

Living Our Affirmations  
The Church as a Fellowship of Believers



# MIDWINTER CONFERENCE 2012

JANUARY 30-FEBRUARY 3 • ROSEMONT IL • HYATT REGENCY O'HARE

[CovChurch.org/midwinter](http://CovChurch.org/midwinter)



# MIDWINTER CONFERENCE 2012

**B**ut you are a chosen people,  
a royal priesthood, a holy  
nation, God's special pos-  
session, that you may declare the  
praises of him who called you out  
of darkness into his wonderful light.  
Once you were not a people, but  
now you are the people of God;  
once you had not received mercy,  
but now you have received mercy.

— 1 Peter 2:9-10

**T**he purpose of the Covenant Midwinter  
Conference is to advance the good  
news of Jesus Christ by encouraging and  
equipping pastoral leaders (paid and unpaid)  
through education, inspiration, fellowship,  
and connection with the mission and minis-  
try partnership of the Evangelical Covenant  
Church (ECC).

Midwinter is designed to serve: pastors, staff  
ministers, missionaries, NPU/CHET seminary  
students, chaplains, institutional leaders,  
retirees and spouses (pastors, staff, ministers,  
missionaries), laypersons exploring full-time  
ministry, and pastors exploring future ministry  
in the Evangelical Covenant Church.

**Register now at**  
**[CovChurch.org/midwinter](http://CovChurch.org/midwinter)**

**January 30 – February 3, 2012**  
**Hyatt Regency O'Hare**

## Living Our Affirmations The Church as a Fellowship of Believers

**T**he Midwinter is our time to “come away” for rest, equipping, fellowship, and renewal. It is an opportunity to allow God to restore and form us through worship, speakers, peer learning experiences, and workshops. This is your Midwinter and based on your feedback we are bringing innovations this year for your life, your ministry, and your walk with God. Please note the schedule and descriptions of new additions and changes that will enhance your experience at Midwinter.

We continue a six-year focus on Covenant Affirmations. This year it is *Living Our Affirmations: The Church as a Fellowship of Believers*. The people who formed the ECC 127 years ago were people who had been profoundly touched by a radical experience of new life in Christ. Being alive in Christ became the basis for connection, engagement, and mission. The very name “Covenant” denotes our commitment to living this life of faith together, however imperfectly, as imperfect people. That kind of community formed in Christ is rare in our world. In the Covenant we seek to live it out robustly.

Please come and join us as we seek to grow deeper in Christ and further in mission.



Gary B. Walter  
President, *The Evangelical Covenant Church*



Donn N. Engebretson  
Executive Vice-President, *The Evangelical Covenant Church*



## MIDWINTER REDESIGNED: *You Spoke, We Listened*

*We have been listening to your feedback and have redesigned Midwinter to make it a better experience for you. Look out for these new opportunities and let us know how you feel about them!*

- Speakers that focus on great preaching, teaching, and affirming our call – *page 4*
- Peer learning experiences
  - Interactive Morning Worship
  - Round-Table Discussions – *page 5*
  - Beyond Midwinter – *page 11*
  - Open Space Technology – *page 11*
- Early bird workshops for those who arrive on Monday morning (included in registration fees) – *page 5*
- Playroom for children and parents, with toys and live streaming during plenary sessions
- Intentional opportunities to connect with new friends and reconnect with old friends
- Shuttles provided by the Hyatt to area restaurants on Wednesday night
- Celebrating the Covenant mission and ministry
- Optional Wednesday evening worship and prayer service
- A later start to the morning, with worship beginning at 9 a.m.
- Late-night options
- Start with a welcoming banquet; end with a sending communion service
- Travel (preferably to warm climates) every other year: **Midwinter 2013 in San Diego, California**



## SCHEDULE

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
	<b>8:30 AM Coffee Break</b> <b>9-11 AM Morning Worship</b>	<b>9-10:30 AM Morning Worship</b> <b>10:30 AM Coffee Break</b>	<b>8:30 AM Coffee Break</b> <b>9-11 AM Morning Worship</b>	<b>Breakfast on your own</b> <b>9-10:30 AM Sending Worship &amp; Service of Holy Communion</b>
<b>Pre-Conference Options &amp; Youth Workers Connection</b>	<b>11:15 AM-12:45 PM Lunch Options</b> –Round-Table Discussions –Carry-out Conversations	<b>11:15 AM-12:45 PM Lunch Options</b> –Round-Table Discussions –Carry-out Conversations	<b>11:15 AM-12:45 PM Lunch Options</b> –Round-Table Discussions –Carry-out Conversations	
<b>1:30-4:30 PM Early Bird Workshops</b>	<b>1:30-4:30 PM Workshops</b>	<b>1:30-4:30 PM Workshops</b>	<b>1:30-4:30 PM Peer Learning:</b> –Open Space Technology –Beyond Midwinter	
<b>6-8:30 PM Welcome Banquet &amp; Worship</b>	<b>7 PM Evening Worship</b>	<b>Free Evening</b> –Optional Meal Shuttles –Optional Prayer & Song Service	<b>7 PM Evening Worship</b>	
<b>9 PM Regional Conference Dessert Receptions</b>	<b>9 PM Late-Night Options</b>		<b>9 PM Late-Night Options</b>	

# WORSHIP SPEAKERS

## Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie

MONDAY EVENING, JANUARY 30

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie is the first woman to be elected bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. Prior to her historic election in 2000, she served as pastor of Payne Memorial AME Church in Baltimore, Maryland, for ten years, where she pioneered successful efforts to bridge the gap between the church and its surrounding community. In 2005 she made history again when she became the first woman president of the Council of Bishops in the AME. Bishop McKenzie continues to serve as the presiding prelate of the 13<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District of the AME church.



## L. Gregory Jones

TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY MORNINGS, JANUARY 31- FEBRUARY 2

L. Gregory Jones is senior strategist for leadership education at Duke Divinity School and vice president and vice provost for global strategy and programs at Duke University. Between 1997 and 2010 Jones served as dean of Duke Divinity School. He is widely recognized as a scholar and church leader on such issues as forgiveness and reconciliation, Christian leadership, Christian vocation, and strengthening the church and its ministry. Jones, an ordained United Methodist pastor, is author or editor of more than 100 articles and fourteen books, most recently *Forgiving As We've Been Forgiven: Community Practices for Making Peace*, which he wrote with Célestin Musekura.



