



The Evangelical Covenant Church

*We believe in the importance of continually investing in those who have been called to serve the body of Christ.*

The **Sustaining Pastoral Excellence** initiative facilitates learning and growth in pastoral character, competency, and constancy through content, cohorts, and coaching. Grants to help sustain a healthy, enduring ministry are available.

We are pleased to help resource our pastors in fulfilling their call to lead our churches and ministries in kingdom endeavors. Pastoral excellence involves holistic, Christ-centered development; lifelong vocational and biblical formation; and regular occasions of renewal and re-visioning that sustain a healthy, enduring ministry.

SCAN  
TO LEARN  
MORE



DO YOU  
DESIRE TO  
GROW?

*Do you need  
time away for  
rest and  
refreshment?*

Are you looking for a way  
to learn with colleagues?

DO YOU  
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Do you want to  
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ministry?

Are you dealing  
with debt?

ARE YOU  
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# Compelling Preaching Cohort

**We are currently creating the prototype cohort that will be used for Compelling Preaching cohorts.**

Potential components will include sermon methodology with exemplar preachers, spiritual formation for preaching, the movement from text to sermon, perspectives on gender in preaching, and trauma-informed preaching.



## We need your insights!

As a cohort member, you will have the opportunity to decide which area of preaching you wish to focus on through this cohort experience. You will also have the opportunity to participate in spiritual direction, baseline data instruments like the Enneagram, IDI, and conflict inventory conducted with a therapist, working with a Bible scholar to inform the hermeneutical move from text to sermon building, and inspiration by exemplar preachers. Your feedback and insights are valuable as we create Compelling Preaching cohorts. We want to ensure that the program meets the needs and interests of our participants, and your perspective is crucial in helping us achieve that goal.

Please take a moment to share your thoughts at [tinyurl.com/eccpreach2024](https://tinyurl.com/eccpreach2024). Your input will help us tailor the ministry to serve you and others better.

Thank you for helping us determine the next steps. We genuinely appreciate your support and enthusiasm for the Compelling Preaching Initiative! Watch for more details about Compelling Preaching cohorts.





## Compelling Preaching Initiative

**The Compelling Preaching Initiative aims to equip pastors with the necessary skills for healthy sermon development and dynamic, inclusive preaching.**

This will be achieved through the establishment of preaching guilds, fostering partnerships with congregants and colleagues, and providing a network of coaching support and spiritual development.



## Compelling Preaching Initiative

### **Cohort Retreats**

Fall and spring retreats are being planned, with virtual models also available. These retreats will include trauma-informed and cross-cultural preaching practices, as well as spiritual direction and coaching throughout the year. Participants are encouraged to bring a sermon to practice the preaching project model with colleagues.

### **Preaching Project**

Learn the roundtable pulpit method, which includes diverse members of your congregation and is professionally facilitated to ensure the message reaches all members. This model is designed to meet current needs and guide the congregation's future direction.

### **Festival of Preaching**

Be inspired by leading preachers in the Covenant. This annual event will feature a wide variety of preaching styles, backgrounds, and congregational missions.

*For more information, contact [marti.burger@covchurch.org](mailto:marti.burger@covchurch.org).*



# The Coaching Workshop Intensive

**Are you interested in becoming a coach?**  
*Direct less. Empower more. Multiply your impact.*

The five core coaching skills of listening, inquiry, generating feedback, focusing, and follow-up catalyze any kind of leadership conversation.

Getting trained in these skills will advance your leadership development and equip you to develop and empower others through coaching.



## The Coaching Workshop Intensive

The Coaching Workshop Intensive is offered every spring and fall, with four six-hour days of highly interactive, engaging learning experiences. It's a workshop—not a webinar—and is conducted fully online. Your registration includes an official workbook and supplies, as well as three additional personal coaching sessions.

**Total fee:** \$195 per person

For more information, contact [coaching@covchurch.org](mailto:coaching@covchurch.org).

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\$500



\$500

## SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

This entitles you to a grant from Serve Clergy,  
powered by the Lilly Endowment.

SPE GRANT

## Spiritual Direction

Spiritual direction is an opportunity to sit with someone who will invite you into holy listening. It is a practice of being with people as they deepen their relationship with God. The person seeking direction shares stories of their encounters with God or how they are cultivating a life attuned to spiritual things.

The grant\* is used to pay the spiritual director for your sessions together. Learn more at [covchurch.org/spe](https://covchurch.org/spe).

\*A person is allowed a maximum of two SPE grants in one year and up to five total in a lifetime.

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TO APPLY





\$500

\$500

### COACHING

This entitles you to a grant from Serve Clergy, powered by the Lilly Endowment.

