



Report of the President



It is truly a privilege to pursue God's mission with this beautiful faith family. The work of the Evangelical Covenant Church is rich and robust, reaching people for Christ worldwide. I celebrate the richness of our ministry and the many, many ways we have seen God at work this past year. The Covenant Offices denominational team has been living into the new organizational structure voted on during last year's gathering. It is our hope and prayer that this realignment of resources will posture us in a stronger way to serve the local church and regional conferences and better align God's mission with the resources churches have provided for us in this season. We want to ensure that we are set up for a thriving future. We truly are moving **faithfully forward**, which also happens to be our missional theme this year.

Acts 2:42-27 provides a glimpse of how the early church laid the foundation for missional work, together.

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

As we continue to express our devotion through worship, teaching, fellowship, prayer, living generously, and radical hospitality, may we experience God working through us to see more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world.

I am grateful for this call on my life to serve the Covenant. I have loved being with you in your churches, some of your conference annual meetings, and special events around the Covenant and in our global church. Thank you for your questions, your notes and words of encouragement, and most especially, your prayers. It has been an honor to be with and among you, and I look forward to more engagements in the coming years. Since we were together in June 2023 I have been part of:

Engagements in 19 local churches in six of our regional conferences. These visits often include preaching, greeting, and connecting with the pastoral and other church leadership teams. With every visit I grow in appreciation of the beautiful diversity of the church and the ways in which

churches are bringing the good news to their neighbors in creative ways.

I have been part of **four in-person** milestone anniversary celebrations and provided a video greeting to 10 others. It was meaningful to celebrate the 150-year anniversary of First Covenant Church in Red Wing, Minnesota. This church was foundational to our Covenant beginnings, and I was blessed to remember these early pioneers who gathered for prayer and study of the Scriptures. Likewise, what a pleasure to celebrate a 10-year anniversary with a congregation made up of mostly Congolese immigrants in Iowa, Shalom Covenant Church. This congregation is doing such great ministry, including caring for Afghan refugees, that the governor of Iowa has recognized their work. This month I visited the church where I grew up, Peninsula Covenant Church of Redwood City, California. It was deeply meaningful to remember those who had invested in my life and to thank them for their ministry. Each church I visit has its own special story, and I love spending time among our people and experiencing the way God is working in such varied contexts.

I have engaged in some form in all **11 regional conferences** this year, speaking in eight. Visiting at the local level, hearing the joys and challenges, answering questions, and praying together is life-giving. It keeps me close to the heart of God's people. It was a pleasure to be able to participate and speak in three conference annual meetings again this year.

I have also been part of **two international visits**. My experience in the DR Congo was both eye-opening and life-giving. What a pleasure to work and worship with our brothers and sisters in a mutually encouraging partnership. I pray that more Covenanters will consider visiting the places where we are partnering and that some will consider exploring global service. The gospel is spreading rapidly in many places and among many people groups, and experiencing this gives me a glimpse of what I imagine heaven will look like.

I actively participated in **14 governing boards** across our denomination and have enjoyed the **Presidential Roundtable** that consists of our affiliate presidents from North Park University, North Park Theological Seminary, Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, National Covenant Properties, and Covenant Trust Company. What an encouraging group of gifted and faithful leaders.

I want to express deep gratitude to the **denominational team** who has demonstrated great commitment to the mission during difficult seasons. This past year they have flexed with the changes the reorganization has brought, even when challenging. We know that there will always be opportunities to change and shift to better meet the needs of our churches, but the re-organization is complete and we now have the opportunity to maximize what we have learned. I am thankful for the wonderful executive leaders who work alongside me, helping to discern God's leading and make wise decisions. I don't do this work alone, and I am deeply grateful for the teams I partner with. We have all greatly appreciated the support and prayers of those in our local churches.

As the church, we know it is important that **prayer** remains at the center of all we do. We cannot do the work God has called us to do if we are not spending time and energy in prayer, spending time in God's presence, listening for God's direction, and following his leading. I'm grateful for the response to the monthly prayer emails distributed through the CovChurch Now mailing list. They have included updates, prayer practices, and specific ways to pray for the Covenant Church. Thank you for engaging in the work of prayer together.

I praise God for each church plant supported in the Covenant and the many established churches who have engaged in vitality resources. I celebrate that we will be hosting thousands of students for the first full United national conference! I am excited that we have a new director of evangelism, Leisha Hawley, who can give focused attention to raising the temperature of evangelism. I am grateful for the ongoing work of Love Mercy Do Justice that helps us to make disciples in a more caring and just world. I am thankful for the Serve Clergy staff who have nurtured partnerships with the Lilly Foundation that provide financial support for Covenant clergy to receive renewal grants, crisis assistance, and financial leadership support. I am grateful for the generosity of this movement that we, together, can send millions of dollars to proclaim and demonstrate the love of Christ globally. Thank you for your generous gifts!

A few colleagues at Covenant Offices have moved into new ministry roles this year, and a few will be moving to other ministry settings this season. I want to close with a few words of welcome and gratitude for these team members.

I would like to welcome, **Dierdra Clark**, corporate secretary; **Paul Lessard**, vice president of mission priorities; and **Cyndi Hoffman**, our new vice president of finance. Pending a vote of the Annual Meeting, we hope to confirm **Paul Robinson** as the executive minister of Serve Locally, a position he has given interim leadership to in the transition. I thank each of these individuals for saying YES to God for this coming season of ministry life. They are all wonderfully suited for this kingdom work, and I look forward to our collaborative partnerships.

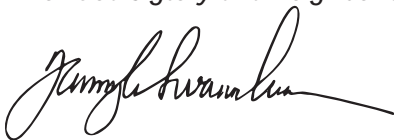
I want to give deep thanks to **Steve Dawson** for his service as the interim vice president of finance this past year. Steve has been a gift to the denomination in many ways over the last 30 years. I'm grateful for his support in clarifying our financial systems and reporting and laying a solid foundation to support our new full-time vice president of finance. We extend thanks to Steve and his wife, Mary-Jane Dawson. We pray that they will both be able to enjoy more of their retirement years, especially with visits to see their beautiful granddaughter.

I invite your continued prayers and suggestions for the next vice president of mission services. This is the final opening to fill to complete the senior team. This leader will provide important leadership and support for Operations, Human Resources, Advancement, Marketing and Communications, and more. Would you join me in diligently praying for this yet-to-be-identified leader?

In addition, I give great thanks for our eleven regional conference superintendents and their dedicated staff. It is refreshing to work together with my gifted sisters and brothers who care so deeply for our churches and leaders.

We are in this mission and ministry together, pursuing Jesus and the work he has invited us into. Let us continue to lean in and prayerfully pursue the leading of the Holy Spirit, moving **faithfully forward** together.

For God's glory and neighbor's good,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tammy', with a long, sweeping underline.

Tammy