## John Teter

TUESDAY EVENING, JANUARY 31

John Teter is the founding pastor of Fountain of Life Covenant Church, a multiethnic and multi-class church in Long Beach, California, where he and his family live in the inner city to incarnate God's love and make disciples. He also serves as the evangelism team leader for the Evangelical Covenant Church. He served with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship for twelve years at USC, Cal State Dominguez Hills, and Compton College. Teter has written two books, *Get the Word Out* and *Jesus & the Hip Hop Prophets*, co-authored with Alex Gee. He loves learning and leading evangelism from the mission field.



## Mark Labberton

THURSDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 2

Mark Labberton joined the faculty of Fuller Theological Seminary in 2009 as Lloyd John Ogilvie Associate Professor of Preaching and Director of the Lloyd John Ogilvie Institute of Preaching. Previously he served for sixteen years as senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, California. In 1982 Labberton co-founded the Christian International Scholarship Foundation where he served on the board for seventeen years. He has also worked closely with John Stott Ministries and continues to contribute to the mission of the global church as a senior fellow of the International Justice Mission. Labberton, an author of numerous articles and texts, recently published *The Dangerous Act of Loving your Neighbor: Seeing Others through the Eyes of Jesus*.



## Gary Walter

FRIDAY MORNING, FEBRUARY 3

Gary Walter is serving in his fourth year as president of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Walter began his seminary training at Fuller Theological Seminary and transferred to North Park Theological Seminary to complete his master of divinity degree. He was ordained in the ECC in 1981. He served within the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism (CGE), first as director of church planting, and later as executive minister of CGE with three emphases in particular—church planting, multiethnicity, and revitalization. Reaching back to the founding principles of our denomination, Walter has issued the call and the exhortation that we are all “in it together” in our work for the kingdom.



## PRE-MIDWINTER OPPORTUNITIES

### Youth Workers Connection

Sat, Jan 28–Mon, Jan 30

Please see pages 14-15 to learn about the 2012 Youth Workers Connection in downtown Chicago.

### Co-Op Connection: Peer Workshop

Sat, Jan 28 (7 PM)–Mon, Jan 30 (Noon)

This peer learning opportunity is for both pastors and coaches in the Coach of Pastors (Co-Op) track. Build valuable relationships with like-minded leaders, and sharpen your strategic or organizational leadership skills. This is an interactive experience, held at the ECC denominational offices, which allows for Q & A and application discussions. You must be enrolled in Co-Op to register. There is a \$50 registration fee (coaches exempt). Please indicate your interest in this event during the registration process. Contact

Daniel Booker by phone at (773) 907-3354 or by email at [daniel.booker@covchurch.org](mailto:daniel.booker@covchurch.org) with any questions.

### Spiritual Directors Retreat

Sun, Jan 29 (6 PM)–Mon, Jan 30 (4 PM)

Designed for trained or in-training Covenant spiritual directors, this retreat is an opportunity for personal refreshment, community building, and experiential learning. Our special guest will be author and spiritual director Jan Johnson. The retreat will informally begin Sunday at 3 p.m. for individual reflection and triad practice for those who wish it, and will officially begin with dinner at 6 p.m. The retreat will be held at The Cenacle Retreat and Conference Center, 513 W. Fullerton Parkway, Chicago, Illinois. Cost: \$85 (includes lodging/meals from Sunday evening dinner through Monday lunch). For further details, including specifics of transportation to

and from the Midwinter Conference site, contact Millie Lungren by phone at (773) 784-3000 or by email at [millie.lungren@covchurch.org](mailto:millie.lungren@covchurch.org). More information will be sent to registrants following completion of the Midwinter registration process. Capacity is limited.

### Covenant Retirement Communities (CRC) Chaplains Meeting

Sun, Jan 29 (2 PM)–Mon, Jan 30 (Noon)

This is a meeting of education, inspiration, and mutual support for CRC chaplains. Our focus this year is on the theme “Transitions.” Registration information will be sent to all CRC chaplains separately. Please contact John Satterberg by email at [JHSatterberg@covenantretirement.org](mailto:JHSatterberg@covenantretirement.org) with any questions.

## THROUGHOUT THE CONFERENCE

### Appointments with Conference Superintendents or Staff

If you would like to make an appointment with a conference superintendent or staff person during the Midwinter Conference, please contact them prior to the event.

### Prayer and Healing Services

A service of Holy Communion and Healing will be held Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 9 to 10 p.m.

### Spiritual Direction

If you would like to meet with a spiritual director during the week, please indicate your interest during the registration process or contact Millie Lungren by phone at (773) 784-3000 or by email at [millie.lungren@covchurch.org](mailto:millie.lungren@covchurch.org).

### Family Room

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

### Round-Table Discussions

Grab lunch in the cash line and make your way to one of these peer learning discussions. With the help of a facilitator (who is there to encourage discussion, not to teach), sit around tables while you eat lunch and share with your peers about challenges and strategies to address ministry opportunities. All round-table discussions will take place from 11:15 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. on the days listed.

#### Tuesday Lunch

1. Challenges and Victories in Ministry Locations:
  - Town and Country Church (facilitated by Peter Sjoblom)
  - Urban Church (facilitated by Debbie Griffith Samuels)
  - Suburban Church (facilitated by Peter Hawkinson)

2. Developing Leaders: Empowering the Fellowship of Believers (facilitated by Russ Carlson)

#### Wednesday Lunch

3. Growing a Heart for Multicultural Ministry in Your Church (facilitated by Evelyn Johnson)
4. Help—I’m a Postmodern Pastor in a Boomer Church (facilitated by Amanda Olson)

#### Thursday Lunch

5. What Works in Worship: From Warring to Winning (facilitated by Paul Lessard and Henry Greenidge)
6. Win-Win: How to Work with Your Lay Leadership (facilitated by Don Robinson)

# FORUMS

Forums are a place for dialogue, connecting, sharing, and structured learning hosted by ministry departments of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Plan to attend some of the events available in each forum: breakfast opportunities, carry-out conversations (bring your lunch from the cash lines and participate in facilitated discussion), and evening receptions.

## Christian Formation Forum

**Tuesday, January 31** 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

### Carry-out Conversation: Whole Church Discipleship

Bring your lunch and join us for conversation and connecting as we dialogue about what it means to be a church that engages all ages in discipleship.

