



## Churches Applying for Membership

Based upon the recommendation of the respective conferences, the Executive Board recommends to the 137th Annual Meeting that the following churches be accepted into membership in the Evangelical Covenant Church.

CHURCH	APPROXIMATE MEMBERSHIP	APPROXIMATE ATTENDANCE
<b><u>MIDWEST CONFERENCE</u></b>		
New Community Covenant Church Kansas City, MO	10	60
Trailhead Covenant Church Longmont, CO	50	65
Hillside Community Church Denver, CO	45	60
<b><u>CENTRAL CONFERENCE</u></b>		
Uptown Covenant Church Chicago, IL	30	70
Luz de Esperanza Covenant Church Campton Hills, IL	60	70
Grace Comunidad Pacto de Amor Chicago, IL	10	30
Iglesia del Pacto Evangelico Nuevo Amanecer Chicago, IL	25	30
<b><u>PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE</u></b>		
Coastline Covenant Church Redondo Beach, CA	80	200
Harbor LA Covenant Church Los Angeles, CA	50	100

**SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE**

Rock Harbor Covenant Church Melbourne Beach, FL	75	285
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**Summary:**

Number of new churches:	10
Cumulative approximate membership:	435
Cumulative approximate attendance:	970

**Report on Churches Joining the Covenant**

The mission of the Covenant is stronger, richer, and more diverse because of the 10 churches joining this year. Each of these churches brings with them a ministry that will enrich the kingdom's contribution of the whole Covenant denomination, and each church will be enriched by its connection with the Covenant. The following is a synopsis of each congregation. Each story testifies to both the handiwork of God in raising up a ministry and the faithfulness of committed people in carrying out that ministry. What is less visible is the role that every Covenanter has had in these stories. Through making possible the elements of a pastoral assessment process, financial support, training, and strategic services, every Covenanter has a place in these stories.

**MIDWEST CONFERENCE**

**New Community Covenant Church**  
**Kansas City, MO**  
**Pastor: Darryl Answer**

**Average Attendance: 60**

New Community began as a Bible study in the home of Darryl and Stephanie Answer in January 2016. Through a partnership with the Evangelical Covenant Church and World Impact, New Community was welcomed as a new church plant into the Covenant in 2017. The church exists as a network of spiritual families who meet in homes. Once a month they have a collective worship gathering at the Linwood YMCA. The Covenant helped through relational and financial support from Hillcrest Covenant Church in Prairie Village, Kansas. Currently New Community has a growing network of spiritual families, a mutual aid fund, micro grants, and an asset-based community development initiative called Eastside University.

**Trailhead Covenant Church**  
**Longmont, CO**  
**Pastor: David Barton**

**Average Attendance: 65**

Trailhead Church had its public launch in the spring of 2019. Thanks to the initial financial support from the Covenant and other partners in faith, this “parachute” launch began with a very small team that has grown into a vibrant faith community. This growth has been solidified through strong relationships with area Covenant churches and other churches in Longmont, as well as various nonprofit partnerships. Since the fall of 2021, Trailhead has incorporated a unique pattern for Sundays we call “rhythms.” Each month this includes a meal shared through small group table fellowships, corporate worship, and community engagement. These rhythms have not only allowed us to embrace the everyday reality of God’s kingdom at hand but have also drawn in many new families who are longing for this kind of faith community. After being nomads for several years, Trailhead is grateful to now gather in the oldest church building in the heart of downtown Longmont for Sunday worship and fellowship, midweek gatherings, and opportunities to open the doors to community events. Trailhead offers a rich, multigenerational community with a kingdom vision for the Longmont region to flourish with the good news of Jesus as the gospel transforms individuals, systems, and culture.

**Hillside Community Church**  
**Denver, CO**  
**Pastor: Brandon Goad**

**Average Attendance: 60**

In 1955, fourteen families from the Midwest Synod of the Reformed Church in America planted Southridge Community Church in Southeast Denver, where the church worshiped until relocating to its current location and changing its name to Christ Community Church. In May 2018, Christ Community called Pastor Brandon Goad to move the church into its next season of ministry. By winter 2019, the church had grown significantly. Then the Covid-19 pandemic hit. As the church adjusted its ministry and metrics for success, it became clear that a denominational change might be necessary. Christ Community formed a denominational exploration committee, and in September 2022, the congregation voted to join the Evangelical Covenant Church. The leaders of Christ Community agreed the time was right to replant as something new. A team began meeting in January 2023 to plan the relaunch and agreed on the name Hillside Community Church. In August 2023, Hillside will officially take over Christ Community. Hillside is committed to maintaining the warmth and hospitality that is the hallmark of Christ Community’s services. Hillside also commits to prioritize local service in its corner of Denver through neighborhood outreach, partnerships with local organizations, and strong

ties to the recovery community in SE Denver. Above all, Hillside exists to glorify Jesus, pursue his kingdom and purposes, and see its neighbors flourish through faith in Jesus as we follow him together.

