Pastor	Closed
Pacific Southwest	My Father's House	Closed
Pacific Southwest	Shelter Covenant Church	Closed
Pacific Southwest	Restoration Covenant	Withdrawn
Pacific Southwest	Kerman Covenant Church	Merger

Southeast	Bethany Evangelical Covenant Church	Withdrawn
Southeast	Bridges Church	Closed
Southeast	Church in Motion	Closed

CENTRAL CONFERENCE

SUPERINTENDENT: DANNY MARTINEZ

Immanuel Evangelical Covenant Church

Location: Chicago, Illinois

Reason for Removal: Closed

Number of Members (when church closed): 37

Year Joined the Covenant: 1923

Peak Membership (approximately): 200

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Due to declining numbers, they are no longer able to continue the important work that the church was called to do.

EAST COAST CONFERENCE

SUPERINTENDENT: HOWARD K. BURGOYNE

The Church at Hemlock Farms

Location: Lords Valley, Pennsylvania

Reason for Removal: Withdrawn

Number of Members: 110+

Year Joined the Covenant: 1971

Peak Membership: 180

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

The congregation was dually affiliated in a federation with the Reformed Church in America and the Covenant and had been finding ways to participate with both denominations. In recent years, the church has struggled economically, finding it difficult to contribute equitably to both bodies. They were also finding it difficult to enjoy the benefits of dual affiliation. The changing theological landscape in the RCA and their polity regarding economic support led to a decision to dissolve their federation in 2020. The church considered it fair to withdraw from both affiliations and then discern whether they will join one

single denomination. They continue to be served by Covenant pastor Rev. Dr. Herb Jacobsen, who remains actively credentialed with the Covenant.

Pilgrim Covenant Church

Location: South Plainfield, New Jersey

Reason for Removal: Withdrawn

Number of Members: 20

Year Joined the Covenant: 1901

Peak Membership: 120

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

After an effort to revitalize the congregation between 2007 and 2010 and the Covenant pastors resigned from the church, the congregation called a minister who did not seek Covenant credentials. During his tenure, the church fractured along lines of vision, polity, worship, and leadership. In 2015 the church leaders notified the conference of their wish to withdraw from the Covenant. However, they failed to follow the process outlined within their bylaws.

In 2016, the pastor left. The congregation called a new pastor who brought with him a group of new members who were affiliated with the Assemblies of God. In 2021 the property ownership was transferred to the new church. Although due process has not been followed, the church unequivocally expressed their intent to withdraw their membership from the Covenant.

Trinity Covenant Church

Location: Livingston, New Jersey

Reason for Removal: Withdrawn

Number of Members: N/A

Year Joined the Covenant: 1893

Peak Membership: 200

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

In the last few years, the congregation has discerned and explored adopting a theological position regarding affirmation of same-sex marriage within the Christian faith and has expressed a resolve to celebrate those unions within the church in the future. After several rounds of conversation with the pastors and church leaders in 2019 and 2020, the church set in motion a proposal in 2021 to disaffiliate from the Covenant denomination in 2022. The motion passed unanimously at their congregational meeting in February.

TCC has a long history of Christian and Covenant ministry in central New Jersey, first as an immigrant congregation from among the early Swedish emigres. The church has been involved in recent years in a variety of community-wide endeavors and has been a host to other ethnic congregations seeking a place to worship. They are exploring the possibility of selling their property to support low-income housing and to embrace the possibilities of a new chapter in the life of their community in Livingston.

Hilltop Covenant Church

Location: Cromwell, CT

Reason for Removal: Closed

Number of Members: 33

Year Joined the Covenant: 1892

Peak Membership: 130

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

During the last two years of pandemic, the congregation has suffered the loss of two-thirds of its active members. A portion of the membership resides nearby at Covenant Living and has withdrawn from participation due to risks of infection. They have settled into attending the Sunday chapel service at Covenant Living. A portion of the membership has departed the church due to disappointment and disagreement over theological issues related to human sexuality.

