



Celebrating 140 Years of Shared Mission and Ministry

INTRODUCING OUR GLOBAL GUESTS

Dear Mission Friends,

We are honored to welcome our sisters and brothers from our global Covenant family to celebrate our 140th anniversary with us. These partners in the gospel remind us of the beautiful, diverse body of Christ around the world.

This booklet is a small but meaningful way to help us connect across languages, cultures, and borders. Inside, you'll find each of our global partner denominations highlighted, along with brief introductions to the leaders who are joining us this week, as well as those unable to attend. We hope this **helps foster conversation, deepen understanding, and spark new friendships** as we have this incredible opportunity to learn from the global church.

Throughout the week of Gather, we are invited to listen afresh to Jesus's simple yet life-changing call to "Follow me." **This invitation crosses borders, languages, and generations, drawing us together as one people on a shared journey of faith.** As we gather in worship, learning, and community, may we be renewed in our commitment to follow Christ wherever he leads.

We are deeply grateful for the presence of each guest who made the journey to be with us. We also want to acknowledge that not everyone we invited was able to attend due to visa restrictions and travel barriers. Even so, they remain in our hearts and prayers, and we trust that God continues to bind us together in spirit.

Thank you for being part of this historic celebration. May this week inspire all of us to follow Jesus more closely and walk together in hope, humility, and joy.

Tammy Swanson-Draheim
PRESIDENT
EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
OF THE US & CANADA

Grace Shim
EXECUTIVE MINISTER
SERVE GLOBALLY

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Evangelical Covenant Church of Argentina



Argentina

Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico Argentina (IPEA) includes ten churches, nine pastors, and one missionary, spread across central and southern Argentina. With a strong focus on evangelism and worship, IPEA encourages every believer to be a witness for Christ. Leaders dream of planting Covenant churches in all 22 provinces. They are particularly known for worshipping by singing their own musical compositions.

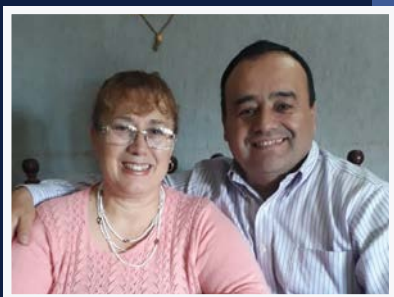
Reflections from Rev. Iván Carrasco

What attribute of God is most striking to you in this season?

His mercy

What brings you joy in serving with your ministry partners?

It fills me with joy to connect with my ministry partners both at home and abroad, both personally and through coordinating volunteer trips for fellow believers between the countries where the Covenant Church is located. I also enjoy verbally transmitting the Word of God, preaching it.



Iván and Sandra Carrasco

Representative Reverend Iván Carrasco

Rev. Iván is an ordained pastor originally from Chile who has served in Argentina for more than 30 years. He and his wife, Sandra, planted a church in a city of 400,000 people and have faithfully pastored it for 27 years.

Iván serves in a bivocational capacity and brings a heart for discipleship and spiritual renewal. Currently, he directs the CIPE Short-Term Missions Program, coordinating short-term volunteers from the Covenant churches to mission fields in Latin America.

He and Sandra have five children—Rebeca, Paz, Josué, Ruthen, and Andrés—and he enjoys reading, writing, chess, rugby, and carpentry.



Luis Perez

President Pastor Luis Perez

Pastor Luis is the newly elected president of Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico Argentina. He is the pastor of Nissi Covenant Church.

Pastor Luis is unable to attend Gather due to visa restrictions and travel barriers.



Gather Companion: Colleen Nahnychuk, Global Personnel

Evangelical Covenant Church of Chile



Chile

Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico de Concepción (IPECH) serves a diverse population across Chile, encompassing six congregations and one developing group. As a family, they feel called by God to serve together and trust that he will continue to lead them into new challenges for his glory. Worship styles vary widely and often include music, prayer, and intercession. The church focuses on discipleship and caring for neighbors, with a strong culture of treating guests like family.

Reflections from Brother Ricardo Espinoza

What attribute of God is most striking to you in this season?

Provider

What brings you joy in serving with your ministry partners?

The unity of the church despite our differences



Ricardo and Sandra Espinoza

President

Brother Ricardo Espinoza

Ricardo Espinoza has been involved in ministry since he was a teenager through music and worship leading. He has been in ministry for about 30 years.

