

Churches Applying for Membership

Based upon the recommendation of the respective Conferences and Regions, the Executive Board recommends to the 128th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church that the following churches be accepted into membership in the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Church	Approximate Membership	Approximate Attendance
<u>CENTRAL CONFERENCE</u>		
Cross Fellowship, Inc an Evangelical Covenant Church Chicago, IL	10	20
New Community Covenant Church (Bronzeville) Chicago, IL	40	70
St. Luke’s Christian Community Church an Evangelical Covenant Church Morton Grove, IL	55	45
<u>EAST COAST CONFERENCE</u>		
Evergreen Covenant Church Sanford, ME	33	54
<u>GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE</u>		
City Covenant Church Detroit, MI	12	170
CityView Covenant Church Pittsburgh, PA	16	50
Detroit Bible Tabernacle an Evangelical Covenant Church Detroit, MI	100	60
Miracle of Faith Ministries an Evangelical Covenant Church Detroit, MI	100	200
The Bridge Covenant Church Detroit, MI	20	30
<u>MIDSOUTH CONFERENCE</u>		
Harvest Community Church an Evangelical Covenant Church Houston, TX	50	100

Agenda Item 9

Lifepath Church an Evangelical Covenant Church Houston, TX	200	275
<u>NORTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE</u> Cannon Beach Community Church an Evangelical Covenant Church Cannon Beach, OR	135	200
<u>NORTHWEST CONFERENCE</u> Awaken Covenant Community Lilydale, MN	75	150
Blue Oaks Covenant Church Brooklyn Park, MN	30	150
La Bendicion Evangelical Covenant Church Brooklyn Park, MN	20	70
Real Life Covenant Church Waseca, MN	8	120
Restoration Covenant Church Apple Valley, MN	28	150
<u>PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE</u> Church Without Walls an Evangelical Covenant Church Berkeley, CA	69	120
Covenant Grove Church Modesto, CA	50	150
Restoration Covenant Church Redlands, CA	57	125

Summary:

Number of new churches	20
Cumulative approximate membership	1108
Cumulative approximate attendance	2309

Note: Churches with the phrase "an Evangelical Covenant Church" are generally adoptions, existing congregations joining the Covenant denominational family.

Report on Churches Joining the Covenant

The mission of the Covenant is stronger, richer and more diverse because of the 20 churches joining this year. Each of these churches bring with them a ministry that will enrich the kingdom contribution of the whole Covenant denomination, and will itself be enriched by its connection with the Covenant.

Below is a synopsis of each congregation. Each story testifies to both the handiwork of God in raising up a ministry, and to the faithfulness of committed people in carrying out that ministry. What is less visible is the role that every Covenanter has had in these stories. Through making possible the elements of a pastoral assessment process, financial support, training, and strategic services, every Covenanter has a place in these stories.

Central Conference

Cross Fellowship, Inc

approximate attendance: 20

an Evangelical Covenant Church

Chicago, IL

Pastor: Jorge L Escarpita

Cross Fellowship is a church plant in the urban center of Chicago, IL. Its membership and attendees reflect mosaic in ethnicity, socio-economics, and gender. Cross Fellowship was founded in July 2010. They originally met in public library rooms, school conference rooms, park districts and homes. Approximately one year after beginning, they leased their first permanent space, with areas for children's ministry, Sunday worship, and extra space for communal living. The primary reason for desiring membership in the Covenant is that the ECC better reflects their understanding of Christian identity and mission than their previous denominational affiliation. They strongly believe that we can better live out the gospel in the Covenant Church.

New Community Covenant Church

approximate attendance: 70

Chicago, IL

Pastor: David W Swanson

New Community Covenant Church (Bronzeville) was a church plant sent by New Community Covenant Church in Chicago's Logan Square neighborhood, with the partnership of the Covenant and the Central Conference. We were sent to begin weekly services on the city's south side in April 2010. We first met in an elementary school auditorium; since September of 2012 we have met in a park district field house. In addition to the financial appropriations, our church has benefited from the Covenant and Conference through training, coaching, a church retreat at Covenant Harbor, and the Invitation to Racial Righteousness. New Community is an intentionally multi-ethnic church for the sake of the Gospel. We seek to express Christ's reconciliation through our community in all we do including our public worship, engagement with youth, and partnership with other churches to address needs in our neighborhood.

