



The Evangelical Covenant Church

JANUARY 27-31, 2014
Hyatt Regency O'Hare • Rosemont, Illinois

lifetogether
midwinter **XIV**

midwinterXIV

life together: an invitation

Live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.

Ephesians 4:1b-3

We invite you to join us in Chicago for Midwinter 2014. This year marks the seventy-fifth anniversary of Midwinter. It is our desire that you will be welcomed, cared for, inspired, challenged, encouraged, and equipped as you both give and receive.

The Covenant's annual theme, Found Faithful: Loving Mercy and Doing Justice is undergirded by the theme of this Midwinter—Life Together: Bearing with One Another, based on Ephesians 4:1-13. Our common experience of new life in Christ and call to ministry draw us into a life together as a pastoral community. Join with your colleagues and explore what it means to authentically “bear with one another” and do life together as Covenant pastors.

Midwinter 2014 is an opportunity to network, resource each other, tackle tough biblical issues, worship, learn, and explore caring for your physical and spiritual needs. Come expecting to connect, reflect, rest, and grow. Midwinter isn't the same without you!

Special thanks to the Midwinter 2014 Design Team: Marti Burger, Evelyn Johnson, Mark Novak, and Reesheda Washington.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary B. Walter". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each name being capitalized and prominent.

GARY B. WALTER, President

Monday

EARLY MORNING

Focus on Fitness

MORNING

Continuation of
Youth Workers'
Connection

Conference Staff
and Superintendents
Appointments

Covenant Orientation
Classes

NPTS Class

SPE Cohorts

Personal Finance
Seminar

Meet and Greet

EVENING

Opening Dinner
and ComedySportz
6 PM

Dessert and
Conference
Connections

Midwinter
After Hours
9 PM

Midwinter Choir
Rehearsal

Tuesday

EARLY MORNING

Focus on Fitness

MORNING

General Session
9-11 AM

LUNCH BREAK

Association
Meetings

CAPA, MHIPE, chaplains
11:15 AM-12:45 PM

Physical Fitness,
Prayer Studio

AFTERNOON

CONNECTIONS

Roundtables and
Affinity Groups
1-2:30 PM

General Session—
Mission and
Ministry Overview
3 PM

ECC Ministry
Breakouts
4-5 PM

EVENING

Worship
7 PM

Midwinter
After Hours
9 PM

Reception

Physical Fitness,
Prayer Studio

Wednesday

EARLY MORNING

Focus on Fitness

MORNING

General Session
9-11 AM

LUNCH BREAK

Multiethnic Lunch
11:15 AM-12:45 PM

Physical Fitness,
Prayer Studio,
Spiritual Direction

AFTERNOON

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Workshops
1-2:30 PM, 3-4:30 PM

Tracks
1-4:30 PM

Physical Fitness,
Prayer Studio,
Spiritual Direction

EVENING

Open Night—no
worship service

Association
Meeting
AAMA, 5 PM

CAPA Fellowship
8 PM

Covenant Café
8 PM

Prayer Studio

Thursday

EARLY MORNING

Focus on Fitness

MORNING

General Session
9-11 AM

LUNCH BREAK

Association
Meeting

Clergy Connecting: Life
Together Lunch with ACCW
11:15 AM-12:45 PM

Physical Fitness,
Prayer Studio,
Spiritual Direction

AFTERNOON

LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Workshops
1-2:30 PM, 3-4:30 PM

Tracks
1-4:30 PM

Physical Fitness,
Prayer Studio,
Spiritual Direction

EVENING

Worship
7 PM

Midwinter
After Hours
9 PM

Movie Night

Midwinter Choir
Rehearsal

Physical Fitness,
Prayer Studio

Friday

MORNING

Closing Worship with
Midwinter Choir and
Communion
9-10:30 AM

AFTERNOON

Continuation of
Covenant Orientation
Classes

Continuation of
NPTS Class

midwinter at-a-glance

Midwinter is designed for retired and active pastors and spouses, staff ministers, missionaries, NPTS and CHET students, chaplains, and institutional leaders, as well as lay persons, students, and pastors exploring future ministry in the Evangelical Covenant Church.

● New for 2014

Connections Day (Tuesday)

Connections Day is rooted in themes emerging from participant evaluations in recent years, specifically reasons for attending Midwinter and desired experiences. Afternoon roundtables and affinity groups will help you connect with colleagues sharing common interests, passions, and concerns. During the afternoon general session, President Gary Walter will present a mission and ministry overview, followed by ECC ministry breakout sessions where you will meet staff and learn about available resources and services.

Prayer Studio (All week)

The Prayer Studio is a place to pray, to innovate, and to experiment with the art of prayer and with other spiritual practices. Heather Monkmeyer, spiritual director and pastor, will lead the Prayer Studio. The studio is available on your own or in the context of community throughout Midwinter. There will be different guided spiritual practice experiences throughout the day so that you can try something new with others. If you miss the gathered experience, there will be space for solitude and prayer, as well as supplies and guides to take with you to deepen your own individual experience. You can come whenever it fits your schedule and decide how you want to spend your time.

At Midwinter 2014, you will:

- connect with Covenant ministry colleagues.
- share common interests and passions.
- reflect on your personal and ministry life.
- pursue areas of growth.
- be inspired and encouraged on the journey.
- rest and play.

