



2024 Annual Meeting Ballot

The following names have been nominated by the Board of Nominations and the Covenant Executive Board and are now on the official ballot for the 138th Covenant Annual Meeting. Biographical sketches of these candidates are included.

The listing of nominees may be altered on the official ballot if any candidate declines before the time of election.

2024 BALLOT FROM THE BOARD OF NOMINATIONS:

EXECUTIVE BOARD

(six-year terms)

Baionne Coleman

Radiant Covenant Church,
Renton, Washington

Mark Eastburg

Thornapple Covenant Church,
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Debra Hamilton

Chugach Covenant Church,
Anchorage, Alaska

Trinity Opp

Alexandria Covenant Church,
Alexandria, Minnesota

David Sim

Renew Covenant Church,
Lynnwood, Washington

BOARD OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY

(five-year terms)

Brenda Giordano

Newport Covenant Church,
Bellevue, Washington

Ray Wall

Rosebud Covenant Church,
Rosebud, Alberta

COVENANT MINISTRIES OF BENEVOLENCE BOARD

(five-year terms)

Art DeRooy

Hilmar Covenant Church,
Hilmar, California

Benjamin Moore

Arvada Covenant Church,
Arvada, Colorado

Travis Nordstrom

First Covenant Church of
Omaha, Omaha, Nebraska

Susan Poston

Salem Covenant Church, New
Brighton, Minnesota

Tiffine Watts

Hope Covenant Church,
Detroit, Michigan

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

(three-year terms)

Arriel Gray

Metropolitan Community
Church, Chicago, Illinois

Dawn Helwig

North Park Covenant Church,
Chicago, Illinois

N. Marcia Jimenez

Winnetka Covenant Church,
Wilmette, Illinois

Kristian Werling

Winnetka Covenant Church,
Wilmette, Illinois

Ann Wiesbrock

Hinsdale Covenant Church,
Hinsdale, Illinois

Dennis Wolff

Faith Lutheran Church,
Redman, Washington

**2024 BALLOT FROM THE COVENANT EXECUTIVE BOARD
FOR BOARD OF NOMINATIONS**

Adam Gilliard

Stone Mountain, Georgia
New Life Covenant Church

Joe Muzzi

South Lyon, Michigan
Crossroads Community Church



2024 Board of Nominations Candidates



NOMINEE TO THE COVENANT EXECUTIVE BOARD

BAIONNE COLEMAN

**Pacific Northwest Conference Representative
Radiant Covenant Church
Seattle, Washington**

Baionne Coleman is a seasoned leader in the education sector. She has a deep understanding of the challenges faced by marginalized communities, particularly those related to financial stability and generational wealth. She has a background in financial coaching and mentorship, and she is committed to equity and inclusion. She can bridge gaps, build coalitions, and drive positive change that aligns with the goals and mission

of the Evangelical Covenant Church. In addition, as the CEO of a nonprofit and co-chair for the Governance and Nominating Committee, she offers a wealth of knowledge, training, and support.

Statement of Faith: “My faith in Jesus Christ is foundational to who I am and how I approach life and work. I should never need to open my mouth to profess I’m a Christian because people should note there is something profoundly different based on my actions and how I move in spaces.”

NOMINEE TO THE COVENANT EXECUTIVE BOARD

MARK EASTBURG

**Great Lakes Conference Representative
CEO, Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services
Thornapple Covenant Church
Grand Rapids, Michigan**

Mark Eastburg is a dedicated member of the Evangelical Covenant Church and has been nurtured in its values and principles from birth. He is a fourth-generation Covenanter currently serving as the CEO of Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services, where he



collaborates with a board of directors to guide a 114-year-old organization in finding innovative ways to live out its mission to “express the healing ministry of Jesus Christ.” Mark also maintains a small psychotherapy practice. He has served as the chair of the Covenant Living Board and the Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp Board.

Statement of Faith: “Through spending time in the Gospel of Luke, I have begun to see that at the core of Jesus’s message is his care of those who are outsiders and downtrodden, which has caused me to have a different idea of what it means to follow Jesus. I see this next chapter of my life as a working out of what this means.”

