



3StrandStrong

The 3STRANDSTRONG CHALLENGE

3StrandStrong describes a powerful partnership between your church, your conference, and the Covenant denomination. Ecclesiastes 4:12 says, “...a triple braided cord is not easily broken.” As local churches, conferences, and the Covenant, we are woven tightly together so that we can accomplish greater work in the mission of God’s Kingdom than we could accomplish apart from each other. Your church comes face to face with the spiritual, emotional, and physical needs of people and responds with Christ-like compassion. Your conference provides support and resources for pastors, churches, and church leaders, and comes alongside congregations experiencing hard times. **The Covenant works in unity with congregations and conferences to—**

- **Send and support missionaries**
- **Provide help to those in the world in greatest need**
- **Pursue justice for the oppressed**
- **Plant new churches and offer resources to strengthen existing churches**
- **Train pastors and missionaries and chaplains**
- **Foster the flourishing of women**
- **Make new disciples, and deepen believers in the walk of faith**

There is still much more we want to do together as the Lord provides funding. We have a goal of making 50,000 new followers of Christ and planting 125 new churches in the next five years, as well as partnering with numerous churches in neighborhood transformation projects. That is why 3StrandStrong is so important.

Just as we teach the people in our churches to tithe of their income, so we ask every Covenant church to faithfully present a tithe to the Lord that will be invested in the Kingdom work we do together. We ask your church to designate it this way: 6.5% of church income set aside for the Covenant; and 3.5% for your conference. Please pray and then answer this question—**will your church accept the 3StrandStrong challenge?**



Congregation.
Conference.
Covenant.

3strandstrong.org

2021 Covenant Mission and Ministry Impact Summary

3StrandStrong



The Covenant Mission and Ministry Fund comprises gifts that fuel our five Mission Priorities each year. We are grateful to God that our missional movement responds so generously to meet the significant needs and opportunities of our time all around the world. Because of you, we are better together—and we accomplish more—for God’s glory and neighbor’s good.

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” — EPHESIANS 2:10, NIV

Together...

- *we see more people transformed by the love of Christ through proclamation and demonstration.*
- *we share and tell more of God’s story.*
- *we strengthen churches, pastors, and global personnel (missionaries).*
- *we extend compassion and hope to marginalized people.*
- *we go deeper in Christ and further in mission.*

Join us in celebrating all that was accomplished in 2021 through your gifts that helped us join God in God’s mission to see more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world.

THE COVENANT'S
STRATEGY OF
PARTNERING WITH
GOD IS TO PURSUE
GOD'S MISSIONAL
PRIORITIES IN THE
FOLLOWING AREAS.



START AND STRENGTHEN CHURCHES

- 24 new Covenant Agreements (the agreement to plant a church) were signed.
- 60 church plants are actively receiving training, coaching, and resourcing.
- 500+ people from 17 churches participated in the beta version of pHCheck, the new missional health survey.
- 40 coaches were trained to coach 100 pastors in church planting, change management, and personal ministry growth.



MAKE AND DEEPEN DISCIPLES

- More than 700 engaged the new BLESS in Living Color materials, a 10-day devotional course on multiethnic evangelism in Spanish and English.
- 190 attended our first BLESS evangelism conference.
- First virtual Crescendo conference and six-week webinar series was attended by 200.
- Over 1,000 students, youth workers, and parents joined the virtual Unite for Hope gathering.
- 163 children and family ministry leaders registered for the Justice Journey for Families and Kids virtual conference.
- Launched the "Love the Cov" podcast in collaboration with Marketing and Communications, to explore Covenant identity by reflecting on our history.



LOVE MERCY DO JUSTICE

- 55 churches from all 11 regional conferences received Missional Relief Grants to address needs in their communities during Covid.
- \$1.3 million was distributed to serve communities, churches, camps, and affiliated organizations around the world.
- Becoming a Beloved Community resource suite was created to assist churches in living more deeply into the call of the full expression of Christ's church.
- 12 entrepreneurs entered our Covenant Enterprises network, four to be mentored as promising business owners; two launched new social enterprises, each receiving a loan of \$25,000.



DEVELOP LEADERS

- \$80,000 distributed from the Ministers' Care and Crisis Fund to care for pastors in need, including for medical emergencies, Covid-related costs, and therapeutic counseling for more than 38 families.
- \$110,000 of aid provided through financial education and a financial aid grant to help 12 pastors get out of financial debt.
- 1,826 active Covenant pastors and leaders throughout North America and abroad are being resourced.
- 100 pastors are receiving regular coaching to better serve their churches.



