

Denominational Association

The Association of Covenant Spiritual Directors (ACSD) exists to facilitate broader connection between Covenant-affiliated spiritual directors. The Association is supported by the Make and Deepen Disciples mission priority of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Our Purpose

The purpose of the Association of Covenant Spiritual Directors (ACSD) is to further the spiritual direction ministry of the ECC by providing visibility for the ministry, advocacy to strengthen and expand the ministry, support for affiliated spiritual directors, and coordination of shared ministries and resourcing with regional spiritual direction networks.

Visibility

We seek to increase the awareness among ECC members, pastors, churches, and leaders about the role of spiritual direction in Christian formation.

Advocacy

We are committed to advocating for the ministry of spiritual direction.

Strengthening and Expanding the Ministry of Spiritual Direction throughout the denomination

We offer the ministry of spiritual direction at various Covenant events such as the Midwinter Conference, Women's Triennial, Sustaining Pastoral Excellence events, and Covenant Orientation classes.

Support

To provide opportunities for the individual growth of affiliated spiritual directors through supportive fellowship, continuing education, resourcing, and encouragement.

Membership

Membership in the Association of Covenant Spiritual Directors is granted to those who support the purposes of the ACSD and are committed to the criteria and standards of the Association. Annual dues for membership are established each year by the ACSD. For application forms, go to CovChurch.org/acsd or email acsd@covchurch.org.

Full Membership

Full membership is open to any spiritual director who is a graduate of an approved spiritual direction program and who is a member of an Evangelical Covenant Church. Full members have voting privileges.

Associate Membership

Associate membership is open to any Covenant-affiliated spiritual director who is a graduate of an approved spiritual direction program but not a member of a Covenant church.

Student Membership

Student membership in the Association is open to Covenant-affiliated students preparing for spiritual direction ministry through enrollment in a spiritual direction certification or degree program recognized by the ACSD.



Application

Make application to the ACSD by downloading and completing the appropriate application found at CovChurch.org/acsd.

Initial Membership: Initial membership whether full, associate, or student is granted upon the applicant meeting the standards and criteria established by the ACSD, including payment of dues.

Annual Dues: Full Membership	\$20
Associate Membership	\$15
Student Membership	\$10

Annual Membership: Annual renewal of membership for any class of members will be granted upon meeting criteria for continued participation as determined by the ACSD and upon payment of the membership dues. Membership is from the ACSD's annual meeting to annual meeting.

Regional Networks

The purpose of spiritual direction networks in the various ECC regional conferences is to offer a gift of listening, discernment, and prayer in a confidential setting of encouragement and compassion to the pastors, ministry staff, missionaries, and their spouses in their conferences. Some conference networks also serve laity as part of their mission and ministry. Through the networks, individuals may connect with a spiritual director who will listen to the stories of their lives and help discern the presence and work of the Holy Spirit. The regional networks provide multiple benefits for spiritual directors:

- Fellowship
- Connection
- Accountability
- Training
- Practice
- Encouragement

CovChurch.org/acsd

We believe that a gentle, listening presence can help bring transformation in peoples' lives.

**Our desire in the
Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC)**

is for individuals to have
a deep, abiding life with Christ.

This kind of experience is
in keeping with the strong traditions
of our denomination as we
consider the formational question
in the narrative of
our history together:

“How goes your walk with Christ?”

A foundational verse for the ECC is found in
Psalm 119:63 (NRSV):

“I am a companion of all who fear [God]”

Benefits

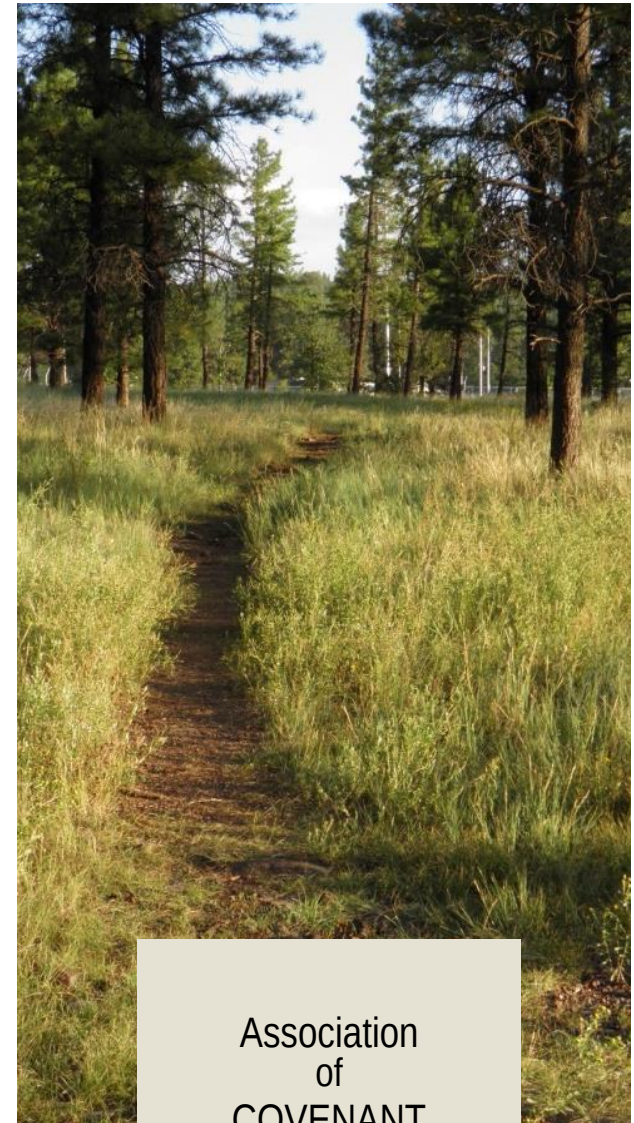
Members in the ACSD may participate in and receive the following:

- ◆ Opportunities for individual growth for spiritual directors through supportive fellowship, continuing education, and encouragement
- ◆ Opportunities for broader connection between Covenant-affiliated spiritual directors
- ◆ Participation in forums for the sharing of ideas and resources related to spiritual direction
- ◆ ACSD annual meeting and spiritual directors' retreat in conjunction with the Covenant Midwinter Conference
- ◆ Inclusion in a master listing of members (access for members only)
- ◆ Periodic written communication with members
- ◆ Web-site posting resources and email updates



The Evangelical Covenant Church

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Association
of
COVENANT
SPIRITUAL
DIRECTORS