



## 2022 Annual Meeting Ballot

The following names have been nominated by the Board of Nominations and the Covenant Executive Board and are now on the official ballot for the 136th Covenant Annual Meeting. Biographical sketches of these candidates are included.

The listing of nominees may be altered on the official ballot if any candidate declines before the time of election.

### 2022 BALLOT FROM THE BOARD OF NOMINATIONS:

#### EXECUTIVE BOARD

*(six-year terms)*

**Sam Chang**

Christ Covenant Church in Villa Park, IL

**Eric Palmquist**

Wolf's Covenant Church, York, PA

**G. Dany Flores**

Iglesia del Pacto Vida Plena, Oak Park, IL

**Justin Noseworthy**

All Things New Church, Monterey, CA

**Jocelyn Torres**

Iglesia Del Pacto Peniel, Chicago, IL

*(five-year term)*

**Linnea Carnes**

Covenant Community Church, Fairfield, OH

*(four-year term)*

**Barbara Coslow**

Faith Covenant Church, Farmington, MI

*(three-year term)*

**Margie Swenson**

Kingdom City Covenant, Houston, TX

#### BOARD OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY

*(five-year terms)*

**Susan Cosio**

University Covenant Church, Davis, CA

**Dennis Carlson**

Redeemer Covenant, Carrollton, TX

**Kyliah Clarke Villa**

Faith Covenant Church, Burnsville, MN

**Alice Lee**

Mosaic Covenant Church, Stafford, TX

#### BOARD OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

*(five-year term)*

**Barbara Grinbergs**

Pine Lake Covenant Church, Bellevue, WA

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY**

*(three-year term)*

**Donna Harris**

Community Covenant Church, Minneapolis, MN

*(one-year terms)*

**Jay Carstenbrock**

Glen Ellyn Evangelical Church, Glen Ellyn, IL

**Mary Miller**

Bethany Covenant Church, Berlin, CT

**David Otfinoski**

Haddam Neck Covenant Church, East Hampton, CT

**ANNUAL MEETING OFFICER FOR 2022 & 2023**

*(two-year term)*

**Secretary**

**Norma Ramos**

Iglesia del Pacto Evangelico Peniel, Chicago, IL

**COVENANT MINISTRIES OF BENEVOLENCE BOARD**

*(five-year term)*

**Bill Clark**

Redeemer Covenant Church, Tulsa, OK

*(two-year term)*

**Art DeRooy**

Hilmar Covenant Church, Hilmar, CA

**2022 BALLOT FROM THE COVENANT EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR BOARD OF NOMINATIONS:**

*(four-year term)*

**Rick Mylander, Pacific Northwest Conference**

Newport Covenant, Bellevue, WA

*(three-year term)*

**Toni Schwabe, Northwest Conference**

Rice Creek Covenant Church, Lino Lakes, MN

*(two-year term)*

**Joe Muzzi, Great Lakes Conference**

Crossroads Community Church, South Lyon, MI



## 2022 Board of Nominations Candidates

### NOMINEE TO THE COVENANT EXECUTIVE BOARD

Great Lakes Conference Representative Linnea Carnes

**Retired Pastor  
Mason, Ohio**



The Rev. Dr. Linnea E. Carnes is a retired Evangelical Covenant Church pastor. Dr. Carnes was ordained by The Evangelical Covenant Church in 1993. She served as an assistant pastor at First Covenant Church in Denver, Colorado and as the pastor of Covenant Congregational Church in Pawtucket, Rhode Island. She was the pastor of Immanuel Evangelical Covenant Church in Chicago from 1999 to 2013. During her ministry at Immanuel the congregation changed from predominantly white American to a multiethnic first-generation immigrant church representing fourteen nationalities, which was reflective of the community surrounding the church. Dr. Carnes earned a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Kansas (1965), a Master of Divinity from Denver Seminary (1991) and a Doctor of Ministry in Preaching from North Park Theological Seminary (2006). Dr. Carnes was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Divinity from North Park Seminary in 2014. Her book, *Inclusive Preaching in a Divisive World* was published in 2020. Dr. Carnes and her husband Kip have two married sons and four grandchildren.

**Personal statement of faith:** I grew up going to church and participating in church activities. In many ways, God was very much my Father even before I made a conscious decision to put my trust in Jesus Christ as my Savior. During my high school years, I realized that I needed to give my life to Jesus. Yet it was not until my 20's that I fully surrendered my life to him. Each place we lived and each church we attended over the next 20 years provided opportunities for spiritual growth. God keeps surprising me in wonderful ways as I follow Christ. While the preparation for ministry came over many years, it was not until my mid-40's that I even considered seminary. I had been involved in various lay ministries in every church we attended. My husband urged me to consider attending seminary. While I resisted this at first,

I finally realized that this was something I really wanted to do. It was not until my last year of seminary, after some valuable pastoral ministry experience, that I could see myself as a pastor.