**Tuesday, January 31** 9-10:30 PM

### Youth and Young Adult Ministry Reception

This gathering is open to those who minister with youth and young adults. Space is limited, so please indicate your interest in this reception during the registration process.

**Wednesday, February 1** 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

### Carry-out Conversation: Disabilities Ministry

Bring your lunch and join us for conversation and connecting as we dialogue about disabilities ministry in the church.

**Thursday, February 2** 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

### Carry-out Conversation: Creatively Communicating God's Word

Bring your lunch and join us for discussion and demonstration among panel and participants as each share their experiences and ideas for helping to foster a passion for God's word in adults, youth, and children.

**Thursday, February 2** 9-11 PM

### Children's Ministry Reception

This gathering is open to those who minister with children. Space is limited, so please indicate your interest in this reception during the registration process.

## Church Growth & Evangelism Forum

**Tuesday, January 31** 7:30-8:45 AM

### Church Planters Breakfast

This breakfast is open to anyone interested in exploring church planting. Seating is limited, so please RSVP to Nils Peterson by phone at (773) 907-3361 or by email at [nils.peterson@covchurch.org](mailto:nils.peterson@covchurch.org).

**Tuesday, January 31** 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

### Carry-out Conversation: Ask CG&E

Bring your lunch and come meet the staff of Church Growth and Evangelism. Find out more about the ministries of this department and how they can partner with your church to provide resources for your ministry.

**Tuesday, January 31** 9-11 PM

### Church Planters Reception

If you have planted or parented a new Covenant church, this reception is for you! Please join us for a time of fellowship.

**Wednesday, February 1** 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

### Carry-out Conversation: Ask CG&E

Bring your lunch and come meet the staff of Church Growth and Evangelism. Find out more about the ministries of this department and how they can partner with your church to provide resources for your ministry.

**Thursday, February 2** 7:30-8:45 AM

### Breakfast with the CGE Staff

Please join the staff of Church Growth and Evangelism for an open forum breakfast. Ask your best questions! Please indicate your interest in this breakfast during the registration process.

**Thursday, February 2** 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

### Carry-out Conversation: Ask CG&E

Bring your lunch and come meet the staff of Church Growth and Evangelism. Find out more about the ministries of this department and how they can partner with your church to provide resources for your ministry.

**Thursday, February 2** 9-11 PM

### Urban and Ethnic Church Reception

If you minister in an urban or ethnic setting, you are invited to fellowship and network with peers.

## Compassion, Mercy, and Justice Forum

**Tuesday, January 31** 7:30-8:45 AM

### Racial Righteousness Breakfast

All previous participants of Sankofa, J2M, or I2RR, as well as those looking for cross-racial relationships, are invited to join us for breakfast. Space is limited and reservations are required. Please indicate your interest during registration, or email Chrissy Palmerlee at [chrissy.palmerlee@covchurch.org](mailto:chrissy.palmerlee@covchurch.org).

**Tuesday, January 31** 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

### Carry-out Conversation: How is compassion, mercy, and justice alive in your community and the world?

The Covenant Church has a resource paper on ministries of compassion, mercy, and justice, but how are those ministries alive in your community and the world? How is the Covenant Resource Paper helping your congregation to meet the needs within your local context and beyond? Bring your lunch and join us for an interactive conversation.

**Tuesday, January 31** 9-11 PM

### Ongoing Ministry in Haiti Reception

Join us for a reception about Covenant World Relief's ongoing ministry partnership in Haiti.

**Wednesday, February 1** 7:30-8:45 AM

### Breakfast with the Paul Carlson Partnership

Come for food, stay to see how the Paul Carlson Partnership is changing lives in DR Congo through microfinance and medical assistance. Space is limited and reservations are required. Please indicate your interest during the registration process, or email Ryan Einfeldt at [pcpinfo@paulcarlson.org](mailto:pcpinfo@paulcarlson.org).

**Wednesday, February 1** 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

### **Carry-out Conversation: Deeper with Covenant World Relief**

Covenant World Relief is actively serving in community development and disaster relief in more than twenty countries. Bring your lunch and come to learn more about the difference our shared ministry is making in the world and how you can be more involved.

**Thursday, February 2** 11:15 AM- 12:45 PM

### **Carry-out Conversation: Immigration**

Bring your lunch and join us as we have a conversation about immigration and the immigrant experience.

## **Ordered Ministry Forum**

**Tuesday, January 31** 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

### **Carry-out Conversation: Social Media and the Pastor**

The challenges of social media are not new challenges; they are new tools for old challenges. Bring your lunch and join facilitators Sean Curtis, Carol Lawson, and Richard Lucco for this time of thoughtful reflection on issues of Covenant clergy and social media. There will be opportunities for conversations concerning how Covenant clergy might think theologically and vocationally about the use of social media.

**Wednesday, February 1** 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

### **Carry-out Conversation: SPE Grantees Gathering**

Ordered Ministry wants to hear from those of you who have had a retreat, cohort training, or other experience through Sustaining Pastoral Excellence. Bring your lunch and join in this opportunity to help the department craft a picture of the future of this resource for the Covenant ministerial community.

**Thursday, February 2** 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

### **Carry-out Conversation: Married to the Pastor—Clergy Spouses**

This is an invitation to Covenant clergy and their spouses to bring your lunch and discuss how vocational ministry affects a non-credentialed spouse. Learn what one conference is doing

to support families and offer suggestions for broader conference and denomination care.

**Thursday, February 2** 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

### **Carry-out Conversation: Establishing Ministry Metrics in a Downsizing Military**

As the military services downsize in this current austere economic era it is imperative that military chaplains effectively communicate the value of their ministry to commanders. Bring your lunch and join us for a discussion of how metrics provide a fiscal measurement of value for what you provide to your command.

## **World Mission Forum**

**Tuesday, January 31** 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

### **Carry-out Conversation: Immigrant Ministry in the European Context**

Jesus calls us to pay attention to people on the margins, to walk alongside those on the fringes of society, to welcome the stranger. Letha and John Kerl, regional coordinators for Europe and Africa, will facilitate missionaries sharing stories of how Jesus is at work among immigrant communities in Belgium, France, and Spain. Bring your lunch and participate in table conversations focused on approaches to building relationships with immigrants in healthy and respectful ways.

**Tuesday, January 31** 9-11 PM

### **Covenant World Mission Reception for Pastors and Staff**

Come hang out for an evening of conversation and fun with Covenant missionaries serving around the world. There will be food. There will be games. There will be fun!