Fitness Suite (All week)

Over the years we have learned how deeply physical health is connected to our overall well-being. In considering the question “what is the good life?” we believe the answer must involve not only the soul and mind, but the body as well. As we keep our bodies in good health, encouraging them to work as God intended, we honor his creation.

The Physical Fitness Suite options include total body workouts, instruction related to specific areas of the body, guided relaxation, core conditioning, personal training sessions, lectures on physical spirituality, Zumba classes, and marathon training.

This suite will be led by Cortney Wall, certified personal trainer at Galter Life Center in Chicago, and Ben Steel, a certified personal trainer and youth pastor at Hope Covenant Church in Crystal Lake, Illinois. Erika Ochoa from Elmhurst, Illinois, will be the Zumba instructor, Rusty Funk from Team World Vision, Chicago, the marathon training instructor.

worship services

A central part of Midwinter is the opportunity to worship God together. Midwinter 2014 includes a diverse group of gifted preachers and the dynamic music of the CHIC Worship Team, led by Matt Lundgren, director of worship at Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois.



● Tuesday, January 28, 7 pm

Wilfredo de Jesús, known as Pastor Choco, is senior pastor of New Life Covenant Church in Chicago, the church whose ministry introduced him to Christ as a teenager. An Assemblies of God megachurch that has started many domestic and international ministries to serve the poor and voiceless, New Life's vision is to be a church for the hurting that reaches people for Jesus. De Jesús was named one of *Time* magazine's "100 Most Influential People" of 2013, and in an April issue was featured in the cover story about Latino Reformation.



● Thursday, January 30, 7 pm

Chris Brown is a lead pastor at North Coast Church in Vista, California. Along with being on the vision casting team, and providing directional leadership for the church, he also co-teaches a preaching course at Bethel Seminary in San Diego, California. Brown loves bringing the Bible to life with his gifts as a communicator and storyteller. Most evident in his teaching is his passion for sharing a real and authentic journey with Jesus.



● Friday, January 31, 9 am

Stanley B. Long is founder and pastor emeritus of South Bay Community Church in Fremont, California, a congregation that joined the Evangelical Covenant Church in 2000. Throughout his ministry, Long has used his leadership gifts in community, regional, and national organizations and educational institutions. He coaches Christian leaders in a variety of settings today. His commitment to excellence in education and living a life of integrity inspires, encourages, and challenges many.

general sessions

● Life Together Dinner and Celebration

Monday, January 27, 6 pm

The opening dinner will be followed with a performance by ComedySportz, the longest running short-form improv comedy show in Chicago. It's not comedy about sports, but improv comedy played as a sport. The performers compete for your love, laughter, and applause by creating short scenes, songs, and games based on your suggestions. You vote for the winner! Following the dinner and program, dessert will be served.



● Covenant Mission and Ministry Overview

Tuesday, January 28, 3-4 pm

Gary Walter has served as president of the Evangelical Covenant Church since September 2008. During the past six years, he has led Covenant leadership in clarifying our mission, ministry priorities, and support services, resulting in a restructuring of the denominational ministries and services. His vision for the future is rooted in a deep commitment to our historical and biblical/theological foundations and intentionality for advancing the mission while bridging to the future.

Dessert and beverages sponsored by National Covenant Properties.

● Morning Sessions—Bible Study, Storytelling, and Reflection

Tuesday-Thursday, January 28-30, 9-11 am

Each morning a Covenant scholar will explore Ephesians 4:1-13 and other texts to stimulate reflection on a dimension of the theme “Life Together: Bearing with One Another.” Following the teaching time, Covenant pastors will share stories of practical application and table groups will engage in reflection, dialogue, and prayer. The sessions will open with artists from North Park University and North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago.

Tuesday, January 29—Life Together: Bearing with One Another (contextually)



Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom is associate professor of theology and ethics at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago. She began teaching at North Park in 2006. A life-long Covenanter and, in recent years, a teacher of Covenant Orientation classes, Clifton-Soderstrom deeply appreciates the increasingly diverse contexts in which Covenant pastors serve. As a scholar, she brings the whole of Scripture and the distinctives of Covenant theology and Christian ethics into this conversation.

Morning coffee break sponsored by Covenant Pension Plan.

Wednesday, January 29—Life Together: Bearing with One Another (in our cultural differences)



Peter Cha is associate professor of pastoral theology at Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in Deerfield, Illinois.

Cha began teaching at Trinity in the late 90s while copastoring the Covenant's first Asian American church plant. Cha's commitment to the ministry of reconciliation is lived out as he engages in a wide range of venues inviting others into the dialogue. His approach is one of “not giving the answers, but engaging in collaborative conversations with the presence of the Holy Spirit to generate new knowledge that will serve the church today.”

Morning coffee break sponsored by National Covenant Properties.

Thursday, January 30—Life Together: Bearing with One Another (in mutual care)



Stephen Chester is professor of New Testament at North Park Theological Seminary in Chicago. He began teaching at North Park in 2006. His passion in

teaching is to equip students to think critically about the interpretation of Scripture in the conviction that true faith grows through wrestling with the text of God's word. His own living out of this principle is reflected in his book, *Conversion at Corinth*, where he offers refreshingly new and innovative light on the well-worn path of Paul's conversion and his theology.