Ricardo and his wife, Sandra, started and led a large volunteer service team for a child protection organization called SOS Children's Villages from 2009 to 2022. They also served as youth advisors nationally for six years. Currently they serve as directors of a mission school operating in Chile. In addition, Ricardo served as secretary of the national board and is currently serving as president.

Ricardo and Sandra have been married for 25 years. They have two sons: Cristóbal (20) and Daniel (14). Ricardo studied logistics and industrial operations in school. He enjoys playing guitar and singing and also designs and builds furniture.



Federation of Covenant Churches of Colombia



Colombia

Federación de Iglesias del Pacto Evangélico de Colombia (FIPEC) has a broad presence across Colombia, with 52 Covenant churches in Bogotá, Medellín, and the coastal regions. There are also multiple church plants. Their joyful worship includes music, dancing, and shouts of praise. Churches also engage in social outreach, education, and evangelism among communities impacted by addiction and poverty.

Reflections from Pastor Juan David Guevara

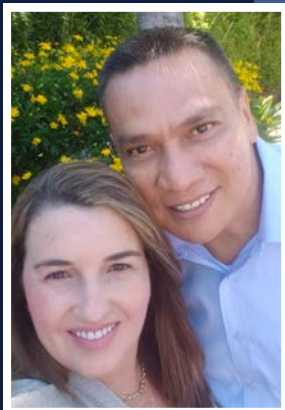
In your time as a leader of your church, what is one area you've seen transformation in yourself?

The passion to carry the message of salvation to those who are lost due to drug addiction, prostitution, and alcoholism.

What attribute of God is most striking to you in this season?

His love and mercy.

Juan David and Luz Mary Guevara



Pastor Juan David Guevara

Juan David Guevara graduated from the Colombian Biblical Seminary with a degree in sacred theology and Bible in 2000. Later, he obtained a second degree in theology from the Colombian Biblical Seminary Foundation in 2008.

Juan David and his wife, Luz Mary, have been serving as pastors at the El Shaddai Christian Church in Medellín, Colombia, for 30 years. He currently is the regional president of the Covenant churches in Medellín.

Juan David and Luz Mary have been married for 34 years and they have two children: Andrea, a financial administrator, and Sanitago, an industrial engineer. They enjoy spending time with their family, going out to dinner and to the movies.



Luis Emilio Barrientos

President Pastor Luis Emilio Barrientos

Luis Emilio Barrientos, President of the Federation of Covenant Churches of Colombia (FIPEC) since 2021, is married to Gladis Ricardo Sierra and together they have four daughters and six grandchildren. A trained social psychologist, he has served in various leadership roles with World Vision, the Bible League, and FIPEC, focusing on community development, training, and church planting.

Pastor Luis is unable to attend Gather due to visa restrictions and travel barriers.



Gather Companions: Pia and Eugenio Restrepo, Latin America and Caribbean Regional Coordinators

Evangelical Covenant Church of Ecuador



Ecuador

The Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico de Ecuador (IPEE) includes 80 churches across six districts, with an additional 15 emerging church communities. Thirteen of these churches serve Indigenous Kichwa-speaking communities. IPEE has 73 pastors and ecclesial leaders and a membership of approximately 14,000, including children. The church is active in evangelism, missions, and community development, with a strong emphasis on family ministry, spiritual transformation, and trust in God's provision.

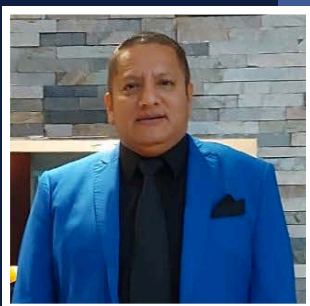
Reflections from Pastor Christian Sani

What attribute of God is most striking to you in this season?

God's mercy—allowing finite and limited human beings to come together and serve the King of kings and Lord of lords with joy, integrity, and transparency. God has been good and merciful.

What brings you joy in serving with your ministry partners?

The atmosphere of love, solidarity, and fellowship that we enjoy in the leadership community of IPEE. It means unity in the midst of diversity. The words of Jesus are fulfilled: "By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another and are one, just as the Father and I are one."



Christian Sani

*President
Pastor Christian Sani*

Christian Sani has been serving full time in the church with evangelism and missions. Christian and his wife, Wendy, have been serving in ministry for 27 years.

Christian and Wendy, who is a basic education teacher, have three children: Esther (25), a lawyer; Steeven (23), a mechatronics engineering student; and Abigail (21) an imaging and x-ray technologist.