Attendance in the last year has been about 15. In considering the resources, energy, and future of the ministry, the leadership recommended closure. After a month of conversations, the congregation voted to dissolve and to conclude active ministry at the end of June. Rev. Michael Langer has been their pastor since 2019.

The Hilltop congregation (formerly Covenant Congregational Church of Cromwell) has a long and venerable history of innovative and faithful ministry in Cromwell. The members of the church were central to the formation of the Swedish Christian Orphanage, later renamed the Children's Home of Cromwell, and presently named Ädelbrook. Members of the church served faithfully in teaching, tutoring, and discipling children, and youth. Through the mid-1950s, the conference's summer conferences were held at the Cromwell "hilltop," attracting thousands for open tent meetings. The church was active in serving and supporting this significant ministry effort. When Pilgrim Manor was relocated to Cromwell in the 1960s, members were active in providing care and encouragement to senior residents. The Manor enfolded into Covenant Village of Cromwell, now known as Covenant Living Communities and Services.

Hilltop has faithfully served Christ and the East Coast Conference family. In their formative years, it was a source of blessing and healing to hundreds of children and youth living at the Children's Home. Many were led to Christ, nurtured in the faith, and established in life with a divine purpose.

**GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE
SUPERINTENDENT: GARTH MCGRATH**

Artisan Church

Location: Rochester, New York

Reason for Removal: Withdrawn

Number of Members: 70

Year Joined the Covenant: 2004

Peak Membership (approximately): 70

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Artisan Church has been deeply involved in ministries of compassion, mercy, and justice since their inception. In 2021 Artisan determined that due to theological differences related to the Covenant stance on human sexuality, the congregation would withdraw from the Great Lakes Conference and the denomination.

Gateway Community Church

Location: Powell, Ohio

Reason for Removal: Withdrawn

Number of Members: 35

Year Joined the Covenant: 1990

Peak Membership (approximately): 338

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Gateway lost missional momentum in recent years, and the congregation diminished in numbers. Efforts to revitalize the ministry did not bear fruit but partnering with a local church plant gave hope for continued ministry. In 2021 Gateway decided to merge with Press Church (a church plant of Converge, formerly known as the Baptist General Conference), led primarily by a Converge church planter, and became Press Church. The church began to regain missional traction. The church determined that a dual affiliation (Covenant and Converge) would not help them advance their mission and decided to relinquish their membership in the Covenant denomination.

Nueva Vida

Location: Jamestown, New York

Reason for Removal: Withdrawn

Number of Members: 74

Year Joined the Covenant: 2009

Peak Membership (approximately): 74

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

The church determined in 2021 that they would pursue a different direction and leave the Covenant due to differences in doctrine and practice, including the Covenant's stance on infant baptism and the ordination of women.

**MIDWEST CONFERENCE
SUPERINTENDENT: TAMMY SWANSON-DRAHEIM**

Brookwood Covenant Church

Location: Topeka, Kansas

Reason for Removal: Closed

Number of Members (when church closed): 35

Year Joined the Covenant: 1873

Peak Membership (approximately): 225

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Brookwood Covenant Church experienced a steady decline of membership over the last decade. It was further accelerated in recent years by the departure of its most recent pastor. At the time of his departure, the church opted for a lay-led structure and struggled to gain traction. This faithful congregation made the difficult decision to close the church and use their remaining resources to bless ministry efforts within the community and within the denomination.

Fellowship Covenant Church

Location: Arvada, Colorado

Reason for Removal: Withdrawn

Number of Members: 75

Year Joined the Covenant: 2000

Peak Membership (approximately): 350

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

On May 23, 2021, the congregation of Fellowship Covenant Church passed a vote to withdraw from the denomination. This fellowship, with over 138 years of faithful ministry, was originally known as Heritage Bible Church and in 2000, joined our membership through an adoption. Despite honest work on the part

of both the church and the conference, the good folks of Fellowship were unable to find a home in the Covenant.

**PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE
SUPERINTENDENT: GREG YEE**

Sunset Covenant Church

Location: Portland, Oregon

Reason for Removal: Closed

Number of Members: 14

Year Joined the Covenant: 1968

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

After many decades of fruitful ministry and work around revitalization, including exploring a relaunch, the church concluded it was time to conclude ministry as their numbers continued to decline. Though the local church ministry has come to an end, the church's legacy will continue through a preschool and a transitional housing for women program that will function from the facility.

**PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE
INTERIM SUPERINTENDENT: JEAN CHENG GORMAN**

Convergence Covenant Church

Location: Oakland, California

Reason for Removal: Closed

Number of Members: 28

Year Joined the Covenant: 2008 (Covenant church plant)

Peak Membership: 120

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Convergence was launched as a Covenant church plant in 2008. After gaining good momentum, they joined the Covenant as a member church in 2012. Following the recent departure of some members, remaining leaders discerned that greater "missional energy" was needed to continue. The church voted to close in February and held its final worship service on March 13, 2022.

Jehovah Es Mi Pastor

Location: South San Francisco, California

Reason for Removal: Closed

Number of Members: 9

Year Joined the Covenant: 1998

Peak Membership: 50

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Pastor Humberto Reyes has retired from ministry after many years of faithful service, and the church decided to close after his retirement.

My Father's House

Location: San Marino, California

Reason for Removal: Closed

Number of Members: 24

Year Joined the Covenant: 2017 (adoption)

Peak Membership: 50

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

My Father's House final worship service was held February 27, 2022. After years of faithful service, leaders realized that they would need greater missional energy to continue. They voted to close in February of 2022.

Shelter Covenant Church

Location: Concord, California

Reason for Removal: Closed

Number of Members: None

Year Joined the Covenant: 2003

Peak Membership: 100

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Shelter Covenant Church was a church plant that launched in 1999. After several key leadership transitions, a tiny remnant of Shelter's members merged with a non-Covenant church. They hoped to keep their Covenant identity, but current leaders confirm those members are no longer members of the church.

Restoration Covenant Church

Location: Redlands, California

Reason for Removal: Withdrawn

Number of Members: 90

Year Joined the Covenant: 2007

Peak Membership: 102

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Restoration has requested an amicable withdrawal from the Covenant, related to their mission to love people in their community well. They are seeking to find a “third way” in relationship to the Covenant’s discerned position on human sexuality. Conference leadership has been in good conversation with local church leaders and affirms the amicable nature of this parting.

Kerman Covenant Church

Location: Kerman, California

Reason for Removal: Merger

Number of Members: 60-70

Year Joined the Covenant: 1970

Peak Membership: 120-140

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

In the Fall of 2021, Kerman Covenant Church merged with La Viña Covenant Church, a Latino congregation that Kerman Covenant Church helped to plant in prior years. The merger was done intentionally and thoughtfully, with input from congregation and leadership from both congregations speaking into the newly blended church. They are now recognized as La Viña Covenant Church; Michael Jordan serves as its lead pastor.

**SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE
SUPERINTENDENT: CATHERINE GILLIARD**

Bethany Evangelical Covenant Church

Location: Miami, Florida

Reason for Removal: Withdrawn

Number of Members: N/A

Year Joined the Covenant: 1928

Peak Membership (approximately): N/A

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Due to pastoral and lay leadership intentionally becoming more independent and moving away from the Covenant polity, this historic church has decided to leave the conference and denomination.

Bridges Church

Location: Tavares, Florida

Reason for Removal: Closed

Number of Members (when church closed): 115

Year Joined the Covenant: 1986 as Asbury Covenant, 2008 as Bridges

Peak Membership (approximately): 119

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Bridges lost momentum during the pandemic. They lost people and funds, which led to their closing.

Church in Motion

Location: Holly Springs, North Carolina

Reason for Removal: Closed

Number of Members (when church closed): 42

Year Joined the Covenant: 2013

Peak Membership (approximately): 50

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Church in Motion was struggling prior to the pandemic. Their attendance and resources further deteriorated and dwindled during the pandemic. This led to their vote to close.