Morning coffee break sponsored by National Covenant Properties.

connections day TUESDAY

SUPPORT, ENCOURAGE, DISCUSS, & CONNECT

Tuesday, January 28

Roundtables and Affinity

Groups: 1-2:30 pm—You may register for one roundtable discussion or affinity group.

ECC Ministry Breakouts:

4-5 pm—You may attend one ECC ministry breakout.

What is a roundtable discussion?

During a roundtable discussion, the leader will make a presentation (either personally or through guest presenters), pose questions, and facilitate dialogue among participants. Roundtables will be a blend of outside resource input and peer resourcing. Go to CovChurch.org/midwinter for details on discussion topics.

What is an affinity group?

Affinity groups focus on specialized roles, context for ministry, or personal interests. During an affinity group, the leader will assist the gathered group in building an agenda of topics to be discussed and then facilitating the dialogue. Affinity groups are designed as peer resourcing. Go to CovChurch.org/midwinter for details on groups.

What is a ministry breakout?

Ministry breakouts provide the opportunity to meet ECC and affiliate staff, learn about available resources and services, and ask questions. To help planners allocate space and assist leaders in preparation, please RSVP a specific session when registering online.

● Roundtable Discussions

RT01. 72 Evangelism—Leader: Michael Carrion, pastor, Promised Land Covenant Church, Bronx, New York

RT02. Care at End of Life: How Can We Help Them Find Hope?—Leaders: Susan Cosio, hospital chaplain, Sacramento, CA, and Corrie Gustafson, hospice chaplain, Phoenix, AZ

RT03. Church and Neighbor—Leader: Gideon Tsang, pastor, Vox Veniae, Austin, TX

RT04. Compelling Missional Ministry—Leader: Meagan Gillan, executive minister, Women Ministries, ECC

RT05. Early Adult Discipleship—Leaders: Aune Carlson, early adult and camping ministry, Christian Formation, ECC, and Julia Styles, University Ministries, North Park University, Chicago

RT06. Engaging Our Cities: From Service to Justice—Leader: Rich Kohng, University Ministries, North Park University, Chicago

RT07. Found Faithful in Missions: Why Does the Church Still Send Missionaries?—Leader: Kim Crawford, mission mobilization and connection, World Mission, ECC

RT08. Increasing Sensitivity and Inclusiveness through Disability Ministries—Leader: Debbie Griffith Samuels, director of mission and outreach, Central Conference, ECC

RT09. Israel/Palestine Reconciliation Conversation

Leaders: Mae Cannon, senior director of advocacy and outreach, Middle East for World Vision USA, Washington, DC and Julia Sandstrom, director of ministry support, Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada, ECC

RT10. Measuring and Raising HQ (Hope Quotient) in Yourself and Your Church—Leader: Ray Johnston, pastor, Bayside Church, Granite Bay, CA

RT11. Not Again! Dealing with Difficult People—Leader: Brian Madvig, director of clinical services, Arbor Clinical Associates, Wheaton and Northfield, IL

RT12. Responding Faithfully to God's Call—Leaders: Harold Spooner, president of Covenant Initiatives for

Care, Chicago, and Boaz Johnson, professor of biblical and theological studies, North Park University, Chicago

RT13. Thriving in Children's Ministry—Leader: Steve Burger, children, adult, and family ministry, Christian Formation, ECC, Chicago

RT14. Women's Empowerment: A Key to Community Transformation—Leader: Curt Peterson, executive minister, World Mission, ECC

● Affinity Groups

AG01. Camps, Conferences, and Retreats—Facilitator: Joel Rude, associate director, Alpine Camp and Conference Center, Blue Jay, CA, and president, Association of Covenant Camps and Conference Centers, ECC

AG02. Church Planters—Facilitator: John Teter, team leader for church planting, ECC, and pastor, Fountain of Life, Long Beach, CA

AG03. First-time Connections with the Covenant—Facilitator: Alex Gee, pastor, Fountain of Life Church, Madison, WI

AG04. Iglesias Hispanas haciendo ministerio en América Latina (en español)—Facilitator: Pastor Roberto Ghione, Nueva Esperanza, Simi Valley, CA.

AG05. Joy in the Morning: Adjusting to Life without a Spouse—Facilitator: Theresa Marks, manager of pastoral care, Ordered Ministry, ECC

AG06. Leaders of Inner City Ministries—Facilitator: Harvey Carey, senior pastor, Citadel of Faith, Detroit

AG07. Life Together in a Town And Country Setting—Facilitator: Mark Chapman, pastor, LaBolt Covenant Church, LaBolt, SD

AG08. Navigating the "In Between"—Transitional Pastors in the Interim Period—Facilitator: Alan Forsman, congregational consultant, Pacific Southwest Conference, ECC, and general coach, trainer, and meeting/planning facilitator

AG09. Pastors in First Call/New Call—Facilitator: Bryan Murphy, pastor, South Bay Community Church, Fremont, CA

AG10. Spiritual Directors—Facilitators: Don Robinson, associate superintendent, North Pacific Conference, ECC, and Millie Lungren, Christian Formation, ECC

AG11. Supervising Seminary Interns Well—Facilitators: Timothy Johnson, associate professor of ministry/director of field education, and Deborah Penny, associate director of field education, North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago

AG12. Women Pastors—Facilitators: Janine Davis, pastor, The Bridge, Detroit, and Anne Vining, pastor, First Covenant Church, St. Paul, MN