Wendy is unable to attend Gather due to visa restrictions and travel barriers.



TEMPLO EVANGELICO DEL PACTO
FUENTE DE AGUA VIVA



Mexico

The Iglesia Evangélica Misionera del Pacto de México (IEMP) is experiencing a season of generational renewal with a vision for vibrant, Spirit-led ministry. The church is organized into four districts and includes approximately 35 churches and three mission sites, all overseen by a national executive council that manages legal and administrative matters. Leaders prioritize spiritual formation, leadership development, and a deep trust in God's guidance through times of change.

Reflections from Brother Gerardo Sanchez

In your time as a leader of your church, what is one area where you've seen transformation in yourself?

My temperance, self-control, decision-making under pressure, and trust in God.

What brings you joy in serving with your ministry partners?

That the church is in a state of change and in a generational transition.



Gerardo and Beatriz Sánchez

President

Brother Gerardo Sánchez Guerrero

Gerardo Sánchez has served in ministry with the Covenant Church of Mexico for 25 years. Gerardo holds a master's degree and has completed ministerial training through the Covenant Seminary in Mexico and EIRENE's family enrichment program. He is known for his pastoral heart and leadership during a time of generational renewal.

He and his wife, Beatriz Leyva, have been married for 30 years and have two children—Ilse (28) and Emanuel (24). Together they have ministered in Cuautitlán Izcalli with a heart for nurturing faith in both family and community.



Evangelical Covenant Church of Uruguay



Uruguay

The Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico del Uruguay (IPEU) is a small but faithful network of four congregations led by committed lay pastors. Worship is simple and participatory, centered on Scripture, prayer, and the love of God.

IPEU places strong emphasis on personal spiritual growth and discipleship. In recent years, the church has embraced a renewed urgency for evangelism and holiness, with members responding to God's call to live with purpose and share the gospel. Though modest in size, IPEU continues to grow in impact and remains closely connected to the global Covenant family.

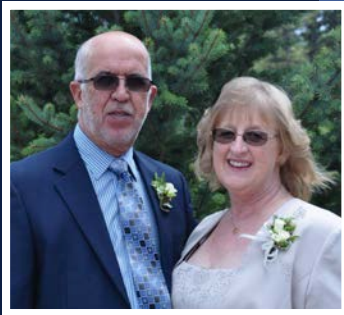
Reflections from Pastor Abel Pegoraro

What attribute of God is most striking to you in this season?

God's holiness

What brings you joy in serving with your ministry partners?

Seeing the personal growth of many members and love for service



Abel and Marie Pegorraro

Representative Pastor Abel Pegorraro

Abel Pegorraro has been in ministry for many years—eight years in Uruguay, five years in Barcelona, Spain (editor of *Koinonia*), eight years in Michigan, 25 years with Community Church, Diacono, Lider de Grupo Comunidad, and 10 years with Covenant churches in Uruguay. Abel graduated from Teológico Baustista del Uruguay.

Before retiring, Abel and his wife, Marie, bought an apartment in Uruguay—his country of birth. After buying it, they sensed a very clear calling to use their time to help churches who are not part of the Covenant, which they did for two years. In the third year they began a Bible study in the home of a couple their age. It expanded and became a church, and other congregations were added later.

Abel and his wife, Maria, have three children, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.



Efraín and Sheila Varela

President Efraín Varela

Efraín Varela is the newly elected president of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Uruguay (IPEU), leading with a heart for spiritual growth, evangelism, and deeper community engagement.

President Efraín is unable to attend Gather.



Gather Companion: Paul Swanson, Serve Globally Staff



India

Hindustani Covenant Church (HCC) is active in 10 Indian states with 179 churches, 126 pastors, and more than 36,000 members. Worship blends Western and Eastern musical styles, creating a unique expression of praise that reflects the church's diverse communities. HCC emphasizes transformation through grace, holistic ministry, and long-standing partnerships that strengthen its mission. The church invests intentionally in leadership development and is deeply committed to faithful witness and service across generations.

Reflections from Rev. Jyoti Deep

In your time as a leader of your church, what is one area where you've seen transformation in yourself?

I have become more confident and capable of handling leadership responsibilities.

What brings you joy in serving with your ministry partners?

Hearing partner leaders say that visiting HCC and witnessing the ministry has deeply impacted their lives.