NOMINEE TO THE COVENANT EXECUTIVE BOARD



DEBRA HAMILTON

**Alaska Conference Representative
Licensed Professional Counselor
Chugach Covenant Church
Soldotna, Alaska**

Debbie Hamilton is a licensed professional counselor with the State of Alaska. She was a social worker in a foster family agency for seven years in California and has worked as a counselor in Alaska since 2001. Debbie serves as the executive director of New Hope Counseling Center, where she and her team seek to provide opportunities for students at Alaska Christian College as well as individuals, couples, and families of the Kenai

Peninsula to be healed, restored, and equipped through faith-based counseling to pursue a life of wholeness and hope.

Statement of Faith: “I believe in a Triune God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God and are in need of a Savior. I believe that our loving God graciously sent his one and only son, Jesus, to redeem us by dying on the cross for our sin, offering us forgiveness of sin and a restored relationship with God and that we are to accept this gracious gift. I believe that Jesus left the Holy Spirit to guide, counsel, testify, and remind us of things we have been taught and to lead us into truth. I believe as followers of Christ we are to continue to work out our salvation as we grow more and more into the likeness of Christ through the study and application of the Word and that we are to proclaim his truth and hope to others. ”

**NOMINEE TO THE COVENANT EXECUTIVE BOARD
TRINITY OPP**

**Northwest Conference Representative
Pastor
Alexandria Covenant Church
Alexandria, Minnesota**



Trinity Opp is the senior pastor of Alexandria Covenant Church in Alexandria, Minnesota. Prior to serving in this role, he was the executive pastor, and before that he served for nine years as a youth pastor and associate pastor in Bismarck, North Dakota.

Trinity attended Mankato State University for his undergraduate studies and completed his seminary education at Bethel

Seminary. His primary spiritual gifts are leadership, administration, and teaching. Trinity is married to Gwen, and they have five children between the ages of six and 18. He enjoys the outdoors, reading, and hanging out with his family.

Statement of Faith: “By God’s grace and through faith, I believe Jesus Christ to be Savior and Lord of my life. I believe there is one God who has three persons. I am chosen by God the Father for salvation, redeemed by God the Son (Jesus Christ) through his work accomplished on the cross and by the resurrection, and I am born again by God the Holy Spirit.”



**NOMINEE TO THE COVENANT EXECUTIVE BOARD
DAVID J. SIM**

**Pacific Northwest Conference Representative
Pastor / Church Planter
Renew Covenant Church
Seattle, Washington**

Rev. Dave Sim has lived in the Seattle area since 1989. He completed his undergraduate studies at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington, with an English degree, then served as InterVarsity staff for nine years, where he helped to build up the multiethnic fellowship and led the staff team at the University of Washington. Dave enrolled at the newly launched Seattle Pacific

Seminary and graduated with his MDiv in 2012. While in seminary, he and his wife, Janice, launched a home group for young adults, which became a church plant, Renew Covenant Church.

Statement of Faith: “I believe in One God, the Creator of all things, who is infinitely perfect and

without bounds and exists eternally in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe in the centrality of the Word of God, both Old and New Testaments. The Word of God, inseparably unified with the work of the Holy Spirit, is transformative and central in the discipleship of each Christian as well as the church's mission. As a minister of the gospel, I am called to teach, preach, and guide others in God's salvation through Christ, with the Word being centered in this calling."

NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY

BRENDA GIORDANO

**Pacific Northwest Conference Representative
Newport Covenant Church
Bellevue, Washington**

Brenda Giordano is a trained spiritual director who is a strong communicator and unafraid to ask hard questions or have difficult conversations. She is a prayerful and sensitive listener to people and the Holy Spirit and is deeply committed to racial righteousness. She brings more than 30 years of broad healthcare experience, including 15 years in healthcare technology. Brenda is committed to the Evangelical Covenant Church, its affirmations, aims, and institutions.



Statement of Faith: "Born into a loving Christian family, I put my faith in Jesus Christ at the age of eight. By 17, I was comfortable speaking to others about putting their faith in Christ and sought and received gifts of the Holy Spirit. I continue to seek the will of God, follow the movements of the Spirit, and as opportunities present themselves, talk to others about Jesus. I love the Lord and spending daily time in Scripture and prayer, especially with solitude and silence, being agenda-less in God's presence."



NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY

RAYMOND WALL

Canada Conference Representative

Pastor

Rosebud Covenant Church

Rosebud, Alberta

Rev. Raymond Wall has served in various ministry settings for nearly 50 years. He served on numerous boards, locally, regionally, and nationally. He has experience in church leadership, having served as pastor of three churches over 36 years and 11 years in denominational executive work. He is a #9 on the Enneagram—a good listener; a caring, nonanxious presence in meetings; and a trained spiritual director.

Statement of Faith: “I was born into a Christian family and raised in the church. The Christian faith became real and personal for me shortly after high school graduation when I surrendered to the Holy Spirit’s gentle tug in response to a Christian friend’s bold testimony. Within a few months of surrendering my life to Christ, I enrolled in Bible college where, through studies, prayer, and opportunities to serve, I sensed a call to Christian ministry.”

NOMINEE TO COVENANT MINISTRIES
OF BENEVOLENCE BOARD

ART DEROOY

Pacific Southwest Conference Representative

Retired

Hilmar Covenant Church

Hilmar, California



Art DeRooy brings a deep love for the Evangelical Covenant Church’s historical outreach to care for the community through such ministries as Home of Mercy to urban hospitals to aiding the intellectually disabled with independent living options. His long history with the Board of Benevolence allows him to contribute institutional knowledge to the current environment of healthcare change. Now retired, he brings a wealth of accounting and financial analysis experience to the board.

Statement of Faith: “I’ve been a follower of Jesus Christ for most of my life. A walk away from faith in my young adult years did not kill my love for God and his church. Now I cannot see a life without Jesus in front of me every day.”



NOMINEE TO COVENANT MINISTRIES
OF BENEVOLENCE BOARD

BENJAMIN MOORE

**Midwest Conference Representative
Arvada Covenant Church
Golden, Colorado**

Ben Moore has been a member of Covenant churches for 15 years. His undergraduate degree is in business administration with dual majors in finance and accounting, and he has a JD from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law. Ben has 15 years of experience in private practice, focusing on business, taxation, and real estate. He has prior board experience serving as a member of the Executive Board of the Midwest Conference and on the board of Clinic with a Heart (nine years, including as president), a nonprofit that provides free healthcare and dental care to low-income families. His past board service and volunteer interests align with the CMB mission of offering support resources and comfort to those in need.

Statement of Faith: “I have believed in Jesus for as long as I can remember, but it was after my freshman year in college on a summer mission project when I made a conscious decision to become a disciple of Jesus. That decision led me to a Christian community where I first learned that discipleship is a lifelong process of learning from Jesus how to live in the kingdom of God. I have been trying to be a faithful student of Jesus ever since.”

NOMINEE TO COVENANT MINISTRIES
OF BENEVOLENCE BOARD

TRAVIS NORDSTROM

**Midwest Conference Representative
First Covenant Church of Omaha
Gretna, Nebraska**

Travis Nordstrom is the lead portfolio manager for taxable and tax-exempt fixed-income investment strategies with First National Bank Omaha. His expertise includes pension plans, foundations and endowments, and insurance. He directs the research and portfolio construction effort and helps shape the team’s economic outlook. He has skills in analyzing financial/economic data and trends, professional communication, and working with and leading a team.



Travis served on the Midwest Conference Executive Board from 2016 to 2021 and was a member of the Presidential Nominating Committee in 2021.

Statement of Faith: “I can’t say precisely when I first put my faith and trust in Jesus as my Savior, but it was probably confirmation when this faith truly became ‘my own.’ I have been growing ever since. Certainly not in a straight line—there have been seasons of doubt and seasons of great trust and joy. Christ has been faithful through it all. I believe in the Bible as the inspired Word of God and seek to live a life worthy of his call on my life.”

**NOMINEE TO COVENANT MINISTRIES
OF BENEVOLENCE BOARD**

SUE POSTON

Northwest Conference Representative

Salem Covenant Church
New Brighton, Minnesota



Susan Poston has vast experience on the Covenant Executive Board and the Board of Benevolence, which positions her to step into the ever-changing landscape of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence with a much shorter learning curve. As a past chair of the board, she can support a new board chair in coming years. She is both a big-picture thinker and good with details. Her administrative career helps her to understand the breadth of diverse ministries administered by this board.