AG13. Worship Pastors—Facilitator: Geoff Twigg, worship, Christian Formation, ECC

AG14. Youth Workers: The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly of Youth Ministry—Facilitator: Ben Kerns, youth pastor, Marin Covenant Church, San Rafael, CA

● ECC Ministry Breakouts

MB1. NPU (undergraduate, graduate, and seminary) and CHET (Centro Hispano de Estudios Teológicos)

MB2. Covenant Ministries of Benevolence and Covenant Initiatives for Care

MB3. Covenant Retirement Communities

MB4. Covenant Trust Company

MB5. National Covenant Properties

MB6. Bethany Benefit Service and Covenant Pension Plan

MB7. Communications

MB8. Mission Advancement and Stewardship

MB9. Congregational and Conference Mission (Start and Strengthen Churches, Make and Deepen Disciples, and Love Mercy, Do Justice)

MB10. Leader Development (clergy and lay)

MB11. Global Mission (Serve Globally with related organizations and ministries—Paul Carlson Partnership, Covenant Kids Congo, Covenant Merge Ministries, Covenant World Relief and departmental ministries)

learning experiences

WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY

WORKSHOPS & TRACKS

Wednesday, January 29

Workshops: 1-2:30 pm,
same repeated at 3-4:30 pm

Tracks: 1-4:30 pm

Thursday, January 30

Workshops: 1-2:30 pm,
same repeated at 3-4:30 pm

Tracks: 1-4:30 pm

What is a workshop?

Eight 90-minute workshops that focus on specific topics are offered twice each day (an extra workshop is offered Thursday only at 3 p.m.). Wednesday workshops focus on biblical/theological topics. Thursday workshops focus on relational and ministry skills. Go to CovChurch.org/midwinter for detailed workshop descriptions.

What is a track?

Each of the nine tracks focus on a general theme or topic over a two-day period. Each day is designed to be a stand-alone session. You may register for one or both days. Go to CovChurch.org/midwinter for detailed track descriptions. Please indicate which day(s) when registering.

Design your learning experience during Midwinter 2014.

Each afternoon, choose between:

- two workshops
- one workshop and an option from the physical fitness or spiritual suite
- one track

● Workshops

Wednesday—Focus on Biblical/ Theological and Inner Journey

WS01. Biblical Witness on Healthy Human Life—Leader: James Bruckner, professor of Old Testament, North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago

WS02. Living as Restored People—Leaders: Wilson Herrera, Hispanic ministries, Christian formation, ECC; Lina Sanchez-Herrera, spiritual formation and prayer staff with Intervarsity USA, Chicago

WS03. Love and Forgiveness: Making Life Together Possible—Leader: Max Lee, associate professor of New Testament, North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago

WS04. Out of the Depths: The Prayer of Lament—Leader: Rebekah Eklund, assistant professor of theology, Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD

WS05. Pursuing Spiritual Wisdom: Embracing the Essential Wisdom Necessary for Life and Ministry—Leader: Jeff Mitchell, pastor, Good Samaritan Covenant Church, Valley Springs, CA, and pastoral spiritual director, Pacific Southwest Conference, ECC

WS06. Taste of Spiritual Practices—Leader: Diana Shiflett, pastor of spiritual formation, Naperville Covenant Church, Naperville, IL

WS07. Theological Perspectives of a Multiethnic Community—Leader: Kevin Farmer, associate pastor, Sanctuary Covenant Church, Minneapolis, MN

WS08. Towards a Theology of Migration for the Church—Leader: Armida Belmonte Stephens, adjunct faculty, North Park University and North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago

Thursday—Focus on Relational and Ministry Skills

WS09. God's Heart for the City: Effective Ministry in Urban Contexts—Leaders: Harvey Drake, pastor, Emerald City Bible Fellowship, Seattle, and Aaron Cho, pastor of community life and formation, Quest Church, Seattle

WS10. Leading in Multicultural Contexts—Leaders: Gail Song Bantum, pastor of administration and worship, Quest Church, Seattle, and Brian Bantum, assistant professor of theology, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle

WS11. Let the Children Come—

Leader: Pat Croasmun, family ministry coach, East Coast Conference, ECC

WS12. Ministries That Flourish—

Leader: Paul Wilson, pastor, First Covenant Church, Oakland, CA

WS13. Seasons of Marriage—

Leaders: Neil and Sharol Josephson, national directors, FamilyLife Canada, White Rock, BC

WS14. Single in Ministry—

Leader: Sue Braun, spiritual director and on-call chaplain, Chicago

WS15. Third Culture Leadership Development—

Leader: Peter Ahn, lead pastor, Metro Community Church, Englewood, NJ

WS16. Weaving Work, Family, and Faith—

Leader: Lenore Johnson, lecturer in sociology at North Park University, Chicago

WS17. The Art of Storytelling—

Leader: Chris Brown, North Coast Church, Vista, CA (Thursday Only, 3-4:30 pm)

● Tracks

Track 1. Church Planting—

Coordinator: John Teter, team leader for church planting, ECC, and pastor, Fountain of Life, Long Beach, CA

T1W. Becoming a Church that Plants Churches (led by Tim Morey, pastor, Life Covenant Church, Torrence, CA)

T1TH. Church Planting for a New World (presented by Covenant church planters)

Track 2. Congregational Vitality: Stable Is Not the Goal—

Coordinator: John Wenrich, director of congregational vitality, ECC; leadership provided by regional directors of congregational vitality

T2W. How Does a Stable Church Become a Healthy Missional Church?