**Wednesday, February 1** 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

### **Carry-out Conversation: Kenya Mission Connections**

Bring your lunch and join the staff of World Mission and pastors who are passionate about mission ministry in Kenya. This is a time for networking, idea sharing, and deepening relationship with those committed to what God is doing throughout Kenya.



**Thursday, February 2** 7:30-8:45 AM

### **Middle East Ministry Connect**

Are you curious about how the Covenant may be more closely connected to ministries in the Middle East? Join World Mission leadership over continental breakfast to learn about doors that are opening and to discuss possibilities for joining in God's work among Christians, Muslims, and Jews. Please indicate your interest in this breakfast during the registration process.

**Thursday, February 2** 11:15 AM-12:45 PM

### **Carry-out Conversation: Domestic Mission around North America**

Join the staff of Covenant Merge Ministries to learn about new opportunities for Covenant churches to engage and connect with other Covenant churches for cross-cultural mission experiences. There are expanded opportunities to build relationships with and to serve alongside sisters and brothers around the U.S. who are reaching their communities with the love of Christ. Bring your lunch and join us for discussion.

**Thursday, February 2** 9-11 PM

### **Merge Ministries Reunion**

Merge Ministries and World Mission invite any Midwinter attendee who has participated in a Merge mission trip to join our staff for food and conversation.

# REGISTRATION

## FEES

Midwinter Conference 2012	THROUGH 12/15/11	AFTER 12/15/11
Primary Registrant	\$410	\$455
Additional Registrant	\$310	\$355
Retirees, Spouses	\$170	\$220
NPTS/CHET	\$170	\$220

Online Registration: Opens October 3, 2011, at [CovChurch.org/midwinter](http://CovChurch.org/midwinter)

Paper Registration: Complete all registrations from the same church together and return with payment to:

### The Evangelical Covenant Church

Attn: Events Office Registrar

8303 W. Higgins Rd.

Chicago, IL 60631-2941

Or fax to (773) 596-2494

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. Additional forms are available for download from [CovChurch.org/midwinter](http://CovChurch.org/midwinter).

Please contact the events office registrar, Jill Ulven, at (773) 596-2493, with any registration questions. For all other questions, please contact the events office at (800) 910-2442 or [events@covchurch.org](mailto:events@covchurch.org).

## 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 Connection and/or Midwinter are the same for the new registrant as the original registrant. Mail, fax, or email your request for a substitute to replace you. Make sure to include the name, address, and telephone number of the substitute.

Registrar email: [jill.ulven@covchurch.org](mailto:jill.ulven@covchurch.org)

### Scholarship Deadline: Thursday, December 1

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](http://CovChurch.org/midwinter), or by contacting your conference office. **Please read the application for complete instructions.**



## LODGING

### The Hyatt Regency O'Hare

9300 Bryn Mawr Avenue

Rosemont, IL 60018

Phone: (800) 233-1234 / (847) 696-1234

Fax: (847) 696-1418

Web: [ohare.hyatt.com](http://ohare.hyatt.com)

### Hotel Reservation Deadline: Wednesday, January 4, 2012

The block of rooms reserved at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare for Covenant Midwinter attendees will be held at a discount rate of **\$125 (plus tax)** per night for single-quad occupancy until the deadline date of Wednesday, January 4, or until the room block is full, whichever comes first.

You can make your reservation online by visiting [CovChurch.org/midwinter](http://CovChurch.org/midwinter). Click on the hotel reservations button 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. 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.

## Meals

Attendees will be on their own for meals except for Monday evening dinner on January 30. Dining options within the hotel include:

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

*Red Bar* serves appetizers, salads, sandwiches, and pizza after 4 p.m.

*Perks* serves Starbucks coffee, sandwiches, and snacks

Room service is available 24 hours a day

Wednesday evening shuttles to area restaurants

Lunch cash line options

## Parking

Self-parking is available in the Hyatt Regency O'Hare parking garage at a reduced rate of \$10 per day with in-and-out privileges for all attendees. Valet service is available at prevailing rates.

## Transportation

### Complimentary Shuttle Service

Take advantage of Hyatt Regency O'Hare's 24-hour complimentary shuttle service, which runs every 15 minutes to and from O'Hare Airport. Follow the red shuttle signs at the airport to the designated pick-up area, O'Hare Bus/Shuttle Center Door One. Shuttle buses are blue with white signage that reads Hyatt Regency O'Hare. For pick-up from the international terminal, guests must call the hotel directly at (847) 696-1234.

### 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.

## MONDAY EARLY BIRD WORKSHOPS

1:30-4:30 PM

### Becoming Like Jesus: Formational Discipleship (001)

Christian discipleship is more than accepting Christ's teachings and following his moral precepts; it involves a complete transformation of character and identity so that we become "partakers of the divine nature" (2 Peter 1:4). How does that happen? Can we play any active role in what is essentially a work of grace? This workshop will explore some of the key ideas and questions raised when we explore discipleship from a formational perspective. Sponsored by the Department of Christian Formation.

**Christopher Webb**, *president, Renovaré*

### Committees on Ministerial Standing (COMS) Training (002)

This orientation is for existing, new, or potential members of conference committees on ministerial standing. Roles, responsibilities, expectations, process, and procedures will be reviewed. There will be time for conversation and questions about common issues regarding candidate interviews. Sponsored by the Department of the Ordered Ministry.

**Carol Lawson**, *director of staff ministry, Department of the Ordered Ministry, ECC*

**Danielle Ng**, *manager of credential services, Department of the Ordered Ministry, ECC*

### The Three Rs of Christian Community Development (003)

Whether in Mendenhall, Mississippi, or Fond-des-Blancs, Haiti, the biblical framework for effective holistic ministry is the same. Each community may call for different methods and may produce different results, but the challenges for both the minister and the recipients are universal. This workshop will bind the key principles that have guided the Christian Community Development movement over the past thirty years with living examples in America and Haiti. Sponsored by the Departments of Compassion, Mercy, and Justice and World Mission.