## **NOMINEE TO THE COVENANT EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Central Conference Representative

**Sam Chang**

**Director of Digital Data and Analytics**

**– eCommerce and Marketing**

**Mars Wrigley**

**Chicago, Illinois**



Sam Chang is a licensed bi-vocational minister in the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) and attends Christ Covenant Church in Villa Park, IL. Sam has previously served as a member of the Covenant Executive Board (2008-2014), as well as Parliamentarian for Gather 2015 and 2016, and Moderator for Gather 2017 and 2018. He received his B.A. in New Testament Biblical Studies from Wheaton College and his M.A. in Theology from the Wheaton College Graduate School. In addition to his work in ministry, Sam is a full-time marketing professional working for Mars Wrigley in downtown Chicago. Sam is married to Jenny and has three children (ages 14, 16, 18).

**Personal statement of faith:** Although I was born and raised in a Christian household, I didn't make my own, personal dedication of faith until I was in 7th grade. It was at a church summer retreat that I came to the realization that I wanted to follow Christ of my own accord and not because of my parents, and it was at that point that I truly began my "spiritual pilgrimage." It was through prayers of repentance, petition, and commitment that I began that journey, and although I might refer to that time as when I was "saved," I feel that ever since then, God has continued to save me and that my salvation will be made complete when His Kingdom comes. Since then there have been numerous experiences that have shaped both my theology as well as the Christian I am today. Despite trials, tribulations, and failures, the only thing that hasn't changed is my belief that God is the God of yesterday, today, and tomorrow, and that I can trust in His provision.

## NOMINEE TO THE COVENANT EXECUTIVE BOARD

Great Lakes Conference Representative

**Barbara Coslow**

**Retired Nurse Practitioner**

**Troy, Michigan**



Barbara Coslow has been a member of Faith Covenant Church in Farmington Hills, Michigan since 1976. She is the widowed mother of two sons and grandmother to two grandchildren. Her previous experience at the denominational level has included serving on the Board of Benevolence and co-chairing the Tellers and Sergeant of Arms for the Annual Meeting, the latter for six years. In her home church she has served as a Sunday school teacher, a member of the Executive board, on a search committee and is currently a member of the Congregational Care Commission.

Barbara's career was as a nurse practitioner. She is a founding board member and volunteer at Covenant Community Care in Detroit, Michigan. She enjoys swimming, hiking, traveling, reading and needlework.

**Personal statement of faith:** I accepted Christ as my savior at age eight and have tried to focus on being a follower of Christ since then, even in my career as a Nurse Practitioner.

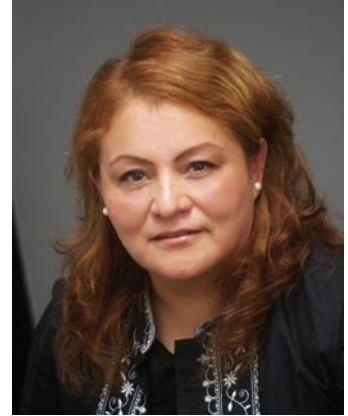
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## NOMINEE TO THE COVENANT EXECUTIVE BOARD

Central Conference Representative

### G. Dany Flores

**Church Planter, Financial Adviser and Lecturer  
Chicago, Illinois**



Rev. G. Dany Flores is an ordained minister in the Evangelical Covenant Church and has been a church planter on the south side of Chicago. She has served in the ECC for 26 years and is now in the process to plant a church in the Illinois area and has been on this journey along with her husband Rev. Sergio Gonzalez with her three kids, Rev. Meztli Doles, Tietl and Citlalli.

Her ministry has been multifaceted from doing art camps, providing counseling/financial aid and now with her immigration degree from Fuller, has been able to help the immigrant community with information and resources. Rev. G. Dany Flores has served on the Central Conference Executive Board, Latino ministries/committees with North Park University, and as the CHET Chicago coordinator.

Rev. G. Dany Flores currently serves as facilitator for Jornada de Justicia para niños and JumpStart in Spanish at the ECC. She is also the mentor of the first Latino cohort of Thriving Women in Ministry at North Park Seminary and is part of the ECC Board of Ordered Ministry.

**Personal statement of faith:** My conversion as a Christian was thanks to the help of Reverend Luis Retamal, when I was a student finishing my GED. I had many personal problems, such as a double personality, in my marriage, and Jesus Christ deliberated me in November of 1994. From then on I have understood that Jesus Christ is the truth, life, and my shining light. He has done many wonderful things in my life, such as making my marriage stronger and has given me wisdom to be able to educate my three children. Walking with Jesus Christ has not been easy; but I have come to understand that Jesus polishes us through hardships to make us stronger. Day by day I try to elaborate what Philippines 3:12 says “Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me” (New International Version). Day by day I notice that through the diversity there has been a lesson that I can apply to my life and the life of others in a

positive way. I depend on the Lord to make decisions, have a vision, and to dream so that one day I can be in the Lord's presence. I can grow spiritually in a mature way as long as I keep trusting in the Lord, spend more time with the Lord, and obey the Lord.