Jyoti Deep



Project Officer Reverend Jyotirmaya Deep

Reverend Jyoti has served in ministry for 27 years with the Hindustani Covenant Church (HCC). He pastored two HCC congregations in Mumbai from 1998 to 2006 before serving as youth coordinator from 2006 to 2017. Currently he serves as project officer at the HCC Head Office in Pune and contributes as a board member for several HCC-affiliated organizations, including Covenant Social Service, St. Luke's Medical Society, the HCC Education Committee, and the HCC Trust Association.

Jyoti holds a bachelor of arts degree from Odisha and a bachelor's degree in theology from Union Biblical Seminary in Pune. He lives in Pune with his wife, Jayashmini, a school teacher. They have two daughters: Sharon, who is studying Western music, and Shreya, who is in middle school. Jyoti enjoys music, nature, and exploring new places.



Steven and Monica David

Moderator Reverend Steven David

Reverend Steven David serves as the moderator of the Hindustani Covenant Church in India and has been faithfully ministering in Pune for over 40 years. He is a devoted husband, father of three daughters, and proud grandfather to four grandchildren.

Rev. Steven is unable to attend Gather, but is represented by his wife, Monica.



***Gather Companions: Patrick and Tip Boonrang, Asia
Regional Coordinators***



India

Founded in 1988, India for Christ Ministries Covenant Church (IFCM) has planted more than 450 churches across 23 Indian states and serves more than 700 children through holistic ministry. Their outreach includes evangelism, discipleship, church planting, child development, and medical programs. IFCM trains leaders to reach unreached communities with the love of Christ and aims to plant 1,000 vibrant churches. Thousands have been saved and discipled through their ministry, especially in remote areas where the gospel had never been heard.

Reflections from Brother Daniel Christudas

What attribute of God is most striking to you in this season?

God's agape love, humility, and holiness.

What brings you joy in serving with your ministry partners?

It is the joy of fulfilling the Great Commission by reaching the unreached in our limited capacity, discipling, church planting, and to meet the holistic needs of our people.



Daniel Christudas

Executive Director of IFCM Brother Daniel Christudas

Daniel Christudas was born in Chennai, India, and raised in a Christian home, where he came to faith at a young age and was baptized at 15. After a period of walking away from his faith, a conversation with his pastor led him to recommit his life to Christ—a turning point marked by deep peace and renewed purpose. Two years later, he sensed a clear call to ministry while attending a conference on evangelism in Bangalore.

For the past 27 years, Daniel has served with India for Christ Ministries, traveling extensively to minister, teach, and disciple across their mission fields.

He and his wife, Esther Georgiana, are blessed with two daughters: Rinnah, who is recently married, and Rahel, a university student.



Paul Devakumar

Founder of IFCM Reverend Paul Devakumar

Paul Devakumar is the founder of India for Christ Ministries, established in 1988 with his wife, Rebecca. Originally from Chennai, Paul was called into full-time ministry after working in science and education. He has served as national director of Ambassadors for Christ and has preached across India and abroad. Ordained in 1995, Paul has been in ministry for over 50 years. He and Rebecca have three children and six grandchildren, all actively serving the Lord.

Rev. Paul and his wife, Rebecca, are unable to attend Gather.



***Gather Companions: Gretchen and Paul De Neui,
Serve Globally Staff and Global Personnel***

Japan Covenant Church



Japan

Nihon Seikei Kirisuto Kyoudan (NSKK), the Covenant denomination in Japan, includes 20 churches and operates a seminary, camp, and community center, with approximately 648 members. Worship is liturgical and features hymns with organ or piano. Churches in Japan practice hospitality through shared meals and gift-giving. NSKK is grounded in faithful ministry and the unity of believers in Christ.

Reflections from Rev. Hirotomo Ochiai

In your time as a leader of your church, what is one area where you've seen transformation in yourself?

I think I am able to take things slowly. Letting go of my plans but letting God do his work in his timing and not mine.

What attribute of God is most striking to you in this season?

His omniscience. He knows all my needs and will provide.

What brings you joy in serving with your ministry partners?

The oneness that we can experience through Christ and growing together in faith.



Hiro and Mayumi Ochiai

President Reverend Hirotomo Ochiai

Hiro Ochiai grew up in a Christian International School in Japan where he learned about Christianity. Through the Christian ministries he accepted Jesus when he attended a summer camp. He has been involved with youth ministry for 30 years.

