



The Evangelical Covenant Church

2022 MISSION AND MINISTRY IMPACT REPORT

Celebrating Covenant Mission and Ministry Together

Gifts to the Covenant Mission and Ministry Fund provide support to all five mission priorities of the Evangelical Covenant Church—Make & Deepen Disciples, Start & Strengthen Churches, Love Mercy Do Justice, Develop Leaders, and Serve Globally. The five mission priorities guide our kingdom work so that together we are able to join God in God's mission to see more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world.

As we reflect on this past year of mission and ministry, we are overflowing with thankfulness to God for all he accomplished through the Evangelical Covenant Church in 2022.

860 Covenant Churches

Serving a variety of communities

33% of Covenant congregations are ethnic or multiethnic

Reflecting our roots as an immigrant church

26% of Covenant churches serve town and country or rural settings

150 town and country leaders receive support through the Covenant's Rural Impact Leadership Conference and Covenant-sponsored webinars

1,200+ leaders from 39 congregations participated in the new pHCheck missional health survey

Congregational health checkups

57% of Covenant church plants are led by persons of color

400+ leaders and pastors from across the country attended Eleva Conference

Spanish-language leadership training conference

\$1,030,000 in consumer aid grants awarded to 100 pastors

Covenant Financial Leadership Initiative

56 church plants received coaching, training, and financial resourcing

Coaching extended for five years to each pastor/plant

Raising Up New Leaders

A record 476 first-year students enrolled at North Park University. 227 Ministry Leaders at North Park Theological Seminary on campus and regional satellite centers, and School of Restorative Arts



So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

COLOSSIANS 2:6-7



\$90,000 in grants toward sustaining pastoral excellence

150 clergy received spiritual direction, coaching, sabbatical grants, and personal retreats

270 students currently enrolled in CHET—Spanish-language theological training center

71 graduates in 2022

460 women serving in pastoral ministry

Serving 1,750 Covenant ministers

Credentialed pastors, chaplains, global personnel, and congregational leaders

55 individuals received ordination credentials

Serving as Covenant pastors, chaplains, global personnel, and ministry staff

\$100,000 for critical needs from the Ministers' Care and Crisis Fund

Assistance to 47 pastors and families in 2022

150+ serving in vibrant bivocational ministry

Often in under-resourced settings

Mobilizing the 60+ age group

100+ participants attended the virtual Crescendo Conference

1,567 baptisms

3,441 first-time decisions / recommitments to Christ

As reported by 437 churches completing 2022 ASR

130 participants in the BLESS Evangelism Conference

18 camps re-open after Covid

Serving thousands of individuals and families

Embrace webinars

- 150 participants
- 5 new human sexuality discipleship resources

God moving in the next generation

Regional conferences hosted 2,118 high school students at 5 regional Unite events

Addressing food desert after grocery store closed

Aftermath of mass shooting in Buffalo, New York

19 flood-damaged homes restored in 176 days

28 volunteers in Mound Bayou, Mississippi

Bottled water for Jackson, Mississippi residents

Responding to failed water filtration plant

\$74,000 in ministry development grants

Educational justice, youth development, immigrant shalom, food insecurity, post-incarceration services, support to the unhoused

69% increase in cross-cultural competency testing scores

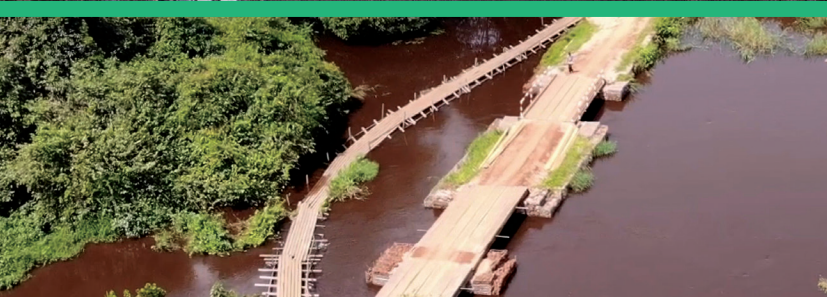
Antiracism discipleship pathway participants

92 global personnel serving alongside local partners

- 23 countries
- 5 continents

25th Anniversary Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan and Ethiopia

- 435 churches
- 75,000 members
- 68 ordained ministers
- 3 churches constructed
- 12,501 baptisms
- 102 leaders sent on 5 ECCSSE mission trips



The Center for World Christian Studies

Training 214 individuals at North Park Theological Seminary

\$960,000 to people of Ukraine

To assist with housing, food, clothing, medical care, transportation, trauma counseling, and immigration services

Global church short-term learning and service

328 participants in Merge/Global Engagements

Medical ambassadors

Serving 4 hospitals and 115 regional medical clinics in DR Congo

10 bridges completed for pedestrians, bicycles, motorcycles, and vehicles

Increase in daily crossings by 200% from previous year in DR Congo between Bogose, Nubea, and Karawa

\$2.6 million to support community development and disaster relief

121 projects in 52 countries through our partners

FREE: Anti-Sex Trafficking initiative

- 8 grants to domestic and global partners
- 112 survivor children received intervention and rehabilitative services
- 300 individuals benefited from preventative efforts through our partners



The mission and ministry of the Covenant is a collective and collaborative work we are called into together—local church, conferences, and Covenant in mutual partnership—3StrandStrong.

Deeply rooted and built up in Christ we are woven together—to God and one another.

Thank you for your partnership!