St. Luke's Christian Community Church

approximate attendance: 45

an Evangelical Covenant Church

Morton Grove, IL

Pastor: Isabel (Bunny) Hughes

Situated in a northwest suburb of Chicago, St. Luke's is multi-ethnic and culturally diverse, with Caucasian, Filipino, Korean and African American members. St. Luke's is a church that is highly missional, offering space in their facility for a pre-school, head start, and a Korean-speaking congregation. We are

Agenda Item 9

committed to missionary support, donations to Maine Township food pantry, and a variety of Christian outreach programs. The history of St. Luke's reveals that while it has been affiliated with the Congregational Church, it has, with one exception, been served by a pastor who holds licensure with the Evangelical Covenant Church. St. Luke's desires membership in the Covenant in that its theological beliefs are in line with the ECC denominational constitution, and the membership has a strong desire to be connected with a church body whose affirmations clearly articulate their sense of call, and to find a denominational connection that will strengthen their sense of identity as a church of Jesus Christ.

East Coast Conference

**Evergreen Covenant Church
Sanford, ME**

approximate attendance: 54

Pastor: Frank J Catalano

Evergreen Covenant Church started in 2008 with a mission to gather as God's people, grow in the faith, and give to the world. Evergreen has evolved into a regional church with a local mission. 'Evergreeners' come from all over southern Maine and even New Hampshire with a common focus to serve the community in Sanford, Maine. We enjoy a style of worship that we call 'blended', and people from a wide range of traditions have found a home at Evergreen Covenant Church. Our outreach efforts include the founding of an award-winning after-school program, participation in the summer free lunch program, and international partnerships with the Covenant Church of Ecuador. The church was planted in partnership with Covenant and East Coast Conference.

Great Lakes Conference

**City Covenant Church
Detroit, MI**

approximate attendance: 170

Pastor: Semmeal Thomas

City Covenant Church was planted in September of 2009 via an organization called City Mission in the Brightmoor community of Detroit. For the first year we gathered on Saturday evening at 6:30 p.m. for a devotional and Bible study. Starting with about twelve people we quickly grew to a group of forty. Through the guidance of the Holy Spirit and the foundation of God's word we came to realize that we would be a Christ centered/mission driven community church. We have enjoyed a fruitful partnership with Crossroads Church in South Lyon and Cheboygan Covenant Church. City Covenant is blessed to worship in a 220 person sanctuary free and clear, with no mortgage. We are open seven days a week for ministries including hot evening meals, food baskets, family nights, and a community breakfast on Sunday mornings before worship. Because of the outstanding discipleship and support that we have received from the Covenant and particularly the Great Lakes Conference, our church is a young vibrant resource in our community.

**CityView Covenant Church
Pittsburg, PA**

approximate attendance: 50

Pastor: Leeann & Wayne Younger

On April 1, 2010 Cityview Covenant Church became a recognized legal entity underwritten by the support of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Wayne and Leeann Younger were hired as the planters. The Youngers felt called by God to establish a 'family' church for those who had not yet understood that the family of God was a family for them. With John 1:14 as a seed verse, the plant sought to be the Word

made flesh through neighborhood parties and celebrations, meeting and connecting with those who would become the new church family. Weekly worship services were established in an unused church building, and ministries of discipleship, mentoring, bible study, and service have developed to undergird the continued outreach ministry to the neighborhood.

Detroit Bible Tabernacle
an Evangelical Covenant Church
Detroit, MI
Pastor: Kenneth E Harris

approximate attendance: 60

Detroit Bible Tabernacle is a congregation that began as a home Bible fellowship in 1980 with ties to the National Baptist and Southern Baptist Conventions. We are located on the west side of Detroit in an economically challenged community. We are a mission-minded church with a passion for the salvation of lost souls through the sharing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As fellowship that nurtures believer's faith and spiritual growth, through teaching ministries and the DBT Christian Academy, we are committed to the training and discipleship of believers to the glory of God. Through prayer and seeking guidance in the Word of God, we are eager to join with the Evangelical Covenant Church as we follow the Lord's leading and as we seek His purpose for our lives.