After high school, Hiro was led to Wheaton College, a Christian college in the United States, where he felt called to ministry and graduated in 2000. He attended Seikei Seminary in Japan. Upon graduating in 2016, through the Japan Covenant Church, he has been serving as pastor at Meguro Covenant Church.

Hiro is married to his wife, Mayumi, and he enjoys jogging, guitar, gadgets, and drip coffee.



Covenant Church of Taiwan



Taiwan

The Covenant Church of Taiwan (Chinese: 行道會教會, “Doers of the Word Church”) includes 88 churches locally and 31 churches in 11 countries. With more than 16,000 members and about 1,500 baptisms each year, the church focuses on healthy family systems, intergenerational worship, and strong leadership development. Their worship is passionate and relational, emphasizing the mercy and kindness of Jesus.

Reflections from Rev. John Lin & Rev. Vernon Wu

What attribute of God is most striking to you in this season?

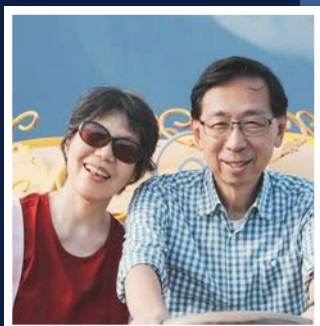
John Lin: The mercy of Jesus Christ our Lord!

Vernon Wu: His lovingkindness

What brings you joy in serving with your ministry partners?

John Lin: When we all are true followers of Jesus.

Vernon Wu: Unity in Christ



John and Sarah Lo Lin

Chair of National Committee of Covenant Church in Taiwan Reverend John Lin

John Lin currently serves as the chair of the National Committee of the Covenant Church in Taiwan. He has been in ministry for 36 years. Reverend Lin has a master of divinity degree from the Chinese Evangelical Seminary. He is the founder and senior pastor of Nei-Hu Evangelical Covenant Church in Taipei. His wife, Sarah Lo, is in charge of the marriage and family ministries at the church.

John and Sarah Lo have one adult son, Jason; a daughter-in-law, Julie; and one grandson.



Vernon Wu

Pastor of Sunnyvale Church Reverend Vernon Wu

Vernon Wu is the senior pastor of Sunnyvale Covenant Church and dean of Top Leadership Bible School. Reverend Wu has been in ministry for 39 years. He has a master's degree in economics from Wisconsin State University and a master of divinity degree at China Evangelical Seminary.

Vernon and his wife, Esther, have two adult sons and five grand-children. He enjoys jazz and the NBA.



Bethlehem Bible College



Palestine/ Israel

Located in Bethlehem, Palestine, Bethlehem Bible College (BBC) is a Christ-centered evangelical institution founded in 1979. It prepares leaders to serve Arab churches and society with humility and wholeness. Known for strong hospitality and community engagement, BBC trains students who go on to plant churches and engage in peace and reconciliation throughout the region.

Reflections from Rev. Dr. Jack Sara & Dr. Madleine Sara

In your time as a leader of your church, what is one area where you've seen transformation in yourself?

Growth in wisdom, patience, grace

What attribute of God is most striking to you in this season?

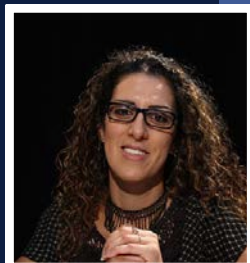
His grace and providence

What brings you joy in serving with your ministry partners?

Seeing them grow in the Lord and begin their own initiatives either in our church or more preferably outside the walls of the church.



Jack Sara



Madleine Sara

Reverend Dr. Jack Sara & Dr. Madleine Sara

Jack Sara is president of Bethlehem Bible College, and is an ordained minister with the Evangelical Alliance Church in the Holy Land. He has been in ministry for 33 years. Rev. Dr. Jack has worked extensively in the area of peace and reconciliation and has played a pioneering role in several local and international ministries.

Madleine Sara is an education specialist and Christian counselor and has been a teacher and counselor at Bethlehem Bible College for 16 years. She is also a teacher and trainer for leading women in Palestine and the Middle East, and is part of a leadership committee that works to train and empower leading women in the Middle East and North Africa.

Jack and Madleine have three adult children: Maranatha (19), Nathan (22), and Mickel (28).

Due to the current conflict in Palestine/Israel and Iran, the Saras may be unable to attend Gather.