**John Perkins**, *founder, John M. Perkins Foundation for Reconciliation and Development*

**Jean Thomas**, *founder and president, Haiti Christian Development Fund*

## TALLER EN ESPAÑOL

1:30-4:30 PM (Martes y Miércoles)

### Un Encuentro Fresco con Dios (101, 201)

Dado que cada año casi 20.000 pastores están dejando el ministerio, las denominaciones buscan maneras de animarlos y ayudarlos a pelear la buena batalla, finalizar su carrera y guardar la fe. En estos dos días de taller nos enfocaremos en Marcos 3:13-15 con la esperanza de fortalecer y animar a los pastores y ver a Dios tocando sus vidas en una manera poderosa. Este taller será abordado teniendo en cuenta los siguientes cuatro tópicos: 1) renovar el llamado de Dios, 2) restaurar la intimidad con Dios, 3) recuperar la pasión por la predicación y 4) recibir una autorización fresca para el servicio.

**J. Jesse Alvarez**, *pastor principal del Centro Evangélico de las Asambleas de Dios*

## TUESDAY WORKSHOPS

1:30 – 4:30 PM

### Embodying Our Faith: Becoming a Living, Sharing, Practicing Church (102)

As followers of Jesus living out God's mission in the twenty-first century, we find our most powerful apologetic to be embodied. But what does that look like in practice? In this workshop participants will explore—and work to apply in our unique contexts—the irreducible qualities of an embodied apologetic: a congregation that is revealed by its experiential, communal, and enacted faith.

**Tim Morey**, *lead pastor, Life Covenant Church*

### Encouraging and Empowering Next Generation Leaders (103)

How can the church identify, encourage, and empower next generation leaders? How do we help current leaders coach and develop others? This workshop will discuss ways pastors and leaders can help every church member discover and live into their unique gifts and call to ministry both inside and outside church walls.

**Nancy Sugikawa**, *associate pastor for serving ministries at Lighthouse Christian Church*

### The Fire of the Word: Meeting God on Holy Ground (104)

Celtic Christians used to speak of "thin places" where heaven and earth touched. The Bible

has the potential to be such holy ground for us, a book vibrant with the presence of the Divine Author. This workshop explores approaches to reading Scripture that can draw us into a life-transforming encounter with Christ.

**Christopher Webb**, *president, Renovaré*

### How Fellowship Forms You: Strong Words to the Galatians from Paul (105)

Relationships form us, in good ways and in bad. This workshop focuses on what Christians should do to cooperate with the Holy Spirit in God's mission to transform sinners into loving fellowship of believers. Focusing on the letter to the Galatians, this workshop will discuss not only how sin can cripple a person's ability to love but also how the power of the gospel can reconcile people across all boundaries, whether Jew or Gentile, slave or free person, male or female.

**Max Lee**, *associate professor of New Testament, North Park Theological Seminary*

### Interview Skills for Pastors in Transition (106)

Discerning where to live out your vocational ministry call is complicated in the best of circumstances. In these difficult economic times, pastors find themselves needing to utilize a skill set used primarily in the secular marketplace. This workshop will hone practical skills and allow for discussion of the theological underpinnings of seeking church placement.

**Richard Lucco**, *superintendent, Great Lakes Conference*

**Marisol Medina**, *director of Human Resources, ECC*

**Mark Novak**, *superintendent, North Pacific Conference*

### Mordecai at the Gate: Advocacy for the Poor and Oppressed (107)

Injustice and oppression are as old as time itself. The Hamans of this world are always looking for ways to profit by oppressing the weak. It will take Mordecais and Esthers to be the prophetic voices to advocate on their behalf. This workshop will examine the hurdles, both structural and psychological, that are put in the path of the poor and define how the Christian minister should respond.

**John Perkins**, *founder, John M. Perkins Foundation for Reconciliation and Development*

**Jean Thomas**, *founder and president, Haiti Christian Development Fund*

# WORKSHOPS

## **ONE: A Unifying Approach to Strategic Ministry Planning (108)**

Acts 4:32 says, "The whole congregation of believers was united as one- one heart, one mind!" Your faith community may have the greatest strategic plan ever written, but the culture of your community may contain elements that will sabotage the plan. If you do not change that culture, all the plans in the world will not move you forward. Strategic planning requires unity, and can be a unifying process, guided by the Holy Spirit, so that we can be about our Father's business – just like Jesus.

**John Wenrich**, *director of Congregational Vitality, ECC*

## **Pastoral Care and Mental Illness (109)**

From the broken people of Jesus's ministry to the institutions of the twenty-first century, the wide spectrum of mental illness and the people these diseases affect have been feared and misunderstood, stigmatized and isolated. How should the church understand mental illness? What is appropriate pastoral care for those affected by it and their families, from you as pastors, and from your congregations? How can we as the body of Christ obtain justice for suffering people in a socioeconomic system burdened with too many priorities?

**Debbie Blue**, *executive minister, Department of Compassion, Mercy, and Justice, ECC*

**Vickie McCreary**, *associative executive director, Midwest Ministry Development Service*

**Dan Pietrzyk**, *consultant for Sustaining Pastoral Excellence, ECC*

## **Pastoral Care in an Evidence-Based World (110)**

Healthcare uses many models to define and guide the "industry," especially science and business. What place do theology and ministry have in healthcare and healing presently? Do they lead, follow, or something else? How can chaplains be faithful to their calling and training while still communicating and participating in an evidence-based, bottom-line world?

**José La Luz**, *director, Pastoral Care Department, Swedish Covenant Hospital*

**Kari Lindholm-Johnson**, *staff chaplain, Swedish Covenant Hospital*

**Melanie Tornquist**, *staff chaplain, Swedish Covenant Hospital*

## **Trends and Best Practices in Short-term Missions (111)**

This workshop will feature trends in short-term missions and what research is now showing about what short-term missions contributes strategically. It will also suggest best practices for churches that organize and coordinate mission trips.

**Robert Priest**, *professor of mission and anthropology, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School*

## **Weaving Work, Family, and Faith: The Impact of Ministry (112)**

Drawing from a recent study of Covenant pastors and spouses in five regions, this workshop addresses both the challenges and benefits of ministry life for clergy families, focusing on the relationship between work, family life, social relationships, identity, and faith. Participants will engage in dialogue on strategies for managing the demands of ministry life, fostering greater personal, familial, and spiritual well-being.

**Lenore K. Johnson**, *lecturer in sociology, North Park University*

## **WEDNESDAY WORKSHOPS**

**1:30 – 4:30 PM**

## **Creative Practices for the New Rural (202)**

Participants will consider what practices are faithful and effective in the new rural context which churches encounter. Besides considering changes in their location, pastors and lay leaders will consider new ways of "doing church."