## **NOMINEE TO THE COVENANT EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Pacific Southwest Conference Representative

**Justin Noseworthy**

**Pastor**

**All Things New Covenant Church**

**Monterey, California**



Justin Noseworthy is the founding Pastor at All Things New

Covenant Church in Monterey, CA. He holds a Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary and is an ordained ECC pastor. He has a deep passion for seeing the gospel shared and lived in community. In his spare time, he enjoys being with his family, surfing, and playing soccer.

**Personal statement of faith:** I hated our sporadic church attendance as a child. I was allowed to choose whether or not I would continue attending church once I was in middle school. I gladly chose to stop all church involvement. In eighth grade I reluctantly attended an after-school Bible study. I expected to be met with judgment and hostility. Instead, I was met with God's love and grace. From there I returned to church involvement, attended Westmont College, and slowly began to fall in love with Jesus over the coming years. I quit my job and had plans to travel. I sustained a knee injury and was kept in town longer than I had planned. Over coffee, a youth pastor friend asked if I would be willing to consider working as a middle school ministry director. Though I felt unqualified to lead a ministry I felt as if God was calling me to accept the position. I ended up working in youth and worship ministry at that church for over ten years.

## NOMINEE TO THE COVENANT EXECUTIVE BOARD

East Coast Conference Representative

**Eric Palmquist**

**Senior Pastor**

**Wolf's Covenant Church**

**York, Pennsylvania**



With a passion to see people grow in faith, Eric enjoys building meaningful relationships, encouraging people and sharing the Good News of the Gospel. He and his wife Krista have been married for 22 years and have two daughters Anna & Elsa. Born in Boston, Massachusetts and raised in New Hampshire, Eric has served the Evangelical Covenant Church in administrative and pastoral roles for over 30 years. Eric currently serves as Sr. Pastor of Wolf's Covenant Church, where he has been ministering since 2016. Eric received his Master of Business Administration as well as a Master of Divinity from North Park Theological Seminary and is ordained with the Covenant. A lifelong learner, Eric is currently pursuing a Doctor of Ministry in Lifelong Leadership Formation from Fuller Theological Seminary. Eric enjoys bicycling, coffee, and spending time with the family.

**Personal statement of faith:** As the son of a pastor, I spent much of my youth growing up in the church where, at an early age, I accepted Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I have been grateful for the guidance and formation of the Holy Spirit on my faith journey. I continue to strive to live out my faith through acts of compassion, discipleship and nurturing others on their own journey of faith.



## NOMINEE TO THE COVENANT EXECUTIVE BOARD

Midsouth Conference Representative

**Margie Swenson**  
**Kingdom City Council Member**  
**Houston, Texas**



Margie is married to Baxter Swenson and is the mother of three sons, three daughters (her sons' wives), and is the grandmother of three. She felt a call into mission at age 8 and never deviated from that call. Margie and Baxter encountered the ECC at Denver First Covenant in 1972, a month before their wedding day. They were called by the Covenant in 1975 to serve in Medellin, Colombia. In 1989 they were evacuated to Quito, Ecuador where they served for 18 years. They ended their years in Ecuador by serving at Covenant Bible College Ecuador from 2000 to 2007. When CBCE closed, they were called to serve as the Co-Directors of Missionary/Global Personnel and served in that capacity until 2017.

Margie and her son Joshua were ordained together in 2016. Since 2018, Baxter and Margie have been serving at Kingdom City Covenant Church, Houston as part of the Council (Executive Board), which she chairs. Though she can think of many ministry highlights, one of the most treasured is creating, writing, and editing a 12-year Spanish Sunday school curriculum that has been used around the world in multiple languages.

**Personal statement of faith:** Raised in a strongly committed Christian family, I heard the name of Jesus from before I was born and grew to love God at an early age. I made my first step of faith when I was three by asking Jesus to be my Savior. Though I understood very little of what that meant, I understood enough to know that I needed a Savior and that I wanted to be a Christ-follower. Throughout the course of my lifetime, I have never strayed far from that commitment and have never lost my awe at being chosen by God, that by God's grace and mercy and through the sacrifice of Christ at Calvary, I have been rescued, redeemed, restored to relationship and invited to participate in advancing the Kingdom. My life of discipleship was nurtured by parents and grandparents who were fully committed to knowing God and being known by God. They modeled healthy Christian living for me. Sunday school teachers, camp counselors and friends built on that foundation and helped me grow deeper in faith. In high

school I was part of a small group of peers who were all committed to seeking hard after God. Biola College was a great place of spiritual nurture and growth. Throughout my life God has faithfully brought me mentors and spiritual directors who have helped me stay the course of "a long obedience in the same direction. Baxter and our sons have been a constant source of spiritual encouragement. Thanks be to God!