### **CENTRAL CONFERENCE**

**Uptown Covenant Church**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**Pastor: Jeremey Folk**

**Average Attendance: 70**

Uptown Church launched in October 2018, desiring to be a place and a people that disrupts suffering and mends what is broken with the hope of Jesus in the Uptown area of Chicago. We emphasize discovering hope in Jesus, deepening relationship with God and others, and displaying love to all around. Uptown Church is diverse in age, ethnicity, church background, and socioeconomic status. Immigrants from around the world have found a place of belonging here. We also reflect the eclectic and endearing eccentric aspects of our neighborhood. The Holy Spirit has opened doors for ministry, relationship, and key partnerships with local schools, government officials, our Chamber of Commerce, city colleges, local businesses/nonprofits, police, state's attorney, and more. We support and work alongside many who have been serving Uptown longer than we have. In November 2020, Uptown Church was able to sign a lease on a commercial building in the heart of Uptown. We were then able to renovate it into a house of worship. As we become more rooted in our new facility and now more so in our denomination, we look forward to all God is going to accomplish, in us and through us, for God's glory.

**Luz de Esperanza Covenant Church**  
**Campton Hills, IL**  
**Pastor: Rafael and Drina Lizama**

**Average Attendance: 70**

After serving 25 years in the church of the Evangelical Covenant Church Renacer, we took the Covenant church planters assessment in March 2019. In February 2019, we had started with Bible studies in homes, inviting our coworkers, family, and friends. Soon we found ourselves in a good growth problem, so we looked for a church to join and share the building. For the month of May, God opened doors for us at Country Evangelical Covenant Church in Campton Hills, Illinois. Our American brothers welcomed us with open doors and outstretched hands with multiple aids. We are very grateful to them for their investment, friendship, and love. We thank the Central Conference and the Covenant denomination for their affiliation and their financial support. We thank Country Church for affiliating with us and sharing their building without any charge for three years. We give infinite thanks

to God for his faithfulness, support, and care during these three years of planting and above all for allowing us to serve in a pandemic era. We also thank New Community Church and Zion Covenant Church for their generous contributions to Luz de Esperanza, especially for contributing to our ministry of bringing dental services to Latin American countries. We can say that having a clear vision and mission has been key for the growth of our plant, and we constantly pray that the families that visit Luz de Esperanza will be restored by God. Intentionally using the gifts of the congregation to bless others as a strategy of evangelization and discipleship, we continue polishing and looking for the best way to be effective.

**Grace Comunidad Pacto de Amor**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**Pastor: Gamaliel Adame**

**Average Attendance: 30**

The church's origin began with a Bible study at our home and out of that we saw God at work forming what is now Grace Comunidad Pacto de Amor. After the pandemic, we restarted in-person services in the City of Chicago.

**Iglesia del Pacto Evangelico Nuevo Amanecer**  
**Chicago, IL**  
**Pastor: Oscar Ramirez**

**Average Attendance: 30**

Iglesia Nuevo Amanecer began through prayer and the need of people in the community through Bible study, prayer, and discipleship. We are currently in our fifth year serving in the heart of Chicago.

#### **PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE**

**Coastline Covenant Church**  
**Redondo Beach, CA**  
**Pastors: Shawn Hurley and Garrick Hanger**

**Average Attendance: 200**

Lead pastors Shawn Hurley and Garrick Hanger never thought they would plant a church. They had served together at Rolling Hills Covenant Church for more than ten years. The new church plant began in December 2020, mid-pandemic, with four pastors and a congregation that met online and in backyards. In June 2021, they began meeting in person for afternoon services by renting space from St. Andrews Presbyterian Church. A year later, they moved to Sunday morning services and continue to meet there today. Coastline values are: boldly biblical, Spirit-seeking, fully family, and wholly worshipping. Our vision is to live as God's beloved family, inviting all to experience Jesus.

**Harbor LA Covenant Church**  
**Los Angeles, CA**  
**Pastor: Israel Solomon**

**Average Attendance: 100**

In 2006, a group of second generation Ethiopian American youth were attending a first-generation immigrant Ethiopian church in Los Angeles. The Ethiopian Christian Fellowship Church began to see a language barrier, cultural differences, and age gaps that prevented the young people from being fully integrated into church. They hired an English-speaking youth and young adult pastor to lead the second-generation group. After many years, the ministry grew into a functional church with its own identity and calling. Pastor Israel came on board, and after partnering with the Evangelical Covenant Church, The Harbor Church launched as a church plant in August 11, 2019, with more than 170 people in attendance.

**SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE**

**Rock Harbor Covenant Church**  
**Melbourne Beach, FL**  
**Pastor: Kevin Diamond**

**Average Attendance: 285**

Rock Harbor Covenant Church is a community called to create a safe space for everyone to live, laugh, and love out the good news of Jesus in the greater Melbourne area. After graduating from North Park Theological Seminary and pastoring San Andreas Community Covenant Church in California, Pastor Kevin and his wife, Angie, visited Melbourne Beach to spend time with Angie's sister. On that trip Kevin and Angie received a vision to build a family friendly ministry and serve alongside their own family. Sharing this vision with the leaders of the Evangelical Covenant Church and going through church planter's assessment and training in 2018, they launched Rock Harbor and the rest is history! Rock Harbor continues to live out its call to be a place of welcome and hope where many have been cared for and experienced happiness, recovery, abundant life, and relationship with Jesus Christ.