The Evangelical Covenant Church

COVENANT MISSION AND MINISTRY

2023 Directed Ministry Opportunities

Directed ministry projects offer opportunities to direct your support to the area of Covenant mission and ministry that most closely aligns with your heart's passions and commitment as part of our collective ministry together.



So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness. COLOSSIANS 2:6-7

Support the Mission and Ministry of the Covenant through our Five Mission Priorities



Directed Giving Opportunities



The mission and ministry of the Covenant is a collaborative work we are called into together—local church, regional conference, and Covenant in mutual partnership—3StrandStrong. Deeply rooted and built up in Christ, we are woven together to God and one another. We come together in ministry to do more than we can do alone, for God's glory and neighbor's good.

START AND STRENGTHEN CHURCHES

CHURCH PLANTING

New churches are one of the most effective means by which people come to know Christ and by which unchurched people enter Christian community and renew their faith. We seek to plant at least 20 churches in 2023, and host three assessment centers and two church planter events.

GOAL: \$150,000 will support one church plant for three years in an under-resourced, highly missional setting.

MISSIONAL VITALITY

Our new online congregational survey, pHCheck, opens a gateway to a wide range of resources that support the health and effectiveness of our churches. Available in both English and Spanish, nine new resources, including tools for conflict transformation along with leading and managing change, are now available.

GOAL: \$10,000 to facilitate training additional workshop leaders in the new tools as demand for resources and coaching increases.

MAKE AND DEEPEN DISCIPLES

EVANGELISM

We intend to keep raising the temperature for evangelism across the Covenant using BLESS Rhythms, an annual calendar inviting churches to live into a rhythm of beginning with prayer, finding ways to serve our communities with love, and developing relationships as we share the good news.

GOAL: \$10,000 for production and distribution costs of BLESS Rhythms.

CRESCENDO

In most Covenant churches, Boomers are an untapped resource for significant missional impact. Crescendo coaches are being trained to equip lay leaders in every church to prepare and unleash this age demographic for kingdom impact across the mosaic of our multiethnic denomination.

GOAL: \$10,000 will train additional Crescendo coaches in 40 more congregations in 2023.

DEVELOP LEADERS

THRIVING IN MINISTRY COHORTS

We're committed to investing in and caring for the well-being of 1,750 active ministers called to serve the body of Christ. We seek to offer our clergy transformational experiences that encourage them toward dynamic learning, curiosity, an open mindset, and listening to the Spirit's leading, enabling them to develop personal and vocational vibrancy.

GOAL: \$75,000 (\$15,000 per cohort focusing on preaching, leading, or ministry).

MINISTERS' CARE AND CRISIS FUND

This compassionate fund exists to support ministers in times of crisis and need. Financial assistance addresses basic economic needs, health care, and restorative treatment for marriages and families. Relieving financial stress helps pastors attend to emotional and relational well-being.

GOAL: \$100,000 provides 34 pastoral grants per year.

LOVE MERCY TO JUSTICE

THE ANTIRACISM DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY (ADP)

This initiative fosters learning, growth, and racial righteousness discipleship while building community through diverse gender, multiethnic, multi-racial engagement. Your support will help grow the ADP community and strengthen our multiethnic mosaic of churches.

GOAL: \$15,000 for training additional presenters.

THE ADVOCACY FOR VICTIMS OF ABUSE INITIATIVE

This historically important Covenant ministry is developing new interactive, in-person training to help clergy and lay leaders create safe sanctuaries that address intimate-partner violence and sexual assault.

GOAL: \$25,000 for training facilitators, scholarships, and curriculum.

SHALOM CIRCLES

Justice is God's brand and God's signature (Psalm 9:16)! We can make God known by pursuing communities of completeness, soundness, welfare, justice, and peace—communities of shalom. LMDJ is seeking to develop a cadre of leaders across the Covenant to host a Shalom Circle in each conference, providing support for those in need in rural, town and country, and urban settings.

GOAL: \$15,000 for Shalom Circle projects, and to recruit and train presenters.

SERVE GLOBALLY

GLOBAL PERSONNEL

Our global personnel raise 100% of their expenses, relying on partnerships with churches and

donors. In 2023, their budget goals increased by \$3,000 to address inflation and increased ministry costs. Consider partnering with our global representatives to meet their goals as they serve God and his purposes in the world.

GOAL: \$200,000 to provide support for all personnel and their ministries in Latin America, Asia, MENA, Europe, and Africa.

GLOBAL PARTNERSHIPS

Our partners around the world bear witness to the good news through ministries of word and deed that have a transformative impact. We invest in the local leaders of historic partners in the DR Congo, South Sudan and Ethiopia, and Latin America as they plant and strengthen missional churches, develop culturally relevant resources, and engage in sustainable and transformative community development work. With our support, our global partners are making a significant difference where they live and serve!

GOAL: \$125,000 for partners on the two continents mentioned above to complete their work.

GLOBAL PERSONNEL AND PARTNER CRISIS FUND

In recent years, our global personnel and partners have navigated ministry creatively and steadfastly. Several have experienced hardships of health and family loss, which result in emergency expenses for travel, medical, and emotional care. The Crisis Fund enables these servants to get physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual care when they need it most.

GOAL: \$100,000 to assist our personnel and partners when unexpected tragedy or illness occurs.



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 a 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
- AVA
- Crescendo
- Evangelism
- Church Planting
- Missional Health
- Coaching/Training
- Sankofa
- Intercultural Agility
- Ministerial Care
- Anti-Racism Development Pathways
- Shalom Circles
- 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



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