



# Gather 2025

140TH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

## DELEGATE SUMMARY

**Gather 2025 was held in a hybrid format with delegates attending online and in-person in Orlando, Florida. A total of 500 delegates were registered and certified, with 353 attending in person and 147 virtually. This summary provides an overview for delegates to share with their congregations. Related news releases are also available at [covchurch.org/gather](https://covchurch.org/gather).**

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### STATE OF THE MISSION

President Tammy Swanson-Draheim shared a vision for the Covenant, “That we would live increasingly into the kingdom of God through a prayerful, intergenerational, multiethnic, growing movement of churches, served by women and men striving to follow in the way of Jesus by loving others as Jesus loves us.” The full president’s report can be viewed [here](#).

A unique element of Gather this year was the Intentional Discipleship Opportunities with sisters and brothers from our global Covenant family—partners in the gospel who remind us of the beautiful, diverse body of Christ around the world. Panel discussions were conducted on church planting, generosity and hospitality; peacemaking and immigration; and prayer and next-generation ministry, bringing together practitioners and theologians from across the globe to share firsthand experiences and practical strategies, as well as to inspire one another in mission together.

The leaders who joined us include:

- Reverend Iván Carrasco (representing Pastor Luis Perez, president of Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico Argentina)
- Brother Ricardo Espinoza (President of Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico de Concepción, Chile)
- Pastor Juan David Guevara (representing Pastor Luis Emilio Barrientos, president of the Federación de Iglesias del Pacto Evangélico de Colombia)
- Pastor Christian Sani (president of Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico de Ecuador)
- Brother Gerardo Sánchez Guerrero (president of Iglesia Evangélica Misionera del Pacto de México)
- Pastor Abel Pegoraro (representing President Efraín Varela of Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico del Uruguay)
- Reverend Jyotirmaya Deep (representing Reverend Steven David, moderator of the Hindustani Covenant Church, India)
- Brother Daniel Christudas (representing Reverend Paul Devakumar, founder of India for Christ Ministries Covenant Church)
- Reverend Hirotomo Ochiai (chair of Nihon Seikei Kirisuto Kyōdan, Japan)
- Reverend John Lin (chair of the National Committee of the Covenant Church in Taiwan)
- Reverend Vernon Wu (senior pastor of Sunnyvale Covenant Church and dean of Top Leadership Bible School in Taiwan)
- Reverend Jéma Taboyan (president of the Union des Églises Évangéliques Libres de France)



- Pastor Siri Iversen (general secretary of Misjonskirken Norge, Norway)
- Reverend Niklas Piensoho (representing Reverend Karin Wiborn, president of Ekumeniakyrkan, Sweden)
- Reverend Duale Langba (president of Communauté Évangélique de l'Ubangi-Mongala, Congo)
- Pastors John and Maria Jone (co-presidents of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Mozambique)
- Reverend Mathew Jock Moses (representing Reverend Simon Thodlong Keak, president of the Evangelical Covenant Church of South Sudan and Ethiopia)

Unable to attend due to travel barriers were:

- Reverend Nahashon Ngoima (interim moderator and pastor of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya)
- Reverend Dr. Jack Sara (president of Bethlehem Bible College), due to the ongoing conflict in Palestine/Israel and Iran.

## SERVANT LEADERSHIP FOR THE MISSION

- Michael White was installed as the new vice president of mission priorities.
- Heather Hernandez was installed as the new vice president of mission services.
- Rob Peterson was installed as the new superintendent and president of The Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada.
- Twenty-four people were elected to denominational boards.
- Delegates celebrated the commissioning of four church planters.
- Delegates voted to ordain thirty-five individuals to Word and Sacrament, eleven to Word and Service, commission one, and finalize the transfer of two. The

service of ordination, commissioning, and consecration of new Covenant ministers was the culmination of Gather 2025.

## HONORING FAITHFUL SERVICE IN MISSION

- The 2025 Irving C. Lambert Award, recognizing outstanding urban ministry, was presented to [Pastor Kimberly Wright](#) for her life of commitment to racial righteousness, community development, and consistent pursuit of shalom for all of God's people.
- The 2025 T.W. Anderson Award, recognizing outstanding lay ministry, was presented to [Roger Rosengren](#) of Alexandria (Minnesota) Covenant Church.
- The Covenant honored forty-three individuals with Clergy Vocational Service recognition.
- Five global personnel were recognized for their service: Jeff and Darlene Anderson, Kim Delp, and Letha and John Kerl.
- A resolution of sympathy was adopted praising God for the lives and ministries of dedicated Covenanters who have gone to be with the Lord, including twenty-eight pastors, three global personnel, and twelve pastors' spouses.

## MEMBERSHIP IN THE MISSION

- The Covenant received eleven new churches into membership.
- Delegates commissioned two new church planters.
- Nineteen churches were voluntarily removed from the membership roster: nine closed, nine withdrew, and one merged.

## FUNDING THE MISSION

- Delegates approved a Fiscal Year 2026 budget of \$19,427,215, as presented by Cyndi Hoffman, chief financial officer and treasurer.

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For more details on any of these items or to watch video of the 140th Annual Meeting, visit [covchurch.org/gather](https://covchurch.org/gather).



## DIMENSIONS OF THE MISSION

- Delegates voted to adopt a resolution affirming the essential humanitarian work that USAID has been providing and acknowledging that work as one way we carry out our Lord's command to love our neighbor.
- Gayle Gilreath, executive director of Mission Advancement, reported on the launch of a new Vision for Renewal, highlighting a prayerful, multiethnic, intergenerational movement of churches and inviting congregations to join us to empower resilient leaders, revitalize congregations, and nurture authentic, Christ-centered faith. To find out how your church can join this renewal of mission, visit [covchurch.org/renewal](https://covchurch.org/renewal).
- National Covenant Properties reported that over 3,500 mission-minded investors funded 225 loans to Covenant churches, camps, and affiliated organizations totaling \$250 million in loan commitments. They provided \$23 million in new loans in 2024 and collaborated with church leadership on 34 real estate projects totaling \$29 million.
- Covenant Trust reported that in 2024, total assets under management were \$1.24 billion, and assets under custody are \$1.08 billion, with a total of assets under care of \$2.32 billion. Total giving to Covenant ministries through Covenant Trust, including legacy and current gifts, was more than \$14.5 million. CTC made its first-ever dividend distribution to its owners, distributing \$254,211.25 to the Covenant, Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, and North Park University each. In its strategic review, Covenant Trust determined that it needs to develop a segmentation strategy in order to serve all clients in the manner best suited to their individual circumstances and objectives.
- Flooding in Colombia impacted areas where the Covenant Church of Colombia serves. Covenant World Relief and Development mobilized a response through the [International Disaster Fund](#), and Covenant global personnel reported that they were safe.

## THE NEXT ANNUAL MEETING

The 141st Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church will take place June 24–27, 2026, in Scottsdale, Arizona, at the [Grand Hyatt Resort](#).

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