## **NOMINEE TO THE COVENANT EXECUTIVE BOARD**

Central Conference Representative

**Jocelyn Torres**

**Recruiter**

**Medline Industries, Inc.**

**Northfield, Illinois**



Jocelyn Torres graduated from Roosevelt University with a Bachelor's in Business Administration, with a concentration in Human Resources Management, and currently works as a recruiter at Medline Industries, LP. She is a member of Iglesia del Pacto Peniel, a Hispanic congregation located on the southeast side of Chicago. Jocelyn also currently serves as the director of dance ministry and youth counselor.

**Personal statement of faith:** I strive to be a better follower and believer in Christ by continuing to grow my faith within the church by spreading the word and love of God by my actions to everyone around me. I believe in acting justly, having mercy, and walking humbly as Jesus Christ did. I believe in a loving, understanding, and accepting God. He is the creator of all things and I will continue to trust in Him forever.

## NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY

Midsouth Conference Representative

**Dennis Carlson**  
**Retired Pastor**  
**Denton, Texas**



Dennis has served in a wide variety of Covenant and Serve Globally contexts. He pastored churches in the Pacific Northwest, Midwest, Northwest, and Great Lakes and was active in congregations in several other conferences. His roles of service have included solo pastor, interim lead pastor, and associate pastor, as well as global personnel in both Africa and Latin America. He has served in rural, small town, suburban, and urban settings. His diversity of roles, locations, and more than 40 years of service to the denomination have provided breadth and insight into the wide diversity of God's servants and their places of call. Dennis holds a bachelor's in psychology from Seattle Pacific University, a Master of Divinity from North Park Theological Seminary, and is ordained with the Covenant. He currently serves as the Crescendo Coach (MDD) for the Midsouth Conference and as a leading advocate for Biking for Congo (PCP). He and his wife, Mary Lynn, relocated from Michigan to Texas in 2020 at the onset of the pandemic and he is now a member of Redeemer Covenant, Carrollton, TX.

**Personal statement of faith:** I will be eternally thankful to God for the Christian nurture and care into which I was born within the Covenant family in San Jose, California. My parents were both active laypeople in the church and modeled and taught God's love and the redemptive power of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. My father's life of prayer, Christian stewardship, and commitment to the worldwide mission of the church was particularly formative in my life. I look to a time when I was 12 years old and made a personal commitment to trust Christ and fully follow him in discipleship. Wayne Stark, who was my confirmation pastor and continued as my pastor for 10 years through my college years, was also a significant guiding influence in my life.

## NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY

Pacific Southwest Conference Representative

**Susan Cosio**

**Staff Chaplain**

**Sutter Medical Center**

**Sacramento, California**



Susan is ordained to Word and Sacrament in the ECC, and has served as a hospital chaplain for the past 16 years at Sutter Medical Center, a large medical center in Sacramento, California; one of the most diverse cities in the U.S. For 3 years, she has been the chair of the Covenant Chaplains Association. She also serves- part-time as Pastor of Spiritual Formation and Care at University Covenant Church in Davis, CA. She has been actively involved in the ECC at a conference and denominational level. She and her husband, Gib, have been married for 36 years, and have three grown children.

My love for the Covenant Church has deepened over 25 years of service to the church, the PSWC, and the ECC. I am particularly passionate about equipping and caring for our pastors and chaplains, women and men, as they seek to follow God’s call and be faithful and resilient in ministry. I believe we need to sustain a vital relationship with Jesus, and rootedness in the Covenant for connection, care, continued growth and accountability.

**Personal statement of faith:** I grew up going to church with my Mom, but didn't live as a Christian until college. At 19, I studied the Gospel of John with my college roommate, and my heart quickened. That was when I committed my life to Christ. Much of my sense of compassion and morality came from my faith, and I grew spiritually through Bible studies and short-term mission trips. But I really committed to discipleship as an adult. After I married and became a parent, a series of family crises helped me recognize my utter dependence on God, and my inability to control the circumstances of life. I developed a life of prayer and Scripture study, and began listening and obeying the promptings of the Holy Spirit. My involvement in Bible Study Fellowship and University Covenant Church gave me opportunities to grow and serve, and mentors to nurture my faith. The more I grew in faith, the more I wanted to serve: as a teacher, program coordinator, and an elder. The corollary was also true: the more I served and nurtured my spiritual gifts, the more I grew in my faith. Today, I continue to grow in faith as I serve in new and exciting ways, including discipleship training, mentoring of younger Christians,

retreat and community speaking, writing, teaching and preaching, spiritual direction, denominational leadership and hospital chaplaincy.

## **NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY**

Northwest Conference Representative

### **Kyliah Clark Villa** **St. Paul, Minnesota**



Kyliah and her husband, John, live in the Twin Cities with their four children. Ordained since 2013, she holds a BA in Spanish from Calving University and an MDiv from Fuller Seminary. She enjoys preaching, teaching, and asking good questions. Kyliah is passionate about the power of God’s good news to transform lives and communities as the kingdom draws near.