T2TH. How Does a Critical Moment Church Become a Healthy Missional Church?

Track 3. Doing Justice—

Leader: Alexia Salvatierra, director of justice ministries, Southwest California Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church, America, CA.

T3W. Tools for Doing Justice—Faith-Rooted Organizing

T3TH. Tools for Doing Justice—Biblically-Based Public Policy Advocacy

Track 4. How Great Leaders

Inspire Action—Leader: CJ Alvarado, president of Bamboo Creative, Sacramento, CA, and founder of Snippet Inc., Rocklin, CA

T4W. Building Organizations, Leading Movements, and Inspiring People

T4TH. New Forms of Interaction and Influence—Social Media And Technology in Your Ministry

Taller 5. Liderando una efectiva transformación comunitaria:

Abordando situaciones de la comunidad a través de la colaboración—Líder: Marvin Asfhl Gibbs, Profesor adjunto del Centro Hispano de Estudios Teológicos, Compton, CA. (en español)

T5W. Colaboración efectiva para tratar asuntos de la comunidad.

T5TH. Modelos de liderazgo para una efectiva transformación comunitaria.

Track 6. Pastoral Care in the 21st Century—

Coordinator: Mark Novak, executive minister, Ordered Ministry, ECC

T6W. Addiction and Related Pastoral Concerns

T6TH. Ministry and Pastoral Care with the Marginalized

Track 7. Road to Missional—

Leader: Michael Frost, director, Tinsley Institute, Morling College, Sydney, Australia.

T7W. Theological and Practical Foundations for a Genuinely Missional Vision

T7TH. Priorities and Strategies of the Missional Church

Track 8. Transformational

Community Engagement—Leaders: Dave Husby, Covenant World Relief, ECC, and Cecilia Williams, CMJ Initiatives, ECC

T8W. Loving, Empowering, and Resourcing Our Communities

T8TH. Readiness and Response in Times of Crises

Track 9. Youth Ministry—

Coordinator: Marti Burger, youth and family ministry, Christian Formation, ECC

T9W. Sticky Faith (led by Chap Clark, associate provost and professor of youth, family, and culture, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, CA)

T9TH. TED Talks on Current Youth Ministry Topics (presented by Covenant youth workers)

fitness suite

PHYSICAL & SPIRITUAL

● Early Morning Options

Boot Camp

Tuesday-Thursday, 6:30-7:30 am

A total body workout using bodyweight and some minimal equipment.

Beginning Zumba Classes

Tuesday-Thursday, 6:30-7:30 am

A great cardiovascular aerobic exercise session with good music, good movement, good fun and fitness with a Latin fusion.

Marathon Training

Tuesday-Thursday, 6:30-7:30 am

Learn training basics, hear testimonies from pastors, and gain info on how your church can be involved with Team World Vision.

Advanced Zumba Classes

Tuesday-Thursday, 7:30-8:30 am

A great cardiovascular aerobic exercise session with good music, good movement, good fun and fitness with a Latin fusion.

Wake-up Call

Tuesday-Thursday, 7:30-8:30 am

A functional, total body workout waking you up for the day.

● Lunch Hour Options

Core Conditioning

Tuesday-Thursday, 11:30 am-12:30 pm

Guided Relaxation

Tuesday-Thursday, 11:30 am-12:30 pm

An hour of deep breathing, gentle stretching, guided visualization, and de-stressing.

● Afternoon Options

Hands-on Session: Tennis Ball Tension Tamer

Tuesday, 1-2:30 pm

Personal Training

Tuesday, 1-2:30 pm, Wednesday, 1-2:30 pm, sign-up on-site

Hands-on Session and Lecture: Save Your Back

Wednesday, 1-2:30 pm

Learn how the muscles of the hips and glutes support the rest of the body.

Physical Spirituality Lecture, Part 1: What Does a Whole Healthy Pastor Look Like?

Thursday, 1-2:30 pm

Physical Spirituality Lecture, Part 2: Goal Setting: Find Your Play, Physical Direction

Thursday, 3-4:30 pm

Covenant Initiatives for Care is partnering to provide the Physical Fitness Suite.

● Late Evening Options

Guided Relaxation

Tuesday & Thursday, 9:30-10:30 pm

An hour of deep breathing, gentle stretching, guided visualization, and de-stressing.

● Health Screenings

Monday-Thursday, 6:30-8:30 am, please pre-register

The screening is sponsored by Bethany Benefit Service and administered through Highmark staff. The “fasting” blood test (via the finger stick method) will provide immediate results including a full lipid profile (total cholesterol, HDL-cholesterol, LDL-cholesterol, triglycerides, glucose) and blood pressure reading. These results will be basis for a 5-10 minute consultation with attending staff.

There is a \$25 fee to participate.

● Spiritual Direction

Wednesday & Thursday, 11 am-6 pm, please pre-register

Spiritual direction is a ministry of listening, discernment, and prayer in a confidential setting of encouragement and compassion. You can meet with a trained spiritual director at Midwinter for a 50-minute session. Note your preferred day, when registering online. Capacity is limited and scheduling is on a first come, first serve basis. Assignment of specific time will be given at registration. Questions contact Millie Lungren at millie.lungren@covchurch.org or phone (773) 442-6578.