Miracle of Faith Ministries
an Evangelical Covenant Church
Detroit, MI
Pastor: Theodore Peck Jr.

approximate attendance: 200

On Sunday mornings approximately 200 people attend our services. The large majority of these are African American and mostly under fifty years of age. These are a number of young families with children of all ages. Miracle of Faith draws from a community of mainly lower class backgrounds with some educators, professionals, laborers, students, and homemakers. Planted in 2005 in the basement of Pastor Peck's home, 24 charter members began impacting the community through many outreach programs and community-empowering projects. Since these beginnings, Miracle of Faith has grown into a congregation with a full array of ministries, empowering believers and developing leaders in the church. We acknowledge the necessity of the Holy Spirit to effect change and growth in the lives of believers and we believe that the Covenant can help provide a basis for that. We believe that the Evangelical Covenant Church can provide a fruitful partnership through teaching, coaching, mentoring, and fellowshiping with our brothers and sisters in Christ; encouraging each other toward mutual Christian growth.

The Bridge Covenant Church
Detroit, MI
Pastor: Janine N Davis

approximate attendance: 30

The Bridge Covenant Church was called to the Warrendale community of Detroit. Our parent church, Citadel of Faith Covenant Church, released people and funds to help get us started. The Great Lakes Conference and the ECC also partnered with us in this journey. Through a Kingdom Builders grant from the ECC, a door was opened for us to minister in the Warrendale area, through a food pantry, clothing pantry, community development, and a job readiness ministry. Our ministry impacts lives because it teaches how to be disciples. We love people into a fully devoted relationship with Jesus no matter where they start. We've see people on drugs delivered, depression removed, families restored, relationships with Jesus started, strengthen and renewed. We are really excited to be in the place of call

Agenda Item 9

and look forward to God doing great things in and through us as we pursue Him. We are also really excited to become a member church of the ECC. The ECC is our home, and it is exciting to have our relationship formalized.

Midsouth Conference

**Harvest Community Church
an Evangelical Covenant Church
Houston, TX
Pastor: Wayne Park**

approximate attendance: 100

Harvest Community Church is a predominantly Asian-American church that meets on Houston's 'energy corridor', a growing demographic center of the fast changing city of Houston. Thus we draw from this urban professional population, who are seeking to discover Christ in their lives, vocations, and families, through the ministries of discipleship, care, spiritual direction, and formation. Planted about 7 years ago, the congregation is now about 75 to 100 people, with a renewed vigor since the recent hiring of Pastor Wayne Park, who has laid a solid groundwork of structure, care, culture, philosophy of ministry, and vision. Believing the ECC to be the best 'wineskins' for the new wine of American-born Asians in North America today, Pastor Wayne has guided this church towards our adoption into the Evangelical Covenant Church.

**Lifepath Church
an Evangelical Covenant Church
Houston, TX
Pastor: Elliot Scott**

approximate attendance: 275

At Lifepath, we believe church should be done inside-out. We are changed on the inside by God and then become part of God's change out in the community. At Lifepath, there are many things that we highly value, but our top priorities are: growing together through prayer, Bible study, small groups and teaching; collaborating with other churches on community outreach programs; serving the needs of children and families, in partnership with Cy-Fair schools; ministering to members of our congregation and the community in which we live. We are excited to join with the Evangelical Covenant Church in our ongoing ministry in Houston, TX.

North Pacific Conference

**Cannon Beach Community Church
an Evangelical Covenant Church
Cannon Beach, OR
Pastor: David Robinson**

approximate attendance: 200

Cannon Beach Community Church was founded as the first church in Cannon Beach, with 17 charter members on November 2, 1930. The City of Cannon Beach, Oregon, with a year round residential population of 1800, nestles between the Pacific Ocean and the coastal mountains on the north Oregon coast. A resort and vacation town that is widely recognized as a home for dozens of art galleries and residential artists. The church serves the community through a large assortment of discipleship and outreach ministries and opens up our facility to community groups in the city of Cannon Beach. We are a Christ-centered, Bible-based, prayerful, mission-minded, loving body of believers in Jesus Christ. The six

Covenant affirmations beautifully describe who we are as a congregation, and for us, coming into the Evangelical Covenant Church has felt like we've come home.