**Personal statement of faith:** In early childhood I made a decision to follow Jesus, after learning from my parents. My faith became more personal as I grew through involvement with church, summer camp, and Campus Life ministries. I taught Sunday School even while in HS and held university & seminary positions of leadership that taught me more about service. These days God is teaching me many lessons through the journey of parenting young children and balancing ministry and family needs.

I first wrestled with a call to ministry as a teenager. Growing up in a denomination that did not ordain women, I continued to seek the scriptures and pray about this potential pathway throughout my college years. After three years of public-school teaching, I felt God leading me toward seminary. It was while at Fuller that I came to peace about my call and decided to pursue vocational ministry in a church setting—as opposed to strictly academic circles.

## NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY

Midsouth Conference Representative

**Alice Lee**

**PPCG Technical Communications Manager**

**Schlumberger**

**Sugarland, Texas**



Alice has been blessed to partner in life and ministry with Pastor Ed Lee for 37 years. They planted Mosaic Church (intentionally diverse), where Pastors Melissa (daughter) and Anthony Emerson now lead and where Matthew (son) leads worship. Alice's MA in Christian Education is from Dallas Theological Seminary. Alice is a manager at Schlumberger, is SPHR & GPHR certified in human resources, and a Green Belt in Lean Six Sigma.

**Personal statement of faith:** When I was about 12, I wondered about the purpose and meaning of life. I observed the daily routine and how meaningless it was. God brought my brother's friend, Nancy Ko, into my life and she invited me to church. At Sunday school, the teacher asked if I was saved. I heard not heard the gospel before, so he explained the plan of salvation. I still remember the song sung at Sunday school was "Seek Ye First" and somehow, the seed was planted. It only took several days of thinking it over before I received Christ at home on August 11, 1975 when I was 13.

The Chinese Independent Baptist Church gave me a firm foundation and love for His Word with many godly men who lived the truth and taught it faithfully (many pastors or seminarians had roots at this church). I was also discipled by a godly woman as we met for Bible studies weekly, with great opportunities to serve as the youth co-president, Bible study leader, choir member, prayer, and organized multiple CEF 5-Day clubs for a summer in church member homes that brought many little ones into the Kingdom!

## NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

Midsouth Conference Representative

**Barbara Grinbergs**  
**Manager of Total Compensation**  
**Overlake Hospital**  
**Bellevue, Washington**



Barb is an accomplished Human Resources leader with experience in a wide range of industries including health care, high tech software, telecommunications, energy, airlines, aerospace, manufacturing and government administration. Barb possesses has a great love for retirement and benefit plans and has over 30 years of experience in human resources. She currently manages compensation, retirement, and benefits plans for a major Seattle-area hospital. She also serves as the unofficial HR Consultant for Pine Lake Covenant Church in Sammamish, Washington. Barb is a Certified Compensation Professional (CCP) a Senior Professional in Human Resources (SPHR) and a SHRM Senior Certified Professional (SHRM-SCP). She holds a Masters Degree in Industrial Relations from Loyola University of Chicago and a Bachelors Degree in Sociology from Eastern Illinois University.

**Personal statement of faith:** I was raised in a Christian family, where my mom and dad were active servants for Jesus Christ and modeled the Christ-like attitude I aspire to have. I became a Christian as a child (do not remember the exact date), and then re-dedicated my life to Christ at age 15 during a high school sleepover at a church. I accepted an altar call given by a band which was performing. I was very active in Inter-Varsity Christian Fellowship during college and have never fallen away from my faith. Jesus Christ is my personal friend and savior. I could not make it in this world if I did not have my faith in him. I consider myself a "work in progress" and I continue to study, pray, and learn more about being a disciple and sharing my faith with those who do not know him.

**NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTH PARK  
UNIVERSITY**

Central Conference Representative

**Jay Carstenbrock**  
**Retired**  
**VP of Operations Support**  
**Wheaton, IL**



Jay is currently a member of the North Park University Board of Trustees. He serves as vice chair of the Board, chair of the Seminary committee, and chair of the search committee for North Park’s next Dean of the Seminary and Vice President for Church Relations.

Jay earned his BS and MBA from the University of Minnesota. He is a retired vice president of operations support for BP; in a more than 26-year career with BP, Jay held numerous senior level finance and operations positions and was often called upon to lead through change. His roles have included CFO, transformation program director, strategy and performance director, and senior business advisor. After retirement, Jay returned to work for BP as a contractor for three years to assist BP with the Gulf of Mexico crisis response.

Jay has engaged in numerous other charitable, civic and religious involvements, formerly serving on the Board for the Repeat Boutique in Wheaton, IL; and the Board of Metro Chicago Youth for Christ. Jay currently serves on the Glen Ellyn Food Pantry Board, and is church chair and a member of Glen Ellyn Evangelical Church. He and his wife, Barbara, have three daughters.