● Prayer Studio

Open Tuesday-Thursday, 6:30 am-10:30 pm

The Prayer Studio is available on your own or in the context of community throughout Midwinter. You can come whenever it fits your schedule and decide how you want to spend your time. Please note: registration is required for some afternoon group offerings.

Early Morning & Evening Options

Morning Prayer

Tuesday- Thursday, 6:30-7:30 am

Scripture Meditation

Tuesday- Thursday, 7:30-8:30 am

Evening Prayers and Healing Service

Tuesday- Thursday, 9:30-10:30 pm

Afternoon Options

Spiritual Practices

Tuesday, 1-2:30 pm

Prayer Collage

Wednesday, 1-2:30 pm, please pre-register

Discernment in Context of Christian Community

Wednesday, 3-4:30 pm, please pre-register

Quaker Palms Down/Palms Up Prayer

Thursday, 1-2:30 pm

Praying with Art

Thursday, 3-4:30 pm

other experiences

● Association Meetings

Tuesday, January 28

Please RSVP when registering online. Attendees purchase lunch prior and bring to room.

Covenant Asian Pastors Association (CAPA),

11:15 am-12:45 pm

Association of Hispanic Pastors (MHIPE),

11:15 am-12:45 pm

Covenant Chaplains Association (CCA),

11:15 am-12:45 pm

Wednesday, January 29

African American Ministers Association

(AAMA), 5 pm-8:30 pm—Members that RSVP will receive tickets at check-in. Nonmembers are welcome and can RSVP and pay the \$41 dinner cost when registering online.

Covenant Asian Pastors Association Fellowship,

8 pm—Refreshments served.

Thursday, January 30

Clergy Connecting: Life Together—Lunch

Together! 11:15 am-12:45 pm—In celebration of our unity in Christ, Advocates for Covenant Clergy Women (ACCW) welcomes men and women clergy to connect in conversation and experience how advocacy and supporting one another strengthens our calling as pastors. The ACCW partners meeting will begin at 12:20 p.m. Attendees must RSVP and pay the \$12 lunch fee when registering online. (Sponsored by the ACCW)

● Multiethnic Luncheon

Wednesday, January 29, 11:15 am-12:45 pm

Pastors from all ECC ethnic associations are invited to this lunch as guests of various Covenant entities. (Please RSVP when registering online.)

● Midwinter Choir

Returning for a second year, Sid Smith III, worship pastor at First Covenant Church in Oakland, California, will lead the Midwinter 2014 Choir. Sid's passion for worship is reflected in this invitation: "Come raise your voice to the Lord in song with your brothers and sisters in Christ. We will present two dynamic selections of gospel music at our Friday morning worship service, with rehearsals on both Monday and Thursday evenings at 9. The ability to read music is helpful, though not mandatory. Join the fun, fellowship, and spirited worship!" (Please indicate your intent to participate when registering online.)

● Appointments with Conference Superintendents and Staff

If you would like to make an appointment with a conference superintendent or staff during the Midwinter Conference, please contact them prior to the event. There will be a designated location at the hotel to meet.

● Family Room

For your convenience, a playroom for children will be available throughout the conference. Parents are required to supervise their children; this room is not staffed otherwise. Live streaming of the plenary sessions will be provided in the Family Room.

midwinter after hours

● NPU Reception

Tuesday, January 28, 9 pm

North Park University invites all Midwinter attendees to a reception following worship on Tuesday evening. The inaugural North Park Theological Seminary Distinguished Alumni Award will be presented at this time. Please join us for refreshments and a chance to visit with friends.

The North Park Theological Seminary Distinguished Alumni Award will be bestowed each year to an individual who has made significant contributions in their field while living a life reflective of the core values and mission of North Park Theological Seminary. Nominations can be submitted online at www.northpark.edu/alumni/noteworthy-alumni.

If you have questions, please contact the Office of Alumni Relations at (773) 244-5273 or alumni@northpark.edu

● Covenant Café

Wednesday, January 29, 8 pm

The Covenant Café is a time to celebrate, relax, reflect and be encouraged by what God is doing in our lives. Covenant artists will invite us into sacred space. Josef Rasheed, pastor of Crossroads Covenant Church in DeSoto, Texas, will host. You are invited to join us anytime throughout this experience. Refreshments will be provided.

Sponsored by the Serve Globally partners (Covenant Kids Congo, Covenant World Relief, Covenant World Mission, Merge Ministries, Paul Carlson Partnership, and Women Ministries)

● Movie Night

Thursday, January 30, 9 pm

Movie Night will feature films highlighting some of the key justice issues being addressed through Covenant ministries—locally, regionally, nationally, and internationally. Refreshments will be served.

Sponsored by Covenant Ministries of Benevolence

special events

● Youth Workers Connection

January 25-27 (Saturday evening through Monday afternoon) at Hyatt Regency O'Hare

Rest. Refresh. Connect. Reflect. Worship.

Engage in theological dialogue, CovTalks, fitness options, spiritual connections, community groups, roundtable discussions, and peer learning—just a few of the highlights for Youth Worker Connection 2014.

Andrew Root will lead our theological dialogue. The Olson Baalson Associate Professor of Youth and Family Ministry at Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Root writes and researches in areas of theology and youth ministry. He will share insights from his most recent book, *The Relational Pastor*.