Northwest Conference

Awaken Covenant Community

approximate attendance: 150

Lillydale, MN

Pastor: Micah Witham

Awaken began in July 2010 as a partnership between Berean Church and the ECC. Berean agreed to be our sending church as we planted with the Covenant. We meet in the Joke Joint Comedy Club, which provides a very strategic location for the kind of ministry we are doing, targeting post-evangelicals, post-moderns, and generally people who are critical of church. Awaken has started the Lillydale Food Patch which grew and donated over 1200 lbs of food last summer to the local food shelves. We have a partnership with Garlough Elementary school providing reading buddies, pen pals, and volunteers for events. We have over 80 people in Life Groups with 12 leaders, and are looking to expand this fall with missional activity and service being the focus of our Life Groups. The Northwest Conference and the ECC have been full partners with Awaken from the beginning and have provided financial resources as well as training, coaching, and networking opportunities for our pastor.

Blue Oaks Covenant Church

approximate attendance: 150

Brooklyn Park, MN

Pastor: Nicole Bullock

Blue Oaks Covenant Church began meeting in the Spring of 2010. Our parenting church is Sanctuary Covenant Church. We currently meet on Sunday mornings in a Seventh Day Adventist church. We are in a busy, residential area located off of a major highway. The ECC and Northwest Conference helped get this church started by providing financial support along with critical church plant training and coaching. Our most effective ministries are our children's ministry and our small group ministry. People are connecting to others in our church community while growing in their relationship with Christ.

La Bendicion Evangelical Covenant Church

approximate attendance: 70

Brooklyn Park, MN

Pastor: Juan Humberto Lopez Perez

We started to gather as a fellowship in different homes. In October 2008 we were invited to explore the Covenant church planting in Denver, CO. In November 2008, Pastor John Folly made a meeting so he could introduce us to the pastor at Redeemer ECC, Pastor Steven Larson. We were excited to see that disposition and the passion of sharing the Good News with all cultures all races. On January 8 and 9 the Northwest Conference provided a Spanish assessment and we were accepted as a church plant with the Evangelical Covenant Church. We were praying for God's guidance as to where we should plant the church and as an answer to our prayers, Pastor Steven Larson offered us the use of their building. We were truly welcomed by all. On March 8, 2009 we had our first service in what is known the "Memorial Room" of the church; when we started to grow our fellowship group we had to transfer to the sanctuary. June 6, 2009 was our inauguration as a new church plant with the assistance of the superintendent of the Northwest Conference. During our four years that God has given us at the shared location, the two churches have been able to work together, sharing different events like special Sundays where we join services and praise God together, VBS, summer soccer, the ELL program, AWANA, and the Hispanic heritage festival. The building is like a taste of heaven where people of all

Agenda Item 9

cultures and backgrounds can be seen together in community worshiping God. While working with Redeemer we have touched several lives that are now a part of our church.

Real Life Covenant Church

approximate attendance: 120

Waseca, MN

Pastor: Michael Behm

Real Life Covenant started out with a desire to reach the de-churched people of Waseca, MN by being real people striving to be like Jesus in real life. To fulfill this mission, Vista Evangelical Covenant Church in New Richland, MN voted to parent us in July 2009. We officially began on October 1, 2009 to connect Jesus to real lives. We first met in homes of our core group and then moved to a coffee shop when we out grew the homes. We held our first preview service January 31, 2010. We moved into a new space in January of 2011 as we out grew the previous space. We are currently meeting in a renovated warehouse that seats about 150, but we have out grown that now and are currently looking for a larger space. Our success comes from Jesus working in and through the lives of His people from the Covenant, Conference, District, our Parent Church, and those in Waseca. Our group was inspired by the book by Dave Olson called "American Church in Crisis" and it was absolutely essential for our group to attend the training provided by the Covenant and Northwest Conference. The churches in our district were more than cheerleaders as they prayed for and financially contributed to our mission. Vista was a parent in every sense of the word. They provided people, material resources, financial and prayer support. We have gathered people right from Waseca that have been waiting for a church that connected Jesus to their lives.