**Personal statement of faith:** Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. It has been my joy to walk with Him for a lifetime. I owe Him everything, and my deep desire is to be light and salt wherever or in whatever circumstance He places me. To God be the glory.



## NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

Northwest Conference Representative

**Donna Harris**  
**President**  
**Minnehaha Academy**  
**Minneapolis, Minnesota**



Since 2009, Donna Harris, Ed.D. has served as President of Minnehaha Academy, a PreK-12 Christian school founded in 1913 by the Northwest Conference (NWC) of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC). Prior to serving Minnehaha Academy, Donna served as Assistant Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer at Valley Christian Schools, a K-12 school located in the Bay Area. Prior to her work in independent schools, Donna earned a bilingual teaching credential and taught in public schools, twice receiving Intel Corporation's prestigious *Innovation in Teaching* award. Donna has frequently presented at conferences on topics such as project-based learning, integration of technology, governance, strategic planning, leadership, and school improvement. She is an adjunct professor in Baylor University's Master's Degree Program in Christian School Leadership. Donna authored a chapter in the book, *Building a Better School* entitled *Diversity in the Christian School*. Donna has served on the Board of Trustees at North Park University (2010-2015), the Minnesota Independent School Forum (2013-2016) and currently serves as a trustee for the Ordway Center of Performing Arts (2016-Current), and Hope Academy (2019-Current). She is the board chair for the accrediting association for 247 independent schools, the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS 2016-Current). Donna was ordained to Word and Service by the ECC in 2019. She has been married to Rick for 40 years and has five adult children and five grandchildren. She is a member of Community Covenant Church located in North Minneapolis.

**Personal statement of faith:** I accepted Christ as my personal Lord and Savior at the age of eight and was baptized shortly thereafter. Through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, I received forgiveness of my sins His love, grace, and gift of eternal life. In complete reliance on God's leading in my life and with his help, I can truly say that my faith has not wavered since the day I accepted Christ as Savior. As I have

navigated the path God has set before me personally and professionally, my heart's desire is to continue to grow spiritually, deepen my knowledge of God's Word and its application, and to honor God with integrity and wholeness. I affirm that there is only one God, revealed as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. I affirm that Jesus is the expression of God's bridge between Himself and humanity. The broken fellowship that we have with God is restored by Christ's sacrifice on the Cross. I affirm that the Holy Spirit is a person who lives within and guides us into all Truth. I affirm that the Holy Scriptures (the Bible), the Old and the New Testament, is the Word of God and the only perfect rule for faith, doctrine, and conduct and affirm the centrality of the Word of God.

**NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTH PARK  
UNIVERSITY**

East Coast Conference Representative

**Mary Miller**  
**Chaplain**  
**Covenant Village of Cromwell**  
**Middleton, CT**



Mary is a current member of the North Park University Board of Trustees, serving in her role since 2017 and also during that time as board secretary. Mary is a chaplain at Covenant Living of Cromwell, CT. Previously, she was a pastor in the Midwest, a vice president (and first woman officer) of the Evangelical Covenant Church and the director of a Lilly Endowment grant. Mary has served on many national boards in the Covenant, including the North Park University Board of Trustees for five years during the 1990s. She has been a columnist for *The Covenant Companion* and authored articles printed in *Leadership Journal*, *The Christian Century* and *The Covenant Quarterly*, among others. Mary has also authored a book, titled *Living with Loss*. During the 2017 Midwinter Conference, she received the North Park Theological Seminary's Alumni Award for Distinguished Service. Mary is a member of Bethany Covenant Church in Berlin, CT.

**Personal statement of faith:** My faith has deepened over the years, knowing that God created me from his love, saved me through Christ's salvation and nurtured me in the Holy Spirit. As an ordained minister

I have had the privilege of daily enhancing my own spiritual growth by participating in the body of Christ, studying his Word and serving others inside and outside the church. Teaching confirmation, preparing texts for sermons and Christian spiritual direction training were treasured activities that kept me on my knees and challenged!

**NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTH PARK  
UNIVERSITY**

East Coast Conference Representative

**David Otfinoski**  
**President**  
**Catamount Medical Education**  
**Chester, Connecticut**



David is the current chair of the North Park University Board of Trustees. He has served as a member of the board since 2016, and also was a board member from 2009 – 2014. David is currently president and CEO of Catamount Medical Education and former CEO of MedKnowledge, LLC. Previously he has served as CEO of MyBusinessAssistant and account director at R.R. Donnelly & Sons Corporate Giving Program.

David graduated from North Park in 1984 with a B.A. in History and earned an M.B.A. from Sacred Heart University. He is married to Maria (Varalli) Otfinoski C'84 and they have two children, Annie and Benjamin C'14, as well as a daughter-in-law, Sommar (Johnson) C'14 G'21. David is a member of Haddam Neck Covenant Church in East Hampton, CT.