Union of Free Evangelical Churches of France



France

The Union des Eglises Evangeliques Libres de France (UEEL) consists of 48 churches and 49 pastors throughout France. Known for simplicity in hospitality and inclusive worship, UEEL emphasizes participation across generations. Leaders reflect deeply on God's grace and the joy of seeing youth rise up into ministry and mission.

Reflections from Rev. Jéma Taboyan

In your time as a leader of your church, what is one area where you've seen transformation in yourself?

A radical shift from the situation where "I work and serve God" to one where I am daily in awe of God's work, of what he accomplishes in me and through me. This occurred during a difficult health ordeal where I almost died. I could no longer live "to" serve! God showed me that he wants us to participate in his work. And it's a gift!

What brings you joy in serving with your ministry partners?

It is a great joy to see young people rising up for ministry. I am so encouraged by their enthusiasm and dedication!



Jéma Taboyan

President Reverend Jéma Taboyan

Since May 2023, Jéma Taboyan has served as president of the Union des Eglises Evangéliques Libres de France. She is of Armenian descent and was born in Lebanon, arriving in France in 1976 to flee the war. Reverend Jéma studied theology from 1987 to 1990 and has been in ministry for 35 years, focusing on youth and children's ministry, women's ministry, and publishing devotional resources. Since 2011, she has been a parish pastor in Valencia, a rapidly growing church, and serves on several national committees in the Protestant-evangelical world.

Jéma is married to Jean Paul and has three adult children: Mélanie (30), a pastor; Matthias (28), an economics professor; and Anaïs (19), a university student.



Norwegian Mission Covenant Church



Norway

Founded in 1884, Misjonskirken Norge (MKN) is the Norwegian Mission Covenant Church and has 81 churches and approximately 12,000 members. With active church planting and international mission partnerships, MKN has a vision to "faith, send, plant." MKN values rootedness, generosity, and relevance. Its hospitality culture includes invitations to meals and meaningful conversation, reflecting God's inclusive grace.

Reflections from Pastor Siri Iversen

What attribute of God is most striking to you in this season?

His holiness and greatness. I have known Jesus my whole life, and he is a dear friend. Lately I have needed to embrace that he is also the King, sitting on the throne, for me to bow down. Both Lamb and Lion.

What brings you joy in serving with your ministry partners?

When we see that the gospel still is changing lives and communities. When new churches are started, and old churches grow. When new people come to Christ, and the ones who have known him for a long time are renewed in their faith.



Siri Iversen

General Secretary of Mission Covenant Church of Norway Pastor Siri Iversen

Siri Iversen grew up in the Covenant and her parents were missionaries in Colombia, where she learned Spanish in the church, and English at El Camino Academy in Bogota.

Pastor Siri has served in the Covenant Church her entire "career"—29 years—as a church planter, pastor, Bible school teacher, and now, general secretary for the denomination. She has a master's degree in theology.

Siri has been married to her husband, Espen, for 27 years. They have three adult children: Hanna (24), Marcus (19), and Kirsten (16). Siri likes to boat in the summer and cross-country ski in the winter. She also loves to read.





Sweden

With around 600 local churches, 57,000 members, and outreach to 120,000 people, Equmeniakyrkan (Uniting Church of Sweden) is one of Sweden's major Christian denominations. Its strengths lie in youth and children's ministry. Worship styles vary, from traditional hymns and liturgy to contemporary praise bands. Hospitality, community, and conversations are central expressions of faith.

Reflections from Rev. Niklas Piensoho

In your time as a leader of your church, what is one area where you've seen transformation in yourself?

My love for the Word of God.

What attribute of God is most striking to you in this season?

His grace

What brings you joy in serving with your ministry partners?

To see the life of individuals being transformed by the power of the gospel!



Niklas and Helena Piensoho



Karin Wiborn

President ***Reverend Karin Wiborn***

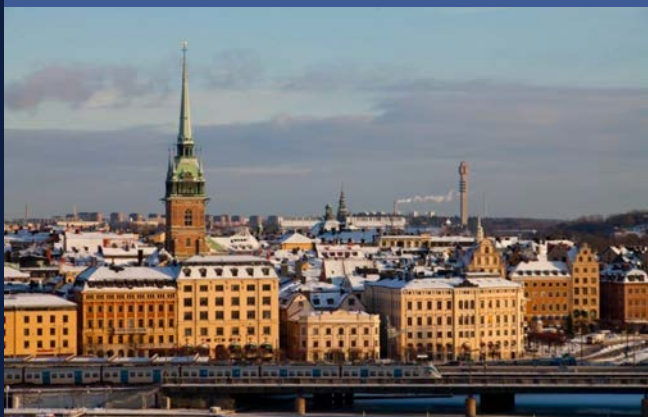
Karin Wiborn is currently serving as Church Leader (equivalent to president) of the Uniting Church in Sweden (Equmeniakyrkan). She was elected to this position at the 2020 Church Conference. Since 2020, Wiborn has stood at the forefront of her church's mission—advocating for inclusion, human rights, sustainability, and interfaith dialogue.