### SPE GRANT Coaching

Coaches come alongside leaders like you to promote discovery, foster clarity, and empower you to create action steps that will move you forward in your work and life. Covenant coaches trained in the COACH Model® stand ready to coach.

The grant\* money is used to pay the coach for your time together. Learn more at [covchurch.org/spe](https://covchurch.org/spe).

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# \$500

## PERSONAL RETREAT

This entitles you to a grant from Serve Clergy, powered by the Lilly Endowment.



# \$500

SPE GRANT

## Personal Retreat

Up to \$500 is available for personal retreats designed for Covenant ministers who seek to spend three to seven days in retreat, prayer, and study. Include an outline of desired retreat components, including outcomes, when submitting your grant\* application.

Learn more at [covchurch.org/spe](https://covchurch.org/spe).

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\$800

PERSONAL RETREAT  
+ SPIRITUAL DIRECTION OR COACHING



\$800



SPE GRANT

## Personal Retreat and Spiritual Direction or Coaching

This new grant\* allows you to dig deeper. In addition to a three- to seven-day retreat, you can meet with a coach or spiritual director once before your time away and one or two times afterward to discern next steps. When applying, please specify whether you would like to receive spiritual direction or coaching in combination with a personal retreat.

Learn more at [covchurch.org/spe](https://covchurch.org/spe).

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# \$1,000

## SABBATICAL

This entitles you to a grant from Serve Clergy,  
powered by the Lilly Endowment.



# \$1,000

### SPE GRANT **Sabbatical**

Covenant pastors, global personnel, and chaplains can now apply for an SPE grant\* for their sabbatical. These grants of up to \$1,000 are available matching the amount offered by your church or ministry context (for a total of up to \$2,000).

Learn more at [covchurch.org/spe](https://covchurch.org/spe).

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# Retreat



# Retreat

## DEEPER IN CHRIST

This entitles you to a grant from Serve Clergy,  
powered by the Lilly Endowment.

SPE GRANT\*

## Deeper in Christ Retreat

The Deeper in Christ retreat experience is designed for those in ministry who are seeking to renew their friendship with God, reignite their pastoral imagination, and explore their call in a deeper way. Pastors, global personnel, and chaplains who would like to spend five days in reflection, prayer, spiritual direction, and worship are invited to apply to attend this re-visioning retreat. Two retreats are offered each year, with a maximum of ten participants per retreat.

Learn more at [covchurch.org/spe](https://covchurch.org/spe).

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# Retreat

JUMPSTART VIRTUAL  
PERSONAL FINANCE RETREAT

# Retreat



FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP

## JumpStart Virtual Personal Finance Retreat

In their research on pastoral health, Lilly learned that personal finance is the number one issue facing pastors. JumpStart is a virtual retreat that meets to discern our financial story as individuals and couples. In addition to the retreat, participants receive four sessions with a financial coach and *an opportunity to apply for a \$10,000 consumer aid grant.*

Learn more at [financialleadership.covchurch.org](https://financialleadership.covchurch.org).

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# Cohorts

## THRIVING IN MINISTRY

This entitles you to a grant from Serve Clergy,  
powered by the Lilly Endowment.



# Cohorts



SERVE CLERGY

## Thriving in Ministry Cohorts

Each year, Serve Clergy offers a variety of cohorts around topics of interest to our pastoral community. The virtual cohorts are offered for six to nine weeks with a focus on skill development, felt needs, or spiritual growth and development. For information on upcoming cohorts, scan the QR code below or find updates in the Ministerium emails.

**If you have any questions or ideas to share,  
contact [Marti.Burger@covchurch.org](mailto:Marti.Burger@covchurch.org).**

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and up to five total in a lifetime.







SERVE CLERGY

## Ministers' Care and Crisis Fund

FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE TO SUPPORT  
MINISTERS IN TIME OF CRISIS

The Ministers' Care and Crisis Fund is one avenue through which the Evangelical Covenant Church supports those in ministry during times of crisis or need. Serve Clergy administers grants of up to \$3,000 to help with expenses such as basic economic necessities, health care, and counseling services.

Learn more at [covchurch.org/mcf](https://covchurch.org/mcf).

# Ministers' Care and Crisis Fund

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# Walking Together

INTENTIONAL COMMUNITY



## Walking Together

SERVE CLERGY

### A Year of Intentional Community

Serve Clergy invites you to apply for a Walking Together grant to aid in fostering collegiality and genuine connection to Christ, together with fellow Covenant colleagues. A Walking Together grant supports five to seven friends for a year together in trustworthy community that shares Christian life in a sacred space. The grant offers up to \$5,250 for one year (\$750 per participant, up to seven), plus an additional \$500 honorarium for the Convener.

If you have any questions, contact  
**[Marti.Burger@covchurch.org](mailto:Marti.Burger@covchurch.org)**.

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