**Personal statement of Faith:** I came to faith in Christ as a young teenager at the Covenant camp in New Hampshire. Since that time, my faith has served as the motivating factor shaping how I behave towards others, exist within my work environment, and consider where to focus my time, talents and resources. I know I am an imperfect vessel for the Christian message, yet each day I pray I can bring the presence of the living God to the world around me.

## **NOMINEE AS ANNUAL MEETING SECRETARY**

Central Conference Representative

**Norma Ramos**

**Administrative Assistant**

**Mizkan America, Inc.**

**Mt. Prospect, Illinois**



Norma has served as an associate pastor at Iglesia del Pacto Peniel since 2014. Since 1998 she has variously served as a church treasurer/secretary, Bible study teacher (youth), substance abuse counselor, women’s minister leader and a worship team member (vocal/keyboards). She has been an administrative assistant at the Central Conference of the ECC and a manager of ministry services of operations at the denominational level.

Norma enjoys traveling with her daughters, acrylic painting and sharing the Gospel.

**Personal statement of faith:** I believe Jesus was sacrificed, rose on the third day, overcoming death, and gave me access to God the Father through Him as He sits at the right-hand side of God the Father. Since the time God planted the seed of Life in me through His Living Word, I've confessed my faith in Jesus Christ, my mediator, my hero, my Lord and Savior, been baptized, submit in the authority of His Living Word, and serve Him with eternal gratefulness in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, all in Jesus Mighty Name, Amen!

## NOMINEE TO COVENANT MINISTRIES OF BENEVOLENCE BOARD

Midsouth Conference Representative

**Bill Clark**

**Board of Directors**

**The Common Good**

**Tulsa, Oklahoma**



In 1987, Bill transferred his ordination to the Covenant and planted Redeemer Evangelical Covenant Church, the first Covenant church in his home state of Oklahoma. He is married to Dr. Laurie Clark, a family physician and medical school professor in Tulsa. They have four grown children and, so far, three grandchildren. As the retired pastor of Redeemer Covenant Church, Bill now serves on the board of the Common Good, a community service organization in Northwest Tulsa.

**Personal statement of faith:** I grew up with a solid, though not consistent contact with the Church. My parents raised my brother and me in a pattern of regular attendance in a Presbyterian Church. Our family life was greatly altered by a serious illness which struck my father when he was only in his mid-30's. His connection with the church waned in the initial stages of his malady. Left to my own spiritual devices, I began to drift in my early teens from any consistent Christian nurture. At the age of sixteen, I encountered Jesus Christ through the efforts of several caring people associated with a local church and a para-church organization. After wrestling with God's claim upon my life, I gave my allegiance to Christ in a private yet memorable moment.

Almost immediately following my encounter with Christ, I became certain that both God and I would be pleased if I went into vocational Christian service. I can remember looking at seminary catalogs at the same time I was making a decision about where to go to college. With a feeling of genuine gratitude, I must add that no one I know has been given more assistance in the confirmation of a calling, the financing of seminary education, and in matters of general guidance. God has been very gracious to me.

## NOMINEE TO COVENANT MINISTRIES OF BENEVOLENCE BOARD

Pacific Southwest Conference Representative

**Art DeRooy**

**Retired Milk Controller**

**Hilmar Cheese Company**

**Hilmar, California**



Art has lived in California nearly all his life and in Hilmar, California for nearly as long. He joined the Covenant through his marriage to Laurel in 1983. He is blessed with two grown children and two small grandchildren (who all reside in Hilmar!!) He retired from Hilmar Cheese Company in 2021 after 26 years (working from home during Covid was great retirement practice). Worship with and service to God through Hilmar Covenant Church has been the guiding trail in his learning and growing faith. He has served on many boards and ministries at church, on the Emanuel Hospital Board for many years, and for multiple CMB board tenures, all the while loving the Covenant and the Lord we serve more and more. Art started and restarted ministries at church during the recent challenge of worship life under Covid. He is looking forward to helping God's Kingdom into the post-Covid time.

**Personal statement of faith:** Jesus has been my savior since youth. I have not always honored that relationship until adulthood. Now I cannot imagine my life without Him and the world without His Church. The Church is still his bride, and we can honor Him in so many ways through service.

## NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF NOMINATIONS

Great Lakes Conference Representative

**Joe Muzzi**

**Lead Pastor**

**Crossroads Community Church**

**South Lyon, Michigan**



Joe has been the Lead Pastor of Crossroads Community Church in South Lyon, Michigan since 2006 and part of the Crossroads church community since 1999. Joe graduated from Ashland Theological Seminary with a Master of Arts in Practical Theology in 2007 and completed a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from the Dominican Center for Religious Development (2005). Additionally, Joe has a Master in the Art of Teaching degree from Marygrove College (2000). Joe was ordained in the ECC in 2011. Crossroads was a partner church in the planting of City Covenant Church in Detroit and the two churches have maintained a close relationship ever since. This has included Crossroads leading VBS and supporting City Covenant's meals program once a month by taking over and giving the City Covenant workers a break. Over the last several years Crossroads has expanded ministry to the community by starting a daycare center and a counseling center as well as joining with other churches in the community to start a health clinic. Following the CovEnterprises model, Crossroads has begun a landscaping business with the hope of employing people exiting the criminal justice system in the future. In addition to his role at Crossroads he has served the Covenant as Chair of the Great Lakes Conference Ministerial Association from 2016 to 2019. Beyond the Covenant he has served on the boards of Capernaum Health Clinic (2012 to present, Chair 2014-2016), Faith In Action International (Haiti Mission Organization 2010-2013) and the Dominican Center for Religious development (2009-2012, 2020 to present). Joe has been married to his wife JoAnne for 39 years and they have one adult son, Tony.