SERVE GLOBALLY

- 95 global personnel and local global partners are receiving support and serving in over 50 countries on five continents.
- 14 service trips organized by 94 leaders in the Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan and Ethiopia; 7,643 individuals baptized predominantly in refugee camps.
- \$100,000 was raised to support six domestic and international partners in FREE, our anti-sex trafficking initiative.
- Covenant Church of Congo medical professionals partnered with Paul Carlson Partnership Medical Ambassadors in training and practice to reduce infant deaths by 50% and maternal deaths by 78% over the past four years.

**Thank you for
your partnership
in the gospel
and moving our
mission forward
together!**

All gifts to the mission and ministry of the Covenant can be given online at giving.covchurch.org



2022

DIRECTED MINISTRY
OPPORTUNITIES



The Evangelical Covenant Church

COVENANT MISSION AND MINISTRY

Deeper in Christ. Further in mission. Together.

Supporting the Mission and Ministry of the Covenant through Our Five Mission Priorities

Directing gifts offers donors the opportunity to align their heart's passions and commitments with those of the Covenant.

As we seek to make an eternal difference all around the world, know that together we seek to "join God in God's mission to make more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world."

covchurch.org/giving



Directed Giving Opportunities

START AND STRENGTHEN CHURCHES

CHURCH PLANTING

Church plants are one of the main means by which people come to know Christ and for the unchurched to come into Christian community. **Our 2022 goal is to plant 20 churches, host three assessment centers, and two training events.**

BUDGET: \$200,000 supports one church plant for four years (an additional year is required for getting launched and established during Covid)

MISSIONAL VITALITY

The new missional vitality congregational survey, pHCheck, serves as a gateway to a wide range of resources among all the mission priorities. **Four new tools for church health are now available.**

BUDGET: \$10,000 to facilitate in-person training on the new tools for additional workshop leaders as demand for resources and coaching increases. Workshops will be available in person and online depending on the request.

\$5,000 for Spanish translation of new resources

COACHING

COACH Model training is for anyone coaching church planters, pastors **leading their congregations through change**, conference and church staff, and lay leaders.

BUDGET: \$3,000 to facilitate a COACH Model training

\$10,000 to send two leaders of color to train for teaching the COACH Model in order to deepen our pool of trainers of trainers."

MAKE AND DEEPEN DISCIPLES

EVANGELISM IN THE COVENANT

We seek to continue to **raise the temperature of evangelism across the Covenant** through our newest resource, BLESS Rhythms. This annual calendar invites the church to live into a rhythm where we begin with prayer, find ways to serve our communities with love, and develop meaningful relationships as we share the good news.

BUDGET: \$10,000 for the development of new BLESS Rhythms web resource and to support production and distribution costs.

COVENANT IDENTITY

The recently launched **"Love the Cov"** podcast dives into Covenant history, discovering what makes us Covenant. We share personal stories answering the question, "When are we most Covenant?"

BUDGET: \$5,000 for production costs of stories and lessons that preserve Covenant history. Digitized recordings will be preserved in the F.M. Johnson Archives and Special Collections.

CRESCENDO

Crescendo focuses on **unleashing the missional potential of boomers and beyond**. Crescendo coaches are launching an initiative to identify and equip lay connectors in churches committed to serving this demographic. Crescendo is also working with the AAMA, ALIPE, CAPA, and IMA (ethnic ministers associations) to discern and develop ways to serve this demographic in their churches.

BUDGET: \$10,000 will allow us to launch these initiatives and see Crescendo in 40 more churches in 2022.

DEVELOP LEADERS

CARING FOR THE MINISTERIUM

PERSONAL THRIVING

The Covenant cares about the health and well-being of our 1,826 active ministers, and the many who are retired. Our desire is to continually resource our pastors, chaplains, and missionaries and **give attention to their personal and vocational vitality as they live out God's call** on their lives. Your gift enables us to resource Covenant ministers with needed spiritual direction, coaching, and personal retreats.

BUDGET: \$50,000 for personal retreats, coaching, and spiritual direction to help Covenant clergy to remain healthy for their churches, families, and themselves.

FINANCIAL THRIVING

The Covenant desires to cultivate a culture of financial excellence as pastors take charge of their own, and their congregation's, financial health. The challenges of the pandemic exposed significant economic needs within our pastoral community. **We seek to serve clergy where their needs are greatest, such as:**

- Helping under-resourced congregations provide their pastors with additional health resources and contributions to their retirement plan.
- Ministers Care and Crisis Fund provides funding to emergency medical and financial needs, such as counseling, healthcare, or emergency home repairs beyond the local church's ability to provide.

