



2024 Proposed Covenant Bylaw Amendments

The following items will be voted on during the 138th Annual Meeting of the Covenant. The text in green are the words to be added.

14.a.1. Section 6.3. The President.

a. **Duties and Responsibilities.** The president shall provide pastoral leadership to the Covenant. The president shall also be the chief executive officer of the Covenant and, subject to the authority of the Annual Meeting and the Executive Board, shall have general direction of the ministry and business matters of the Covenant, general direction of the officers of the Covenant and members of the Council of Administrators, the general powers and duties of management usually vested in the office of president of an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, and all other powers and duties as may be prescribed by the Annual Meeting, the Executive Board, or these Bylaws. Within this authority and in the course of the duties of president, the president shall

- ii. be an ex-officio member of all boards, councils, commissions, committees, and associations of the Covenant, except the Presidential Nominating Committee and any **meeting of a** committee of the Executive Board that **when it** is reviewing the performance or compensation of the president of the Covenant;
- iii. be **or designate a vice president to serve as** an ex-officio member of the boards and committees of all corporations established by the Covenant and their affiliates.

Rationale: *As the denomination has grown in its complexity, the number of boards and committees that the president is a member of has increased immensely. This modification would allow for the president of the Covenant to continue to have voice and vote at the boards and committees of affiliates through a proxy when the president is unable to be present.*

14.a.2. Section 10.5. The Ordered Ministry.

b. The Board of the Ordered Ministry.

- i. The Board of the Ordered Ministry shall have fourteen elected members and the ex-officio members identified in these Bylaws. Twelve elected members of the board shall be ordained or commissioned Covenant ministers and two elected members of the board shall be lay persons. A majority of the elected clergy members of the board shall be ordained to word and sacrament. At least two elected clergy members of the board shall be staff persons. At least one elected clergy member of the board shall be a consecrated missionary **global personnel**.

Rationale: *Move to replace “missionary” with “global personnel” to bring language into alignment with mission priority language.*

14.a.3. The Ordered Ministry. Contested Credential.

- iv. The Board of the Ordered Ministry shall report directly to the Annual Meeting, except that the recommendations of the Board of the Ordered Ministry concerning the ordination, licensure, commissioning, consecration, and discipline of ministers and missionaries, and major policies relating to the work of the Board of the Ordered Ministry shall be submitted to the annual meeting of the Covenant Ministerium. Recommendations approved by the annual meeting of the Covenant Ministerium may be submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Covenant. Recommendations not approved by the annual meeting of the Covenant Ministerium shall be referred back to the Board of the Ordered Ministry. **In the case of a contested credential, the Board of the Ordered Ministry shall notify the executive committee of the Covenant Ministerium that a minister desires to contest the removal of their credentials. If, after a contested credential hearing, the executive committee of the Covenant Ministerium reaches a two-thirds vote on the recommendation for the removal of credentials, the Board of the Ordered Ministry will then submit recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Covenant. If a two-thirds vote is not reached, then the pastor remains suspended and the matter returns to the Board of the Ordered Ministry.**

***Rationale:** This change is contingent upon the Ministerium vote to amend the process for contested credentials. If the Ministerium votes to make that change, this language will align with the amended contested credential process.*

14.a.4. Section 11.2. Council of Superintendents.

- b. The superintendents of the regional conferences of the Covenant are members of the Council of Superintendents. The Council of Superintendents shall have the following ex-officio members: the president of the Covenant, **the vice president of mission priorities, the executive minister of serve clergy, and the executive minister of serve locally.** The Council of Superintendents may invite additional advisors to participate in their meetings.

***Rationale:** This change allows the Covenant executive officers to have full voting status.*



2024 Proposed Changes to the Rules for the Ordered Ministry

*The following items will be voted on during the 138th Annual Meeting of the Covenant.
The text in **green** are the words to be added.*

ARTICLE I. The Board of the Ordered Ministry.

Section 1.1. Composition.

- c. The executive committee shall consist of the chair, the secretary, the executive minister of the ordered ministry, **the president of the Covenant**, the president of the Covenant Ministerium, and the dean of North Park Theological Seminary. Other staff may be appointed as advisers to the executive committee.

Rationale: Adding the president of the Covenant to the named executive committee members.

Section 1.2. Function.

- a. As provided in the Bylaws of the Covenant, the Board has general supervision over all ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, licensed ministers, and consecrated missionaries **global personnel** of the Covenant, including their ordination, commissioning, license, consecration, standing, discipline, and the maintenance of high standards in their ministry.

ARTICLE VII. Consecrated Missionary **Global Personnel**.

Section 7.1. Description. Consecration for missionary **global personnel** service in the Covenant is an act of the church by which a person called by God is recognized and set apart for missionary **global personnel** service. The Covenant consecrates only after determining through careful examination that the candidate has been called of God, is genuinely committed to the apostolic message, lives in conformity to it, and is gifted for the specific service to which they are called. In consecration the church gratefully accepts the person as one called by God and given to the church to minister in the spirit of Christ. The Covenant consecrates the missionary **global personnel** to be the servant of the gospel by word and deed through the missionary **global personnel** work of the Covenant.

Section 7.2. Preparation.

- a. Candidates shall have been approved for missionary **global personnel** service by the Serve Globally Committee of the Executive Board of the Covenant.
- b. Candidates who are not graduates of NPTS or CHET shall have completed the required orientation

program for missionary **global personnel** of the Covenant. The orientation requirements shall be determined by the Serve Globally Committee of the Executive Board of the Covenant, together with the Board, and approved by the annual meeting of the Covenant Ministerium and the Annual Meeting of the Covenant.