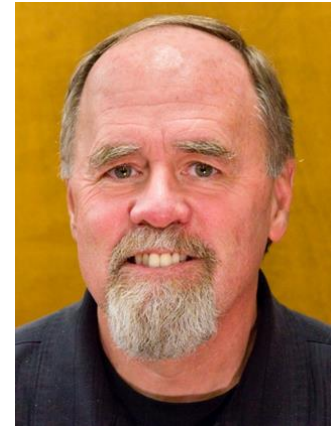
**Personal statement of faith:** I was born and raised in a Catholic family. Baptized as an infant and educated in Catholic schools. Like many people the promises of my Baptism began to crystallize in me as a teenager. Two events at this time were particularly helpful in my formation. My senior year of high school I went on a retreat through my Catholic school. Through the spiritual exercises practiced at this

retreat I experienced a deep connection with God. The second event that shaped me at this time was a youth night sponsored by a non-denominational church called the Fisherman's Net. There was an altar call that night and I responded, from there I was placed in a youth Bible study which met weekly. The Bible study helped me to gain a love of scripture. The Sunday services, which I frequently attended, were very different from what I experienced in the Catholic Church. At the time it was hard for me to recognize the common foundation. That was confusing but I wanted both. I wanted the mystery and the deep spirituality of my Catholic heritage and the knowledge and certainty of the Protestant expression of faith that I learned at the Fisherman's Net. As an adult those ideas began to merge and I began to see the common foundation of the expressions and the need for both to have a full spirituality. As an adult my journey has led me to desire and seek a balanced expression of my Christian faith.

## **NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF NOMINATIONS**

Pacific Northwest Conference Representative

**Rick Mylander**  
**Transitional Interim Pastor**  
**Coupeville, Washington**



Rick Mylander is a spiritual director and veteran Covenant pastor and administrator. He served two decades in pastoral roles, then another eighteen years as Associate Superintendent and Director of Church Planting in the Midwest Conference. These past seven years he has served in several transitional intentional interim pastor positions, focusing on crisis situations. Since 2016 he has also been president of the Association of Covenant Spiritual Directors. An inner-city Chicagoan who grew up at Grace Covenant, and a graduate of both North Park College and North Park Theological Seminary, he now makes his home base in Coupeville, Washington with his wife Gail, with whom he shares ministry and celebrates life; they have four married children and eleven grandchildren. Rick is an active member of Newport Covenant in Bellevue, Washington and involved also in spiritual direction leadership in the Pacific Northwest Conference. An avid blogger on creation and Christian spirituality ([www.rickmylander.com](http://www.rickmylander.com)), Rick enjoys family, hiking, natural history, writing, camping, and Lou Malnati's Chicago deep-dish pizza.



**Personal statement of faith:** It was my simple privilege but distinct blessing to be raised in a home where a life of faith was valued, and attention given to the importance of spiritual nurture through such things as Sunday school, Bible camp and youth groups. I was presented the way of salvation as a boy, and chose to follow Christ at the seasoned(!) age of seven. Still, my Christian walk since that time has been the primary focus of my life, and my heart is eagerly and gratefully set upon Jesus Christ as Savior, Lord and Friend.

## **NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF NOMINATIONS**

Northwest Conference Representative

**Toni Schwabe**

**Pastor**

**Rice Creek Covenant Church**

**Lino Lakes, Minnesota**



Toni served as the Director of Women Ministries for the Northwest Conference from 1999-2007. She graduated with an M.Div from North Park University and was ordained in 2015. Since then, she has led as the Senior Pastor at Rice Creek Covenant Church in Lino Lakes, Minnesota. Together with her late husband, Dan, she has two adult children and three grandchildren. They all reside in the suburbs of the Twin Cities.

**Personal statement of faith:** I am one of the privileged people who was raised in a family that loved Jesus deeply and with great confidence. Both Covenant churches I grew up in were filled with people who modeled life as Christ followers to be something I always aspired to. At age 8 I understood accepted the gift of eternal life that Jesus has provided and from that moment I desired to live as a Christ follower, too. I have seen Jesus direct my steps, provide care through the ups and downs of the years. I have experienced his love through it all. The song that has been resonating with me these past months says, "All my life you have been faithful, All my life you have been so so good."