Statement of Faith: “I am a sinner saved by grace. Created by God and redeemed by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross, I strive to become more like Jesus, my Lord. I believe in lifelong learning and rest in the knowledge that through worship, prayer, and time spent in God’s Word, I am more like Jesus today than I was yesterday.”

NOMINEE TO COVENANT MINISTRIES
OF BENEVOLENCE BOARD

TIFFINE WATTS

**Great Lakes Conference Representative
Hope Community Church
Detroit, Michigan**

Tiffine Watts has a heart and passion for helping people meet their basic needs. She serves in various outreach ministries in the Detroit area, including Hope House Detroit. She has a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Phoenix and is the bookkeeper at Tessica Bookkeeping.



Statement of Faith: “I believe in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I trust the Bible to guide and teach me to live and be more like him. Jesus died for my sins and rose on the third day, and I have the Holy Spirit for strength and reassurance.”

NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

ARRIEL GRAY, JR.

**Central Conference Representative
Metropolitan Community Church
Chicago, Illinois**

During his time at North Park University, Arriel Gray was a two-sport athlete in football and track and field. He played linebacker for the Vikings and earned all-CCIW, all-district, and all-American honors in 1980. Arriel also served as a resident director and member of the gospel choir while earning his degree. He was inducted into the Viking Hall of Fame as a part of the 2015 class. He briefly played cornerback for the Chicago Bears in 1983. He has served as a firefighter for the Chicago Fire Department since 1987, and in 2006 was promoted to the Deputy Fire Commissioner of the Fire Prevention Bureau for the City of Chicago. Arriel retired from the Chicago Fire Department after 35 years of service. Presently he is the life safety manager at McCormick Place / Wintrust Arena. Arriel enjoys playing piano and saxophone. He is married to Allena F. Gray, and together they have four children.



NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

DAWN HELWIG

Central Conference Representative

Retired

North Park Covenant Church

Chicago, Illinois



After working for 30 years as a consulting actuary and principal for Milliman, Inc., Dawn Helwig retired in 2016. Prior to Milliman, she worked for ten years for an insurance company, primarily in health product pricing and analysis. She is currently serving as a retiree on Milliman's Giving Fund, and she is on the board of American Friends of Journey House Actions Rwanda. She is the sister-in-law of David and Nancy Helwig, the lead donors for the Helwig Recreation Center. She has also made her own impact on North Park University, including serving on the Board of Trustees previously from 2012 to 2017 and currently since 2019. Dawn is serving on the Advancement Committee and is currently chair of the Finance Committee. She is married to Ted Helwig, and they have two daughters and one son.

NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

N. MARCIA JIMENEZ

Central Conference Representative

Winnetka Covenant Church

Chicago, Illinois



Marcia Jimenez earned a BA from Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana. She is currently serving as the director of intergovernmental affairs at Swedish Hospital in Chicago, where she has been working since 2011. Prior to that, she acquired more than 20 years of professional experience in the public sector, serving as liaison to many local, state, and national governmental, business, and community groups and institutions. She served the city of Chicago as commissioner of the Department of Environment, ensuring programs were in place to protect human health and the environment, and also as assistant to Mayor Daley, managing the city's interest in improving transportation on rails in Illinois and across the US. Marcia represented Chicago in Canada on Great Lakes issues, in Beijing, China, on urban environmental issues, and at the United Nations World Environmental Summit. She represented the city of Chicago on the National Association of

Local Government Environmental Professionals (NALGEP) Board of Directors, the State of Illinois Policy Advisory Council, the Chicago Climate Exchange, and the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, addressing global warming issues; Coastal Health Strategy Team Working Group protecting our water supply; and Neighbor Space for community land use planning.

**NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY**

KRISTIAN WERLING

**Central Conference Representative
Winnetka Covenant Church
Winnetka, Illinois**



After graduating from North Park University, Kristian “Krist” Werling earned a JD from the University of Illinois College of Law in 2002, graduating magna cum laude, and an MBA from Northwestern in 2010. Krist has been a partner at McDermott Will & Emery since 2012, focusing on representing medical technology, pharmaceutical companies, and private equity funds in transactions and commercial and regulatory issues. Prior to that, he was a partner at McGuireWoods LLP, counsel at Hospira Inc., and an associate at McGuireWoods. He has served in many capacities at North Park University including serving on the SBNM Advisory Board. He has also served on the board of the North Park Friendship Center. In addition to his work at McDermott Will & Emery, Krist is co-author of TheHealthcareInvestor.com, a blog covering business and legal issues that impact investments in healthcare and life sciences. He is a member of the Journal of Law and Technology Policy and has been published in such publications as *Healthcare Law Monthly*, *Tech Journal South*, and the *Corporate Law Journal*, among others. He is a sought after speaker, appearing at events such as the Medical Device Symposium and the Medical Device Law and Compliance Conference. He is married to Laura, and they have three sons.

NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

ANN WIESBROCK

Central Conference Representative
Retired President of Covenant Trust
Hinsdale Covenant Church
Hinsdale, Illinois



Ann Wiesbrock, CFP® served as the president of Covenant Trust for 13 years until her retirement in 2023. She is passionate about helping people align their finances with their values. She has spent her career working in trust and estate administration and investing. Prior to joining Covenant Trust, she worked at The Chicago Trust Company (formerly Wintrust Asset Management), United Counties Trust Company in Summit, New Jersey; and Northern Trust in Chicago. Ann is a Certified Financial Planner™ and a member of the Financial Planning Association. A magna cum laude graduate of North Park University, she also holds an MA in liberal studies from Rutgers University. She completed her coursework for the financial planning certification (CFP®) at Northwestern University. Ann served on the Covenant Retirement Communities Board of Directors for eight years, serving as board chair for four years. She also served on the Covenant Board of Benevolence and its Finance Committee. Ann resides in Hinsdale, Illinois, with her family and is a member of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Hinsdale, serving in various music and volunteer activities.

NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

DENNIS WOLFF

Pacific Northwest Conference Representative
Certified Public Accountant
Faith Lutheran Church
Redmond, Washington



After earning his degree at North Park University, Dennis Wolff attained his master's in accounting in 1992 from Northern Illinois University. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Illinois CPA Society. Dennis is currently a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, where he has worked since 1992. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, Washington CPA Society, Illinois CPA Society, North Park University Board of Trustees, and a former member of the Chicago Council of United Way of Metropolitan Chicago and the Midwest Entrepreneurs' Forum. He is married to Paula, and they have three children.

NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF NOMINATIONS

ADAM GILLIARD

**Southeast Conference Representative
New Life Covenant Church
Stone Mountain, Georgia**

Adam has a wide range of life experiences both inside and outside the church, from leading the worship team to leading a Christian after-school program in the community. He has a long history of being involved with Christian Community Development Association (CCDA) and the SAY Yes Christian after-school program. Adam is deeply committed to the men's group in his church and to prayer. He is passionate about learning and seeking holistic health in life.



Statement of Faith: “My faith in my Redeemer is what humbly brings me joy. As for anything I face in this challenging life, he always fills my Spirit with the faithful vision of the life that never ends. Passionate faith in him brings progress!”

NOMINEE TO THE BOARD OF NOMINATIONS

JOE MUZZI

**Great Lakes Conference Representative
Pastor
Crossroads Community Church
South Lyon, Michigan**

Joe has been the lead pastor of Crossroads Community Church in South Lyon, Michigan, since 2006. He has a master of arts in practical theology, a certificate in spiritual direction, and an master's in the art of teaching. Joe was ordained by the Covenant in 2011. He has served as the chair of the Great Lakes Conference Ministerial Association, as well as on numerous external boards. Joe has been married to his wife, JoAnne, for over 40 years and they have one adult son.



Statement of Faith: “I was born and raised in a Catholic family, baptized as an infant and educated in Catholic schools. As they do for many people, the promises of my baptism began to crystallize in me as a teenager. My journey has led me to desire and seek a balanced expression of my Christian faith.”