Rev. Karin is unable to attend Gather.

Vice President ***Reverend Niklas Piensoho***

Niklas Piensoho was ordained in 1990 and has been a pastor for 35 years. He started as a youth pastor and moved on to be a senior pastor in Gothenborg. For the last 18 years he has served as the senior pastor in Filadelfia Church, which is part of the pentecostal movement in Sweden. Last year he was asked to return to Uniting Church as a part of the national leadership team.

Niklas and his wife, Helena, have been married for 36 years and they have four adult children and one grandchild.



Covenant Church of Congo



Democratic Republic of Congo

The Communauté Évangélique de l'Ubangi-Mongala (CEUM) has more than 1,000 churches and pastors, serving across 46 ecclesiastical regions. With approximately 380,000 active members and a reach that impacts more than 2 million people, CEUM plays a vital role in Congolese society. Their worship is rich with preaching, and it is the joyful singing and dancing that brings vibrancy and movement to their gatherings.

Reflections from Rev. Duale Langba

In your time as a leader of your church, what is one area where you've seen transformation in yourself?

Through prayer

What attribute of God is most striking to you in this season?

Almighty God

What brings you joy in serving with your ministry partners?

When we receive new members and believers and when we see young people involved in our churches.



Duale and Josephine Langba

President Reverend Duale Langba

Before becoming president of the Covenant Church of Congo, Reverend Duale Langba worked as an assistant pastor, superintendent, head of evangelism and mission, and a bishop in the Church of Christ in Congo for the Equateur area. He studied theology at L'Université Protestante au Congo (UPC) in Kinshasa in 1984. He has been serving in ministry for 36 years.

Rev. Duale is married to Josephine and they have seven children—four daughters and three sons.

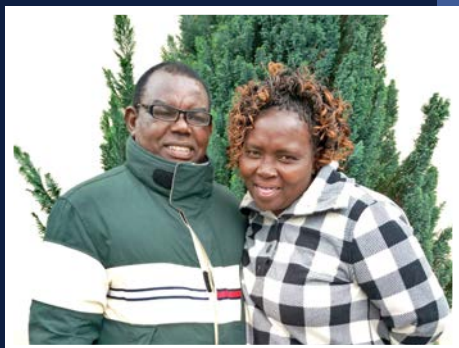


Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya



Kenya

Founded in 1998, the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya (ECCK) has grown to include more than 50 churches across Kenya and neighboring countries. ECCK is committed to holistic mission, discipleship, and leadership development, with a strong emphasis on empowering women and youth. The church also ministers among refugee communities, particularly from the Democratic Republic of Congo, offering hospitality and hope through worship and service. ECCK churches are known for vibrant worship, deep community ties, and a shared commitment to Christ's call to love and reconciliation.



Nahashon Ngoima and his wife

Interim Moderator of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya Reverend Nahashon Ngoima

Reverend Nahashon Ngoima serves as the interim moderator and a pastor of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya (ECCK). With a heart for discipleship and community transformation, he provides spiritual and organizational leadership to ECCK's growing network of churches. Rev. Ngoima is passionate about equipping leaders, fostering unity, and advancing the gospel through holistic mission across Kenya.

Rev. Nahashon is unable to attend Gather due to visa restrictions and travel barriers.



Evangelical Covenant Church of Mozambique



Mozambique

Evangelical Covenant Church of Mozambique (ECCM) has planted 576 Covenant churches in the central part of the country, including 58 in neighboring Malawi, reaching remote communities —many of which have never heard the name of Jesus or the good news of salvation. Since 2008, ECCM has partnered with Life Covenant Church to establish Melanie Centers, which provide orphan care and community outreach. Worship is celebrated with vibrant music, dancing, and traditional instruments. In Mozambican culture, guests are considered the most important people, and hospitality means offering them the very best.

