



Action on Removal of Churches from the Roster of the Evangelical Covenant Church

COVENANT REGIONAL CONFERENCE	CHURCH NAME	REASON FOR REMOVAL
Central	The City of Truth Covenant Church (formerly New Jerusalem Life Covenant Church)	Closed
Central	Arbor Covenant Church	Withdrawn
Central	Evangelical Covenant Church of Milwaukee	Closed
East Coast	New Vision Covenant Church	Withdrawn/Merger
East Coast	Table Covenant Church	Merger
Great Lakes	Bethany Covenant Church	Closed
Midwest	Crossroads Community Church	Withdrawn
Midwest	Faith Covenant Church	Closed
Northwest	Edina Covenant Church DBA Mercy Commons Covenant Church	Closed
Northwest	City of Lakes Covenant Church	Closed
Pacific Southwest	Ebenezer Iglesia del Pacto	Withdrawn
Pacific Southwest	The Bridge Community Church	Closed

CENTRAL CONFERENCE

SUPERINTENDENT: DANNY MARTINEZ

The City of Truth Covenant Church (formerly New Jerusalem Life Covenant Church)

Location: Chicago Heights, IL

Reason for removal: Closed

Number of members (when church closed): 15

Year joined the Covenant: 2006

Peak membership (approximately): 75

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments: Due to health difficulties, Pastor Lawrence Pointer is no longer able to pastor the church. So many seeds were planted by The City of Truth. God blessed the ministry, and we know God will continue to bless the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Arbor Covenant Church

Location: Madison, WI

Reason for removal: Withdrawn

Year joined the Covenant: 1964

Peak membership (approximately): 126

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments: Arbor Covenant is in dissent from denominational policy on human sexuality.

Evangelical Covenant Church

Location: Milwaukee, WI

Reason for removal: Closed

Number of members (when church closed): 45 on the roster; 25 participating

Year joined the Covenant: 1945

Peak membership (approximately): 165

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments: Despite loving pastoral and committed lay leadership, adequate but diminishing financial resources, and a desire among core members to continue as a worshipping, fellowshiping, and serving body, the congregation painfully concluded it could not continue the functions of the church. With few people participating, an aging congregation, an aging building, dwindling resources, and little vision for the future, the congregation engaged in a year-long process for seeking a different pathway. That process sealed a growing awareness of the challenges facing the church that ultimately coincided with the pastor's decision to retire. The Lord made it clear that becoming a legacy church was the route that most honored him. The congregation held its last service on November 12, 2023, with Rev. Mike DeLong, pastor, and Rev. Danny Martinez, Central Conference superintendent, officiating. In God's mercy, the church's financial assets allowed for its two missionary families to receive support through 2025, the Covenant Kids Congo sponsored child to receive monthly support through her completion of the program in several years, and the Harbor Point Ministries, the Central Conference, the

denomination, and several local ministries to also receive financial gifts. Additionally, the church's community arts program for youth blessed Covenant Harbor and Covenant Point Bible camps with a wide variety of arts and crafts supplies. Milwaukee Evangelical Covenant Church witnessed to God's presence for 78 years, serving the people of the community and the Evangelical Covenant Church. Peace to her memory even as the seeds of her ministry continue in legacy.

EAST COAST CONFERENCE

SUPERINTENDENT: HOWARD K. BURGOYNE

New Vision Covenant Church

Location: Bayside, NY

Reason for removal: Withdrawn/Merger

Number of members (when church closed): 25

Year joined the Covenant: 2012

Peak membership (approximately): 110

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments: New Vision was adopted into the Covenant after withdrawing from the United Methodist Church. Following several years of declining attendance, especially accelerated during the years of the Covid pandemic, the congregation discerned in 2023 to seek the Lord about their future. This led them to explore, and ultimately to approve a plan to merge into Edge City Church in Mineola, New York, which is a church plant affiliated with the Evangelical Free Church. Edge City is a multi-site congregation, serves a multiethnic population, and is growing with ministry to many in their Long Island communities. Edge City is receiving the members and pastor of New Vision (Rev. Martin Chang) into their fellowship, and Pastor Chang will continue to serve as a campus pastor. We thank God for the life, mission, and witness of the people of New Vision and commend them to the Lord's care, and that of Edge City Church in this next season. Like the branch that sprang from the root of Jesse, we pray the Lord will give increased growth and renewed energy to the people of God joining Edge City from New Vision.

Table Covenant Church

Location: Fairfax, VA

Reason for removal: Merger

Number of members (when church closed): 45

Year joined the Covenant: 2015

Peak membership (approximately): 70

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments: In 2014, Table Covenant Church was parented and sent out by Community Covenant Church, Springfield, Virginia. Pastor Michael Han served as the church planting pastor, gathering and launching a multiethnic congregation in suburban Washington, DC, in Fairfax, Virginia. The church grew in the first five years and adopted a house church model for meeting weekly, with all-church/large gatherings held monthly. During the pandemic years, the congregation began to decline in strength. At the same time, the sending

church, CCC in Springfield, Virginia, declined and endured a stressful pastoral transition. CCC and Table agreed to ask Pastor Han to serve both churches, which led to an experiment of combining ministries together. After a period of discernment, both churches agreed that it seemed good to merge Table Covenant and CCC. Now, one church gathers in Springfield, and a multiethnic, multigenerational congregation of about 90 people is renewed together in a unified mission. We pray this merger will be a catalyst for renewal and revitalization for Community Covenant Church, and for effective outreach and service to the Springfield community, where CCC has ministered for more than 50 years.

GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE

SUPERINTENDENT: GARTH MCGRATH

Bethany Covenant Church

Location: Lyndhurst, OH

Reason for removal: Closed

Number of members (when church closed): 35

Year joined the Covenant: 1953

Peak membership (approximately): 250

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments: Bethany's roots were in First Covenant Church of Cleveland, founded in 1889. Members of First Covenant Church planted Bethany Covenant Church in 1952 and formalized as a member of the Covenant in 1953. Throughout its ministry, the church was known for sacrificial service to the neighborhood, the city of Lyndhurst, and the larger Cleveland community; for faithful missionary support; and for generous support of both the Great Lakes Conference and the Evangelical Covenant Church. In recent years, despite significant efforts to deepen their engagement in the community, the church experienced decline. On November 12, the congregation voted to close the church and become a legacy church, with proceeds from the sale of their building to be invested in missional vitality and church planting ministry initiatives in the Great Lakes Conference.

MIDWEST CONFERENCE

SUPERINTENDENT: BRIAN JOHNSON

Crossroads Community Church

Location: Halstead, KS

Reason for removal: Withdrawn

Number of members (when church withdrew): 30

Year joined the Covenant: 2010

Peak membership (approximately): 140

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments: When Crossroads Community Church of Halstead, Kansas, joined the Covenant in 2010, the connection to the denomination remained

tenuous, with the pastor serving as the primary connector to the Midwest Conference. Following the pastor's retirement, the church pursued connections with other networks and has recently chosen to disaffiliate from the Covenant as they embrace a new local church network.

Faith Covenant Church

Location: Essex, IA

Reason for removal: Closed

Number of members (when church closed): 11

Year joined the Covenant: 1904

Peak membership (approximately): 76

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments: In 1991, the Covenant churches of Fremont, Iowa, and Essex, Iowa, merged to form Faith Covenant Church in Essex. Membership remained steady for many years following the merger; however, in recent years, as more and more people relocated away from the community, church membership dwindled to a small group of faithful individuals. After prayerful discernment, the church decided to close its doors in November 2023.

NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

SUPERINTENDENT: KARA STROMBERG

Edina Covenant Church

DBA Mercy Commons Covenant Church

Location: Edina, MN

Reason for removal: Closed

Number of members (when church closed): 15

Year joined the Covenant: 1945 (organized in 1944)

Peak membership (approximately): 250

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments: Edina Covenant Church (DBA Mercy Commons) enjoyed 80 years of ministry in the heart of the vibrant community of Edina, Minnesota. The church struggled to redefine itself through the pandemic and leadership transitions, and attendance waned alongside financial challenges. In recent years, Mercy Commons was a quiet, liturgical, family-centered church community, deeply loved by those who attended. The loss of a beloved worship leader accelerated conversations around the sustainability of the church. The remaining members, under the leadership of Pastor Daniel Lukas, voted to become a legacy church in early 2024. In closing, Mercy Commons was able to bless Covenant Pines Bible Camp with furniture and additional resources for the camp's new worship center.

City of Lakes Covenant Church

Location: Minneapolis, MN

Reason for removal: Closed

Number of members (when church closed): 8

Year joined the Covenant: 2018

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments: City of Lakes Covenant was planted in 2013 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The church began with momentum and energy. When they needed a place to meet, they formed a cooperative partnership in 2015 with Aldrich Presbyterian Church, an established church in Minneapolis under the umbrella Resurrection Minneapolis. The church(es) formed community partnerships and remodeled the facility for various outreach-based ministries. For a time, the planting pastor maintained dual licensure with the Covenant and PCUSA until 2019 when he dropped his Covenant credential. The church(es) continued to operate under this shared agreement, but when the pastor took a leave of absence to address a family matter in early 2022, the complexities surrounding the cooperative agreement, the pastor's extended leave of absence, and ongoing conflict around governance and polity with the PCUSA proved untenable. The church voted to close on October 29, 2023. Aldrich Presbyterian also voted to close around the same time, and the building was sold to the current renters who plan to continue to minister in the community.

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE

SUPERINTENDENT: BRYAN MURPHY

Ebenezer Iglesia del Pacto

Location: Southgate, CA

Reason for removal: Withdrawn

Year joined the Covenant: 2021

Peak membership (approximately): 50

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments: Ebenezer del Pacto came into the Covenant membership in 2021. The church's pastor was very appreciative of the Covenant's ministry and direction. However, sometime after coming into membership, the church released the pastor and indicated desire to depart the Covenant.

The Bridge Community Church

Location: San Jose, CA

Reason for removal: Closed

Year joined the Covenant: 2008

Peak membership (approximately): 53

Reason leading to removal from the roster and comments: The Bridge Community Church was a church plant of the Pacific Southwest Conference and the denomination, formally launched in San Jose in 2008. The planting pastor, Andy Fitzgerald, faithfully served for many years until the close. The church weathered the transitions that came with not having a permanent home in a costly community, as well as Covid. In 2023, the Bridge closed its ministry doors.