We invite you to extend your YWC experience by staying for Monday evening's opening dinner and ComedySportz, and for MW Connections Day on Tuesday, January 28. Join in roundtables, affinity groups, the mission and ministry overview, and ministry breakout sessions. Get connected to the entire ministerium, hear the dreams and visions for the future, and interact with colleagues in ministry. Or, register for Midwinter 2014, which will include a youth ministry track. Chap Clark will share about the research and resources in relationship to Sticky Faith and the new young adult initiatives. Covenant youth workers will share ministry insights in a TED talk format.

Come connect with God, each other, and yourself.

Go to CovChurch.org/midwinter for more details.

● Covenant Retirement Communities Chaplains Meeting

Sunday, January 26, starting at 2 pm; Monday, January 27 from 7:30 am-noon at Hyatt Regency O'Hare

A meeting of education and inspiration specifically designed to support the work of Covenant Retirement Communities (CRC) chaplains and to update them on current initiatives. Registration information will be sent to all CRC chaplains separately. Please contact John Satterberg at jhsatterberg@covenantretirement.org with any questions.

● Spiritual Directors Retreat

Sunday, January 26, 6 pm through Monday, January 27, 4 pm at Divine Word/Techny Towers

Designed for trained or in-training Covenant-affiliated spiritual directors, this retreat is an opportunity for personal refreshment, community-building, and experiential learning. \$105 (includes meals and housing) See CovChurch.org/midwinter for more details.

● Early Bird Special: Personal Finance Seminar

Monday, January 27, from 2:30 to 5 pm at Hyatt Regency O'Hare

This seminar on personal finances and taxes is being offered to all registrants. Elliott Johnson, controller for the Evangelical Covenant Church, will be the presenter. (Included in Midwinter registration fee.)

● Sustaining Pastoral Excellence (SPE) Cohorts

At Hyatt Regency O'Hare

For pastors who have been accepted into a SPE cohort, please note your cohort when registering online. The cohort leadership will send you more information after your registration is received. Cohorts are funded by SPE grants. For more details, go to CovChurch.org/midwinter.

The Art of Pastoral Leadership Cohort:

Winter Retreat—Monday, 9 am-5 pm (Must register and pay for Midwinter, if planning to stay for the conference.)

Living Forward Cohort: The Adventure of the Call after 50—Monday, 9 am-5 pm; Wednesday, Thursday, 11:30 am-4:30 pm (Must register for Midwinter and may select Connection Day options for Tuesday.)

● NPTS Class

**Monday, 2-5 pm; Tuesday, 9 am-3 pm;
Wednesday, Thursday, 9 am-5 pm; Friday,
11 am-3 pm at Hyatt Regency O'Hare**

Christian Theology, a three-hour graduate credit class, will be offered on-site. Instructors from NPTS are Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom and Armida Belmonte Stevens. This course will fulfill one of the Core 4 requirements. Both pre- and post-work is required. Go to CovChurch.org/midwinter for more details.

● Covenant Orientation

If you are planning to take a Covenant Orientation class during Midwinter, indicate which course you wish to take when registering online. The Covenant Orientation office will send more information after your registration is received.

Pre-Midwinter (Cenacle, a retreat center in Chicago)
Does not include Midwinter registration.

- *Vocational Excellence in the ECC*—Thursday, January 23, 9 am, through Sunday, January 26, 4 pm

During Midwinter (Hyatt Regency O'Hare)

- *History of the Covenant*—Monday-Thursday, 9 am-4:30 pm; Friday, 10:45 am-4:30 pm
- *Theology of the Covenant*—Monday-Thursday, 9 am-4:30 pm; Friday, 10:45 am-4:30 pm
- *Mission and Ministry*—Monday, 1-5 pm; Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday, 9 am-5 pm
- *Excelencia Vocacional en la IPE*—Tuesday-Thursday, 9 am-4:30 pm; Friday, 10:45 am-4:30 pm

● Association of Covenant Camps & Conference Centers (ACCCC) Annual Meeting & Continuing Education

Monday, 10 am-Tuesday evening

Go to CovChurch.org/midwinter for more details.

general information

● Registration

In an effort to assist churches working with a 2014 budget, we now offer any Midwinter and Youth Worker Connection attendees the option of securing the early bird rate with a nonrefundable \$100 deposit paid by November 22, 2013. Simply pay your remaining balance by January 10, 2014 to receive the early rate. Accounts not paid in full by January 10 will be charged the regular rate, minus the deposit.

Those registering as “additional members from the same church” need to indicate the primary registrant from their church when registering. The primary registrant cannot be a Covenant Orientation student. Go to CovChurch.org/midwinter to download additional forms.

Cancellation Policy

You may cancel your Midwinter registration at any time. Cancellation requests must be given to the Midwinter registrar in writing by mail, fax, or email. (Cancellations cannot be accepted over the phone.) A \$25 cancellation fee applies

Substitutions will be accepted from the same church or institution, providing the registration and fee paid for Youth Workers Connection and/or Midwinter are the same for the new registrant as the original registrant. To make any substitutions, contact the events registrar at jill.ulven@covchurch.org. Make sure to include the name, address, telephone number, and email address of the substitute.

Scholarships

Scholarships are available for credentialed, active Covenant pastors and chaplains (military and institutional), as well as retired Covenant pastors who are not currently serving in a paid ministry position. Applications are available at CovChurch.org/midwinter, or by contacting your conference office. Please read the application for complete instructions.