**Shannon Jung**, *professor of town and country ministries, Saint Paul School of Theology*

## **Expecting, Exploring, and Expressing Conflict (203)**

This workshop will focus on equipping pastors with a practical framework for avoiding some of the common pitfalls that can turn normal conflict in the life of a congregation into a crisis. Often congregants have the mistaken idea that healthy congregations will be conflict-free. However, the way the church and church staff handle the conflict is key. Using story, Scripture, and hands-on involvement, this workshop will help pastors expect, understand, and deal with conflict as a part of a healthy community.

**Robert Auger**, *director of staff services and*

*program development, Arbor Clinical Associates*

**Brian Madvig**, *director of clinical services, Arbor Clinical Associates*

## **A Journey through the Bible: Preaching the Lectionary for a Pilgrim People (204)**

How do we preach the lectionary in a way that reflects the coherence of the Bible's message and fosters the fellowship of believers? This workshop will explore both how we approach preaching in this way and some of the texts that will appear during the next year.

**Stephen Chester**, *professor of New Testament, North Park Theological Seminary*

**Rajkumar Boaz Johnson**, *professor of Old Testament, North Park University*

## **Lamentations: Justice and Urban Ministry from the Perspective of Suffering (205)**

In the context of a triumphalistic and celebratory culture, the American church struggles to fully understand the role of suffering in ministry. The Book of Lamentations offers the story of a community called to lament the fallen city in a fallen society. Lamentations calls the church to engage suffering in contrast to the dominant material-centered and success-driven narrative of American Christianity.

**Soong-Chan Rah**, *Milton B. Engebretson Associate Professor of Church Growth and Evangelism, North Park Theological Seminary*

## **Next Steps (206)**

Next Steps is about going deeper in short-term mission ministry. Learn how to engage your congregation to use their gifts and skills to further the kingdom of God in cross-cultural ministry across the street and around the world. As you listen to God's leading, your church can participate in mission that engages relationship, invites creativity, and is grounded in appropriate action.

**Kim Crawford**, *associate director of mobilization and connection, Department of World Mission, ECC*

**Karen Hallberg**, *director of mobilization and connection, Department of World Mission, ECC*

**Dale Lusk**, *director, Merge Ministries*

## **Pastor, Tell Me a Story (207)**

As Covenant churches create places for their children in worship, children's sermons are often the focus of that effort. This workshop will look at including children in worship by focusing on creating children's sermons that are connected with the themes of the adult sermon, are narrative in form, and are developmentally appropriate for the children. Participants will practice creating children's sermon or stories connected with biblical themes.

**Jim Gaderlund**, *retired Covenant pastor*

**Pam Gaderlund**, *retired elementary and middle school teacher*

## **The Role of the Church Today in the Holy Land (208)**

Learn about the history and complexities of the conflict today in the land of the Bible and this place where Jesus walked. We will wrestle with the biblical challenges of following Jesus as a peacemaker, and issues of biblical righteousness, reconciliation, and justice. We will ask the questions posed by Gary Burge of Wheaton College: "How do I embrace my commitment to Judaism, a commitment to which I am bound by the Bible, when I sense in my deepest being that there is a profound injustice in Israel? How do I celebrate the birth of the nation of Israel when I also mourn the suffering of Arab Christians and Muslims?"

**Andy Larsen**, *ordained Covenant minister, The Mosaics Project*

**Wayne Smith**, *regional coordinator, Churches for Middle East Peace*

## **Safe and Holy: How Jesus Drew All People unto Himself (209)**

The gospel of Jesus Christ is the very power of God to transform lives, create new culture, and show us how to serve the world. But so often, this very power is precisely what's missing from our sermons, relationships, and ministries. Do not be ashamed of the gospel for it is the power of God for salvation of everyone who believes.

**Peter Sung**, *director of church planting, Department of Church Growth and Evangelism, ECC*

## **Solitude Retreat (210)**

You are invited to a day of quiet prayer and silence at the Loretto Center in Wheaton, Illinois. A bus will leave the Hyatt at 10:15 a.m. and return to the hotel by 8 p.m. The retreat will offer

extended times of silent reflection as well as shorter times of listening to biblical readings and prayers. Individual spiritual direction will be available as time permits. Silence will be observed throughout the day, including lunch and dinner. Space is limited and participants pay an additional fee of \$45 for the retreat.

**Dennis Anderson**, *pastor, Pilgrim Covenant Church*

**Helen Cepero**, *instructor, The C. John Weberg Center for Spiritual Direction at North Park Theological Seminary*

## **Street Smart Finances for the Covenant Pastor (211)**

What should a pastor know about finances, budgets, pastoral housing allowances, and self-employment taxes? This workshop will address tax and financial issues that pertain particularly to pastors.

**Elliott Johnson**, *controller, ECC*

**Dean Lundgren**, *vice-president for finance, ECC*

## **Teaching the Scriptures through Story and Dialogue (212)**

Explore the art of "storying," a dialogical approach rooted in the Hebrew tradition of storytelling, imaginative listening, careful observation, and lively dialogue. This workshop will consider how Bible stories can guide us toward spiritual formation, shaping our theology, identity, beliefs, and behaviors. Best of all, participants will be able to experience this timeless method and dream of how it may help transform our faith communities.

**Mike Novelli**, *director, Echo*

## **Worship: Bringing Our Best Offering (213)**

This workshop will discuss what it takes to honor God and to "bring our best offering." The principles and shared values of discipleship and modeling leadership discussed in this workshop will provide participants with plenty to think about and develop in their ministry, as well as to challenge the others on your team.

**Glenn Kaiser**, *pastoral staff, JPUSA Evangelical Covenant Church*

**Geoff Twigg**, *member, The Commission on Worship*

# **PEER LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

**Thursday, 1:30 – 4:30 PM**

*Some of the best conversations happen not in structured events, but between attendees over coffee or in the hallway. As a result, space for peer learning experiences are being built into the schedule. This time is designed to leverage the enormous learning and experience we have in our community of pastors and staff. Please plan to attend one of the peer learning opportunities on Thursday afternoon!*

## **Beyond Midwinter**

How do you take Midwinter home with you? This series of small and large group conversations will help you do just that: Reflect on what you've learned, for the purpose of putting it into practice. Engage with other pastors in a facilitated, rapidly-moving discussion to assist you in debriefing your Midwinter experience and, together with your peers, imagine ways to implement what you've learned. This series of conversations is based on an approach known widely as the World Café method, a simple, effective and flexible model for hosting large group dialogue.