BUDGET: \$50,000 addresses financial distress with many of our pastors and under-resourced churches.



LOVE MERCY DO JUSTICE

INTERCULTURAL AGILITY TRAINING

A foundational element of becoming the mosaic kingdom is **intercultural agility—understanding our own culture and the culture of others.** With understanding, we are better equipped to bear witness to the love of Christ with people from different walks of life the way Jesus did with the Samaritan woman at the well. LMDJ offers multiple intercultural agility training and leadership development opportunities.

BUDGET: \$50,000 provides training workshops at 17 Covenant churches, camps, or ministry affiliates.

COVENANT ENTERPRISES

LMDJ is committed to helping Covenanters create and sustain communities of Shalom. One strategy to that end is by **launching new businesses that create jobs and stimulate economic growth in under-resourced communities.** Covenant Enterprises promotes economic justice by providing financial support to business startups in communities across the Covenant. Business owners receive coaching and assistance writing a business plan, market analysis, economic justice, and social outcomes.

BUDGET: \$125,000 in micro-enterprise grant money will fund 10 new projects this year.

SANKOFA

The Sankofa Journey, now in its 24th year, seeks to be a journey for personal and corporate change that leads to spiritual transformation. Through multiple historic Civil Rights sites visited, videos watched, and active processing of the journey, relationships of trust are deepened in an environment of grace. Over 2,000 Covenanters have participated in this **three-day discipleship experience aimed at strengthening our connection to each other and to the purposeful narrative of our Black brothers and sisters.**

BUDGET: \$25,000 will subsidize this transformative experience for Covenanters who otherwise would not be able to participate, helping 40 more to “get on the bus!”

SERVE GLOBALLY

GLOBAL PERSONNEL

All global personnel seek to raise 100% of their support. They rely on partnerships with churches and individuals to make their ministry possible. Please consider **coming alongside our personnel who are experiencing a funding gap** so they can continue ministry in their country of service.

BUDGET: \$120,000 is needed for underfunded personnel and their ministry in Latin America, Asia, MENA, Europe, and Africa.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Our partners are engaged in holistic, transformative work in their communities. Consider **supporting our ministry partners** specifically in DR Congo, South Sudan and Ethiopia, and Latin America. Local pastors and leaders who oversee community development and the programs they initiate in partnership with Covenant World Relief and Development are transformational.

BUDGET: \$75,000 Contextual pastoral resources (Bibles, seminary training, creation of discipleship and evangelism resources)

\$100,000 Starting and strengthening churches (DR Congo and Kenya)

\$50,000 Transformational community development (South Sudan and Ethiopia)

FREE: ANTI-SEX TRAFFICKING INITIATIVE

Through our gifts we join in solidarity with victims and survivors of sex trafficking to see transformation in the lives of the people and communities impacted by this evil. We are in year two of fundraising for the campaign. **Join us in meeting our goals for 2022.**

BUDGET: \$100,000

Intervention: \$25,000

- Average cost for one person: \$6,000

Prevention: \$25,000

- Advocacy resources, poverty reduction, access to education, gender equity

Rehabilitation: \$50,000

- Scholarships for individuals
- Services for holistic healing, medical fees, legal fees, counseling, etc.
- After care support center



How can I support God's mission through the Covenant?

Gifts are needed for general mission, directed mission, and designated mission to support God's whole mission to the whole world through the Evangelical Covenant Church. **Which types of giving are right for you?**

GIFTS TO

Directed Mission

Support specific, directed ministry projects. Once project is complete, any remaining funds may be used to support another ministry in that mission priority.

- Global Personnel (Covenant Missionaries)
- FREE: Anti Sex-Trafficking Initiative
- Covenant Partnerships with Global Churches
- Crescendo

- Evangelism
- Covenant Identity
- Church Planting
- Missional Health
- Coaching/Training
- Covenant Enterprises
- Sankofa
- Intercultural Agility
- Ministerial Care
- Congregational Thriving

GIFTS TO

Designated Mission

Support specific ministry projects. Funds remain restricted even when project is complete.

- Covenant World Relief and Development
- Covenant Kids Congo
- Paul Carlson Partnership
- Lilly Financial Initiative
- Sustaining Pastoral Excellence

GIFTS TO

General Mission

Supports general mission and ministry through our five mission priorities.

- Church planting throughout the US and Canada
- International partnerships in 59 countries
- Equipping and supporting pastors
- Ordered ministry
- Resources for evangelism and discipleship
- Gospel demonstration through resourcing and equipping to serve alongside marginalized populations for community transformation

For additional information on any directed ministry project, contact Mission Advancement at giving@covchurch.org.