Restoration Covenant Church

approximate attendance: 150

Apple Valley, MN

Pastor: Rob Jacobson

Restoration was birthed out of Faith Covenant Church in Burnsville, MN. They have provided financial support, meeting space, and several volunteers. The Covenant and Northwest Conference have supported Restoration through finances, prayer, and coaching for the pastor, launch team, and leadership as well as structured support such as bookkeeping. Restoration has many vibrant ministries. Sunday morning ministries (hospitality and connections, worship, set up/tear down) provide a welcoming, aesthetic, and connective experience for new and regular attenders. We also reach out into the community through a mobile pantry, monthly food donations to a neighboring elementary school, and a weekly caregiver and child movement through music gathering. Restoration began weekly services December 2010 and meet in the Apple Valley Community Senior Center. We have been blessed to be located in such a central part of the city of Apple Valley, Minnesota. The authentic vibe of Restoration is seen in its worship gatherings, smaller groups and their generosity with the people of the surrounding cities. We are a community of people being restored by Jesus to restore what's broken in the world.

Pacific Southwest Conference

Church Without Walls

approximate attendance: 120

an Evangelical Covenant Church

Berkeley, CA

Pastor: Dana Cunliffe

Church Without Walls is a church whose purpose is to see diverse, unchurched people become a community that follows Jesus. We celebrate the Risen Lord in Berkeley, CA. Most of us live in Berkeley

and have rooted ourselves in our city. We are mostly in our 30s and 40s, with many children and multi-ethnic (mostly white and Asian). We always have several folks hanging around who are not yet followers of Jesus. We began as fourteen people who prayed together about starting a church for those who would not feel comfortable in "regular" church. We offer weekly Discover Groups which provide community and learning in smaller groups as well as on ramps for the 25 percent of folks who are not part of our larger church community. We have a weekly Spanish-speaking ministry, and weekly Middle and High school groups composed of "church" youth and "neighborhood" youth. Neighborhood community events include Summer Outdoor Movie Nights and a well-loved Harvest Fest. We also value prayer. We have various weekly prayer meetings, prayer ministry in which physical and emotional healing regularly occurs, plus prayer retreats and vigils. People are coming in faith for the first time or back after a long absence. It's exciting to see God at work.

Covenant Grove Church
Modesto, CA
Pastor: Scott Nelson

approximate attendance: 150

Covenant Grove Church was started in 2009 by Modesto Covenant Church, with a heart to reach unchurched people in east Modesto. We were launched with prayer, support, and 45 people devoted to Christ and committed to becoming God's church. We meet at a local high school, and grew from 45 to 120 in our first year. The Covenant and Conference were huge in providing support, training, templates, ideas, and coaching along the way. We never felt alone! We now have 150 people meeting regularly, as well as strong college, youth, kids, and adult ministries. We also have sent two teams to Spain, served in Modesto, San Francisco, Las Vegas, and southern California, and have an incredible Bible day camp each summer for kids with special needs. More than anything, we are committed to following Jesus with authentic devotion, and growing lives in His love!

Restoration Covenant Church
Redlands, CA
Pastor: John MacDonald

approximate attendance: 125

Restoration began in January 2007. The core group met in Jon & Lindsey's home before holding weekly public worship meetings in the evenings at a local church. Restoration Covenant Church has strived to be a missional church. From the beginning, we have been involved with the local food closet, starting a new ministry of delivering food to local HIV+ families. While there is great diversity within our community, we are united by our commitment to the full Gospel. We meet on campus at the University of Redlands. We have a large lecture hall that seats around 150 people (if we really pack in). Our kids are in classrooms upstairs. Meeting on campus has allowed for us to enjoy twenty or so students each Sunday as well as support the local InterVarsity chapter. Life Covenant Church in Torrance, CA is a partner church, along with Rolling Hills Covenant Church. We owe an unpayable debt of gratitude to both congregations, as well as to the ECC and the Pacific Southwest Conference.