## **Open Space Technology**

Open Space Technology is a participant-driven peer learning experience. This is an opportunity for participants to choose both the topic of discussion and when to move on from that topic. Midwinter will provide the space to gather around common interests; participants will guide the direction of their own conversations and explore the issues on their minds. Open Space moves quickly from raising questions to sharing experiences to finding answers. The pace and depth of conversation are determined by the group. Open Space also allows participants to move into different conversations when they are ready. Come join your peers in discussion to share what you know and learn from the collective wisdom of those gathered.

# SPECIAL EVENTS

## ACCCC Annual Meeting and Continuing Education

Mon, Jan 30 – Wed, Feb 1

Each year the Association of Covenant Camps and Conference Centers gathers at the Midwinter Conference for a time of education and encouragement. This event is open to those who serve on a camp staff or board of directors. There is a \$120 registration fee, please register using the Midwinter Registration process. The specific education opportunities will be communicated directly to Covenant camp directors. For more information contact Bruce Lawson by email at [bruce.lawson@covchurch.org](mailto:bruce.lawson@covchurch.org). Please note, ACCCC registrants may attend the Midwinter morning sessions and evening worship services but may not attend the workshops.

## Covenant Orientation Studies

Mon, Jan 30 – Fri, Feb 3

If you are enrolled in Covenant Orientation, indicate which course you wish to take (in lieu of workshops) on the registration form. You will receive further information from that office after registration. Those participating in Covenant Orientation cannot be the primary registrant from their church, unless they are the only one attending the Midwinter Conference. Please contact Covenant Orientation by phone at (773) 442- 6581 or by email at [covenant.orientation@covchurch.org](mailto:covenant.orientation@covchurch.org) with any questions. Please note, to register for the Vocational Excellence course offered Wednesday, January 25- Sunday, January 29 at the Cenacle Retreat Center in Chicago, contact the Covenant Orientation office directly to register.

**Mission and Ministry of the ECC 1/30-2/2**  
Mon 1-5:30 PM, Tue, Wed, Thur 10 AM-6 PM

**History of the ECC 1/30-2/3**  
Mon 9 AM-5 PM, Tue, Wed, Thur 10 AM-5:30 PM, Fri 10:30 AM-5 PM

**Historia de la IPE 1/30- 2/2**  
Mon 3-5:30 PM, Tue, Wed, Thur 10 AM-5:30PM

**Theology of the ECC 1/30-2/3**  
Mon 9 AM-5 PM, Tue, Wed, Thur 10 AM-5:30 PM, Fri 10:30 AM-5 PM

## MONDAY, JANUARY 30

### ACCW Day of Connecting Clergy

12-5 PM

The Day of Connecting Clergy begins with a continuing education peer-led discussion on effective advocacy for women clergy. Male and female Midwinter participants welcome! Email Karen Hinz at [khinz@artisans317.com](mailto:khinz@artisans317.com) for details.

### Directors of Congregational Vitality Meeting

4:30-5:45 PM

The directors of congregational vitality (DCV) from each regional conference of the Covenant Church are invited to a reception. Come spend time together before Midwinter begins to share stories, best practices, and pray for each other. Space reserved for DCVs only. Please RSVP to Daniel Booker by phone at (773) 907-3354 or by email at [daniel.booker@covchurch.org](mailto:daniel.booker@covchurch.org).

### Conference Dessert Receptions

9-11 PM

Following the Welcome Banquet and Worship, gather with others from your regional conference for dessert and a time of fellowship. Take this opportunity to welcome new people in your conference, connect with old friends, and spend time with your superintendent and conference staff.

## TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

### Women Ministries Breakfast

7:30-8:45 AM

Come learn about the newest initiatives of Women Ministries, meet Meagan Gillan, our new executive minister, and join the conversation regarding our future. Everyone is welcome! Please indicate your interest in this breakfast during the registration process. There is an additional cost for this breakfast, which will be collected through the Department of Women Ministries.

### Co-Pastors Gathering

11:15 AM-12:45 PM

Pastors serving in the co-pastor model or who are interested in serving as a co-pastor are invited to fellowship and to participate in an open discussion about ministry. Bring your lunch and join us!

### Covenant Chaplains Association Annual Meeting

11:15 AM-12:45 PM

Please bring your own lunch and join us for the annual business meeting of the CCA.

### Navigate 2011 Alumni Luncheon

11:15 AM-12:45 PM

This luncheon is for pastors of Navigate 2011 churches. Enjoy a meal together and hear important updates and stories about established churches becoming healthy and missional. Please indicate your interest in this luncheon during the registration process.

### North Park Theological Seminary (NPTS) Alumni Gathering

11:15 AM-12:45 PM

This informal gathering is an event where NPTS alumni of all ages can reconnect, meet one another, and discuss their hopes and dreams for the seminary. A brief update on the state of the seminary will be given by a member of the seminary administration. We will also explore the possibility and potential of starting NPTS's first formal alumni association.

### Spiritual Direction Certificate Informational Lunch

11:15 AM-12:45 PM

North Park Theological Seminary invites you to lunch and to learn information about the certificate offered by the C. John Weberg Center for Spiritual Direction. A community of up to twenty students spends seven days together three times over a period of twenty-five months, beginning each July. Join us and learn about the unique characteristic of this academic program and how it can benefit you and your ministry. Please indicate your interest in this luncheon during the registration process.

### Midsouth Conference Dinner

5-6:45 PM

All Midsouth Conference pastors and friends are invited to share in a time of fellowship over pizza dinner.

### Town and Country Pastors Reception

5-6:45 PM

This buffet style dinner is in honor of all pastors serving in a town and country setting. Drop in, enjoy the fellowship, and know how much your ministry matters to God. Please indicate your interest in this meal during the registration process.



### **NPTS Certificate in Urban Ministry Launch Reception**

9-11 PM

NPTS is proud to announce and celebrate the launch of a new cohort program leading to a Certificate in Urban Ministry. Join us for an opportunity to network over dessert and hear program director Soong-Chan Rah as he introduces the new certificate program designed to strengthen the capacity of pastors and church leaders to lead creatively and boldly in complex, demanding, and exciting urban environments.