Scholarship Deadline: Monday, December 2, 2013

Questions?

Please contact Jill Ulven, events registrar, at (773) 596-2493, with any registration questions. For all other questions, please contact the Events Office at events@covchurch.org, or by phone at (800) 910-2442.

	Early Registration Through November 22, 2013	Regular Registration After November 22, 2013
Midwinter Conference		
• Primary Registrant	\$415	\$460
• Additional Registrant	\$315	\$360
• Retirees/Spouses	\$175	\$225
• NPTS/CHET	\$175	\$225
Youth Worker Connection		
• Primary Registrant	\$195	\$225
• Additional Registrant	\$150	\$180
YWC Plus (YWC + Monday and Tuesday of Midwinter)		
• Primary Registrant	\$270	\$299
• Additional Registrant	\$225	\$255
YWC and Midwinter Conference (\$100 discount!)		
• Primary Registrant	\$510	\$585
• Additional Registrant	\$365	\$440

● Lodging

Hyatt Regency O'Hare

9300 Bryn Mawr Avenue
Rosemont, Illinois 60018,
Phone: (847) 696-1234

Hotel Reservations

Two double beds or one king bed:
\$129 per night (plus taxes)

To make your hotel reservation at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare: go to CovChurch.org/midwinter. Select Lodging & Meals from the Register drop-down menu. Then click on the Midwinter Hotel Reservations link and follow the step-by-step instructions. You can also call (847) 696-1234 or (800) 233-1234 and ask for the group rate for the Midwinter Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Hotel Reservation Deadline:

January 7, 2014. Reserve your room by this date to receive ECC room rates. You are responsible for your own reservations. Please notify the hotel of any special needs related to handicap accessibility in the facility.

Guest Amenities: FedEx Business Center, complimentary Life Fitness Stay Fit gym, Regency Club, safety deposit boxes, laundry/dry cleaning, and a 24-hour coffee shop are available. Complimentary Internet access is provided in guestrooms for attendees staying at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare who have booked in the Midwinter room block.

Find a Roommate

If you would like a roommate to help with housing costs at Midwinter or Youth Workers Connection, fill out the roommate request form at CovChurch.org/midwinter (a link to the form is available from the Lodging and Meals page). We will help connect you with another registrant interested in sharing a room at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare.

Parking

Self-parking is available in the Hyatt Regency O'Hare parking garage at a reduced rate of \$12 per day with in and out privileges for all attendees. Valet service is available at prevailing rates.

Meals

Attendees will be on their own for meals except for Monday evening's Opening Dinner, which is included in your Midwinter Conference registration fee. Lunch cash line available. Other dining options within the hotel include:

Red Bar and Lounge serves appetizers, salads, sandwiches, and pizza after 4pm.

O'H American Grill serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner.

Perks Coffee and Gift Shop serves Starbucks coffee, sandwiches, and snacks.

MB Financial Park

Just a few blocks away from the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, this entertainment district features restaurants with live music, casual dining, bowling, and an 18-screen movie theater. Shuttles to and from the Financial Park will be provided at various times during Midwinter.

● Travel

Nearest Airport

O'Hare Int'l Airport (ORD)

10000 West O'Hare Avenue
Chicago, IL 60666
Web: www.ohare.com

Special Offers

American Airlines Special Offer—

An American Airlines discount can be booked online for American/American Eagle flights only. Use the Promotion Code 3214AY when registering.

United Airlines Special Offer—

United Airlines is also offering a special discount for Midwinter attendees. Book your flight online and enter the Offer Code ZQU9404391 when searching for your flight.

Ground Transportation

Complimentary hotel shuttle service—

Follow the red shuttle signs at the airport to the designated pick-up area. Shuttle buses are blue with white signage that reads Hyatt Regency O'Hare.

ACE Rent-a-Car is offering a discounted rate to Midwinter attendees. Go to CovChurch.org/midwinter for more information and to be connected with ACE's reservation center.

Taxi service is available on a first-come, first serve basis from the lower level curb of all terminals. All taxis are metered. Approximate cost from O'Hare airport to the Hyatt Regency is \$10-\$12.

next steps

- Review all that Midwinter has to offer this year, including:
 - Connections Day
 - Prayer Studio and Fitness Suite
 - Roundtables, Breakouts, and new focused tracks
- Take advantage of the 2014 Midwinter Planner & map out your schedule for the week.
- Register online at CovChurch.org/midwinter OR mail, email or fax in the registration form
- Reserve your hotel room. See page 19 for detailed instructions.
- Secure your travel arrangements, and take advantage of discount codes on page 19.
- Visit CovChurch.org/midwinter for more information and updates.
- “Like” the Evangelical Covenant Church on Facebook and interact with us online.
- **SAVE THE DATE** for Midwinter 2015 in Denver, Colorado: January 26-30, 2015

registration at-a-glance

**Register before November 22, 2013,
to secure the Early Rate.**

To register online:

Visit CovChurch.org/midwinter. Online registration is now available.

To register by mail, email, or fax:

Send all completed registration forms to:

The Evangelical Covenant Church

Attn: Events Office Registrar

8303 W. Higgins Rd.

Chicago, IL 60631-2941

Fax: (773) 596-2494

Email: Jill.ulven@covchurch.org