

The graphic features a dark blue background with a faint, stylized image of people in a church setting. At the top center is a white geometric logo. Below it, the text 'Gather 2022' is written in a large, white, serif font. Underneath that, 'DELEGATE SUMMARY' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

Gather 2022

DELEGATE SUMMARY

Gather 2022 was the first Annual Meeting in the history of the Evangelical Covenant Church to be held in a hybrid format. A total of 712 delegates were registered and certified, 432 delegates participated in-person in Kansas City, Missouri, while 280 delegates participated online. This delegate summary provides an overview of Gather 2022 for delegates to share with their congregations. Related news releases are also available at gather.covchurch.org.

Feel free to use these highlights to deliver an official report to your congregation's board, council, or leadership team. Some Covenant churches publish this information in congregational newsletters or emails. We invite you to use this summary in whatever way best serves you and your church.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE MISSION

- The Covenant received seven new churches into membership.
- Delegates honored and prayed for two newly commissioned church planters, Valarie Grimes and Enéas Barbosa, and 15 church plants that have signed Covenant agreements.
- Nineteen churches were voluntarily removed from the membership roster: nine closed, nine withdrew, and one merged.

SERVANT LEADERSHIP FOR THE MISSION

- Tammy Swanson-Draheim was elected the 11th president of the Evangelical Covenant Church, the first woman to serve in this role.
- Grace Shim was elected executive minister of Serve Globally, the first woman, the first Asian American woman, and the first active global personnel to be elected in this role.
- Herb Frost was elected executive minister of Develop Leaders and the Ordered Ministry.

- Dennis R. Edwards was affirmed in his call to serve as dean of North Park Theological Seminary and vice president for church relations, the first African American to serve in this role.
- Kara Stromberg was installed as the superintendent of the Northwest Conference.
- Bryan Murphy was installed as the superintendent of the Pacific Southwest Conference.
- Delegates voted to affirm the call of Todd Slechta to serve as president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence.
- Delegates voted to affirm the call of J. Nathan Clayton to the Old Testament faculty of North Park Theological Seminary.
- Twenty-three individuals were elected to denominational boards.
- Delegates voted to ordain 39 individuals to Word and Sacrament and 12 to Word and Service, commission one, and finalize the transfer of ordination for three ministers. The service of ordination, commissioning, and consecration of new Covenant ministers was the culmination of Gather 2022.



STATE OF THE MISSION

John Wenrich began his president's report by addressing the theme for Gather 2022, "Above All Else," elevating the importance of the Holy Spirit's leading and guidance in all facets of the life of the church. He recognized the value of gathering in person after being unable to do so in 2021, emphasizing that our active partnership is more effective when we are gathered together.

ORGANIZATION OF THE MISSION

- Delegates approved a motion calling for the newly elected president to "return to the 2023 Annual Meeting with a report on the work being done to address our divide on human sexuality and provide a clear update on the direction and progress that is being made for our path forward as a denomination."
- The Executive Board withdrew its Strategic Alignment Team recommendation and all associated constitutional and bylaw amendments, with the understanding that the new president will provide general direction for ministry matters.
- Howard Burgoyne shared an update on the Freedom, Unity, and Responsibility Resource Paper, which a team has been working on for the past four years. A draft is ready to translate into Spanish, and the team will seek input from a wide range of voices over the next year, in order to present the paper to the 137th Annual Meeting in June 2023.

HONORING FAITHFUL SERVICE IN MISSION

- The 2022 Irving C. Lambert Award, recognizing outstanding urban and ethnic ministry, was presented posthumously to John "Big John" Phillip Perkins.
- The 2022 T.W. Anderson Award, recognizing outstanding laypeople, was presented to Percy Mueda of Grace Covenant Church in South San Francisco, California.

- Outgoing leaders John Wenrich, David Kersten, Rebecca Gonzalez, Paul Wilson, and Mark Stromberg were honored for their service to the Covenant.
- The Covenant awarded 49 individuals with Clergy Lifetime Service recognition.
- Four missionaries were recognized upon their retirement: Bob Shim, Rhonda and Kent Egging, and Cheryl Clark.
- A Resolution of Sympathy was adopted praising God for the lives and ministries of dedicated Covenanters who have gone to be with the Lord, including 32 pastors, four global personnel, and 21 pastors' spouses.

FUNDING THE MISSION

- The Covenant Annual Meeting approved a Fiscal Year 2023 budget of \$18,289,248, as presented by Steve Klimkowski, executive director of finance.
- National Covenant Properties reported that 4,400 mission-minded investors funded 266 loans to Covenant churches, camps, retirement facilities, and affiliated organizations totaling \$275 million in commitments.
- Covenant Trust Company reported that in 2021, assets under management grew to \$1.26 billion. Total giving to Covenant ministries through CTC in 2021, including legacy and current gifts, was \$12.3 million.

THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

The 137th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church will take place June 29–July 1, 2023, in Orange County, California. Please visit covchurch.org for more details.

For more details on any of these items or to watch videos of the 136th Annual Meeting, visit covchurch.org/gather.