Reflections from Pastors John & Maria Jone

What brings you joy in serving with your ministry partners?

We find great joy in the partners God has brought alongside us and in the opportunity to teach and train pastors, leaders, and churches over the years.

What attribute of God is most striking to you in this season?

Seeing how the love and mercy of God has radically transformed so many lives and how brothers and sisters love one another and how God has transformed their lives.



John and Maria Jone

Co-Presidents

Pastors John & Maria Jone

John Jone currently serves as president of the Evangelical Church of Mozambique. In 1958 Pastor John was born into a traditional Mozambican family. When he was nine, his family was approached by a priest of the Catholic Mission who offered to educate John. He lived at the Catholic Mission where he completed his primary and secondary schooling. In 1976 at the beginning of Mozambique's independence, Pastor John became a high school professor, teaching many students who have now become the leaders of Mozambique.

Maria Jone was born in the city of Quelimane. Her mother was a Muslim who became a Christian through the encouragement of her father. Pastor Maria completed high school in 1987.

Both Pastor John and Pastor Maria attended seminary and were ordained 1988 as pastors. They began planting churches in various parts of Mozambique. They have been in ministry for 34 years and continue working together.

John and Maria married in 1982 and have four children and 12 grandchildren.



Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan & Ethiopia



South Sudan/ Ethiopia

Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan and Ethiopia (ECCSSE) includes 435 churches, 82 pastors, and 13 conferences throughout South Sudan and Ethiopia. More than 10,000 evangelists are active in ministry. Known for its peace-building and mission work, the ECCSSE is dedicated to reconciliation and integrated development. Foot washing is a traditional gesture of hospitality in their churches, and worship includes singing, preaching, the Apostle's Creed, and monthly communion.

Reflections from Rev. Dr. Mathew Jock Moses

What attribute of God is most striking to you in this season?

Peacemaking and reconciliation

What brings you joy in serving with your ministry partners?

I find great joy in witnessing lives transformed by Christ, especially through reconciliation and the rise of peace ambassadors supported by ECCSSE and Covenant World Relief and Development.



Mathew Jock Moses

Former President Reverend Mathew Jock Moses

Mathew Jock Moses is a pastor and former president of the Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan and Ethiopia (ECCSSE). Serving in ministry for 29 years, Rev. Mathew has been a pastor/preacher for 14 of those years in the ECCSSE. He also serves a development consultant in the church. He has a bachelor's degree in theology and a master's degree in development studies, peace, and conflict management.

Mathew and his wife, Martha Nyakhan, are blessed with eight children—four daughters and four sons. He enjoys preaching, singing, and peacemaking.

President Reverend Simon Thodlong Keak

Simon Thodlong Keak is president of the Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan and Ethiopia (ECCSSE). Serving in ministry for 29 years, President Simon has been a pastor for 23 of those years in the ECCSSE. He has a bachelor's degree in theology. Simon has six children and enjoys preaching and singing.

President Simon is unable to attend Gather due to visa restrictions and travel barriers.



Simon Keak at a local water access point.



United States & Canada

The Evangelical Covenant Church was founded in 1885 by Scandinavian immigrants. Today we are one of the most ethnically diverse denominations in North America. We have more than 850 congregations throughout the U.S. and Canada. We are organized into 11 regions called conferences. We have mission partnerships around the globe in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Middle East North Africa, joining the global church in extending the whole gospel across cultures and around the world.

Reflections from Rev. Tammy Swason-Draheim

What attribute of God is most striking to you in this season?

Love—his generous, sacrificial, unconditional love

What brings you joy in serving with your ministry partners?

I enjoy people! I find great joy in serving with wise, godly, prayerful, mission minded, Jesus-loving people. I love the ministry partners I have been fortunate to serve alongside.



Tammy Swanson-Draheim

President

Reverend Tammy Swason-Draheim

Tammy Swanson-Draheim has served in ministry for more than 25 years and currently leads as president of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Her path has included roles as a senior pastor and superintendent of the Midwest Conference, shaping her deep commitment to the church's mission locally and globally.

Tammy holds degrees in business, management, and divinity. She has served in diverse ministry settings, including chaplaincy and small group leadership. Now based in Chicago, she partners with leaders across the Covenant to guide its vision and direction.

Tammy is a proud mother and grandmother who enjoys traveling, especially to visit family. She finds renewal at the beach and joy in simple pleasures like coffee dates, reading, and laughter with loved ones.





The Evangelical Covenant Church