



2023 Irving Lambert Outstanding Urban Ministries Award

THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH PRESENTS THE 2023 IRVING C. LAMBERT AWARD TO HAROLD SPOONER

In grateful recognition of faithful commitment and passionate dedication to the cause of Christ through wholistic urban and ethnic ministries.

For stepping into a role with the Evangelical Covenant Church that was instrumental in setting a path forward in justice and reconciliation and leading the new Department of Compassion, Mercy, and Justice under the umbrella of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence; for shepherding that transition to the denominational office, where Love Mercy Do Justice became one of our five mission priorities.



For being a key architect in launching the Sankofa Journey; for enduring multiple bus trips; and for your commitment to justice and racial righteousness that was deeper than your comfort.

For servant leadership through your roles within Covenant Ministries of Benevolence—Covenant Initiatives for Care, Covenant Retirement Communities (now Covenant Living), the Council of Administrators, advisor to Compassion, Mercy, and Justice/Love Mercy Do Justice. For your work creating spaces and inviting people to tables where their voices could be heard, particularly the gathering of the Ethnic Roundtable introducing the Five-Fold Test (now the Six-fold Test for Multiethnic Ministry) that you were instrumental in crafting.

For your skill in navigating systems within the Covenant community, for being gracious and speaking your mind, for being a visionary and a realist; for your ability to work across constituencies of the church to achieve kingdom impact.

For your strong commitment to justice, love for God's people and the Covenant family.

For being a "Repairer of Broken Walls, Restorer of Streets with Dwelling" (Isaiah 58:12).

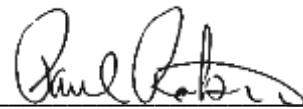
For being a stellar collaborator, equalizer for justice with a strong emphasis on race and class; for being a courageous and heroic leader, stepping into and staying in hard places, all in the spirit of love for God's glory and neighbor's good.

For embodying the spirit and service of Irving C. Lambert, we celebrate Harold Spooner and give thanks to God for his faithful and compassionate service.

Presented at the 137th Annual Meeting, on the 30th day of June in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-three.



Tammy Swanson-Draheim, President



Paul Robinson, Executive Minister,
Love Mercy and Do Justice