- c. Candidates shall have completed the educational requirements for consecrated missionary **global personnel**. These educational requirements shall be determined by the Serve Globally Committee of the Executive Board of the Covenant, together with the Board, with the approval of the annual meeting of the Covenant Ministerium and the Annual Meeting of the Covenant.

Section 9.3. Global Service License.

a. **Description.** The global service license is for persons who are called to be missionaries **global personnel** by the Covenant. It is intended to provide credentials for those who do not qualify for ordination to word and sacrament, ordination to word and service, or commissioning but are serving as Covenant missionaries **global personnel**. This license is valid for the duration of the missionary's **global personnel's** call and authorizes the holder to perform appropriate functions, subject to government regulations.

b. **Qualifications.**

- iii. The candidate shall be called and consecrated as a missionary **global personnel**.

c. **Procedure.**

- iii. The candidate shall complete a licensing paper and be interviewed by a committee on ministerial standing appointed by Serve Globally. The Board may also request an interview before beginning missionary **global personnel** service.

ARTICLE X: Discipline and Care.

Section 10.2. Definition

- a. A minister or consecrated missionary **global personnel** may be charged with indiscretion, immorality, doctrinal error, unethical behavior, or disloyalty to the Covenant. A minister or consecrated missionary **global personnel** may be disciplined by the Board in one of three ways:
 - ii. Temporary suspension of ministerial or missionary **global personnel** credentials and removal from ministerial functions, while charges are being investigated and while appropriate care is provided.
- b. A minister or consecrated missionary **global personnel** may be brought under the care of the Board in one of two ways:
 - ii. Temporary suspension of ministerial or missionary **global personnel** credentials and removal from ministerial functions, while the vocation of healing and restoration is being pursued.

Section 10.3. Procedure.

- b. In the case of serious offense, a minister or missionary's **global personnel** credentials may be temporarily suspended by the executive minister of the ordered ministry and the president of the Covenant, in consultation with the regional conference superintendent, the regional director, or the executive minister of serve globally. After investigation, the Board shall determine the kind of discipline required.
- c. In all matters involving disciplinary action, care shall be exercised to keep information confidential. Further, the accused minister or missionary **global personnel**, with a ministerial colleague as **advocate support person** when desired, shall be given opportunity to meet with the Board to present the matter or to appeal the case.
- d. When a minister or missionary **global personnel** is placed under discipline as described in Section 10.2.a.i. and 10.2.a.ii., it is not necessary that such action be reported to the Annual Meeting of the Covenant.
- e. If, after investigation, it is warranted by the gravity of the offense, the Board shall with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium recommend to the Annual Meeting of the Covenant that a minister or consecrated missionary **global personnel** be dismissed from the ministry of the Covenant. An ordained minister, commissioned minister, licensed minister, or a consecrated missionary **global personnel** who has been so dismissed shall surrender the certificate of ordination or license, and be removed from the roster of Covenant ministers. The Annual Meeting action to dismiss invalidates any continuing standing as Covenant clergy.
- f. The Board will seek appropriate ways to care for a minister or missionary **global personnel** who has been dismissed. The possibility of restoration and the reinstatement of credentials may be considered by the Board at any time.

ARTICLE XI: Standing.

Section 11.1. Description. Standing in the Ministerium is the Covenant's recognition of persons who have been granted credentials as an ordained minister, commissioned minister, licensed minister, or as a consecrated missionary **global personnel**. In order to maintain standing, a minister or missionary **global personnel** must be a member of a Covenant congregation and a full member of the Covenant Ministerium. Appropriate continuing education is required for all credentialed ministers and missionaries **global personnel** to maintain standing. Requirements shall be determined by the Covenant Ministerium in consultation with the Board, and monitored by the Ordered Ministry for report to the Board.

Section 11.2. Categories of Membership.

- a. Membership in the regional conference ministerial association and the Covenant Ministerium shall be of two kinds:
 - i. Full membership, in which all privileges shall be accorded:
 - (2) consecrated missionaries **global personnel**;

ii. Associate membership, in which neither voting privileges nor the holding of office shall be accorded:

(2) consecrated missionaries **global personnel** in the inactive category;

c. Military chaplains and consecrated missionaries **global personnel** shall maintain their standing through the office of the executive minister of the ordered ministry, although they are encouraged to maintain connection to a regional ministerial association whenever possible.

Section 11.3. Rosters. A complete roster of ordained ministers, commissioned ministers, licensed ministers, and consecrated missionaries **global personnel** shall be maintained and made available to the members of the Covenant Ministerium.

Rationale: Replace “missionary” with “global personnel” to bring language into alignment with mission priority language. Replace “advocate” with “support person” for clarity.

14.b.2. ARTICLE X. Discipline and Care.

e. If, after investigation, it is warranted by the gravity of the offense, **and the minister or global personnel chooses to contest their dismissal**, the Board shall with the approval of the **executive committee of the** Covenant Ministerium recommend to the Annual Meeting of the Covenant that a minister or consecrated **global personnel be dismissed from the ministry of the Covenant. If a minister does not contest the dismissal of their credential, the Board shall, with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, recommend to the Covenant Annual Meeting that a minister or consecrated global personnel** be dismissed from the ministry of the Covenant. An ordained minister, commissioned minister, licensed minister, or a consecrated **global personnel** who has been so dismissed shall surrender the certificate of ordination or license, and be removed from the roster of Covenant ministers. The Annual Meeting action to dismiss invalidates any continuing standing as Covenant clergy.

Rationale: Additional change noted in e. is contingent upon the Ministerium vote to amend the process for contested credentials. If the Ministerium votes to make that change, this language will align with the amended contested credential process.