## **WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1**

### **Central Conference Pastors Breakfast**

7:30-8:45 AM

All Central Conference pastors are invited for breakfast to receive an update from Covenant Harbor, Covenant Point, and the Central Conference. Please RSVP to Dave Auker by email at [daukerhpm@gmail.com](mailto:daukerhpm@gmail.com).

### **Clergy Couples Gathering**

11:15 AM-12:45 PM

All couples in vocational ministry are invited to bring your lunch and join in a time of Q&A with experienced clergy couples and denominational staff.

### **Financing College Luncheon**

11:15 AM-12:45 PM

Understanding how financial aid works in today's economic environment is essential for parents concerned about paying for college. Bring your lunch and learn important information about financial aid, from scholarships to grants and loans. In particular, learn about special help

provided by North Park University for the children of credentialed Covenant ministers and missionaries.

### **Legacy and Technical Coach Luncheon**

11:15 AM-12:45 PM

Whenever a congregation votes to conclude their ministry, the pastor receives both a legacy coach and a technical coach. This reception honors the work of these coaches as well as the pastors who have courageously and compassionately led their churches through this last season of life and ministry together. Please RSVP to Daniel Booker by phone at (773) 907-3354 or by email at [daniel.booker@covchurch.org](mailto:daniel.booker@covchurch.org).

### **African American Ministers Association Gathering**

4:30-8 PM

The Annual Meeting of the AAMA will be held from 4:30-6 p.m., members are invited to attend. Our Fellowship Dinner is from 6-8 p.m. Members and their guests are welcome to celebrate AAMA 2011 Ministry Events and recognize our 2011 Willie Jemison Book Scholarship awardees.

### **Reunión de MHIFE: Ministerio Hispano de la Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico**

4:30-6:45 PM

Invitamos cordialmente a todos los pastores y líderes representantes de las iglesias y ministerios hispanos a nuestra reunión anual a celebrarse de 4:30-6:45 p.m., el día Miércoles 1 de Febrero 2012. Esta reunión tendrá como finalidad desarrollar una mini asamblea para hablar de los asuntos más importantes de nuestro ministerio, disfrutar de un tiempo ameno de fraternidad y una cena sencilla ofrecida por

el departamento de Formación Cristiana. Nota: Apreciaremos su presencia y puntualidad.

### **Asian American Association Gathering**

7:15 PM

Meet in front of the hotel registration desk for dinner plans. Afterward, join us for a reception where we will connect and receive updates on the Asian American Association.

## **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2**

### **Co-Op: Coaching of Pastors Luncheon**

11:15 AM-12:45 PM

This reception is for pastors who are coaching or being coached in the Co-Op ministry. Enjoy a meal and spend time together. Your partnership is deeply impacting how established churches are becoming healthy and missional. Please indicate your interest in this meal during the registration process.

### **Spiritual Directors Lunch**

11:15 AM-12:45 PM

All trained or in-training spiritual directors, please bring your lunch and join us for an informational gathering. Dessert and beverage will be provided. Reserve your spot during registration. For further information, contact Millie Lungren by phone at (773) 784-3000 or by email at [millie.lungren@covchurch.org](mailto:millie.lungren@covchurch.org).

### **Spiritual Direction Certificate Informational Lunch**

11:15 AM-12:45 PM

North Park Theological Seminary invites you to lunch and to learn information about the certificate offered by the C. John Weborg Center for Spiritual Direction. A community of up to twenty students spends seven days together three times over a period of twenty-five months, beginning each July. Join us and learn about the unique characteristic of this academic program and how it can benefit you and your ministry. Please indicate your interest in this luncheon during the registration process.

### **Minnehaha Academy Gathering**

5:30-6:45 PM

Minnehaha Academy invites any friends, alumni, or conference attendees who are interested in hearing about the current activities and highlights to join them for light refreshments. Donna Harris, president of Minnehaha, will be present to meet, greet, and answer questions.

# YOUTH WORKERS CONNECTION

Chicago, Illinois  
January 28-30, 2012

## Live the Story

Register online  
[CovChurch.org/connection](http://CovChurch.org/connection)

It is all too easy to compartmentalize our days. We allocate particular space and time for the many facets of our lives: home, work, school, church, call, career, ministry, family, hobbies, service, recreation. Yet we know that each of these aspects of life on their own is but a segment of a larger story, mere chapters or subsections.

Let's investigate what life looks like when the presence of God infuses all aspects of our individual and communal activities. Take time with us to stop skimming the chapters, and live the story that God has called us to together. Whether you are paid or volunteer, full- or part-time, credentialed or not, please consider joining with others who are called to walk beside youth and families at **Youth Workers Connection 2012**. Together we will:

- Share our stories: the glorious, the tragic, the mundane, and the ever-changing
- Write another chapter together
- **Live the Story!**

## PRE-YWC MEETINGS

### Friday, January 27

1-5 PM Youth Ministry Network  
5-7 PM Dinner for Youth Ministry Network Leaders and Facilitators

### Saturday, January 28

9 AM-12 PM Youth Ministry Network  
2-5 PM CHIC Liaison Meeting

## YOUTH WORKERS CONNECTION SCHEDULE

### Saturday, January 28

8 AM-6:30 PM Registration  
2-5 PM Learning Experiences  
6-10 PM Dinner and Worship – Millennium Park, Pritzker Pavillion

### Sunday, January 29

8 AM- 6 PM Registration  
8:15-9:45 AM Learning Experiences  
10-10:30 AM Continental Breakfast sponsored by NPU  
10:30 AM-12 PM Worship – Chicago Cultural Center  
12:30- 2 PM Lunch Forums  
2:30-4:30 PM Learning Experiences  
4:45-6 PM Dinner  
6:30 PM Transportation to Museum of Science and Industry  
7:00 PM Worship – Museum of Science and Industry  
9:30 PM Omnimax Viewing  
11 PM Transportation back to Hyatt Regency Chicago

### Monday, January 30

8 AM- 1 PM Registration  
8-9:15 AM Learning Experience  
9:30-10 AM Continental Breakfast sponsored by NPU  
10-11:30 AM Worship – Chicago Cultural Center  
1 PM Transportation to Hyatt Regency O'Hare  
2:30-4:30 PM Learning Experience  
6-9 PM Celebration Dinner and Joint Worship – Midwinter  
9-11 PM Regional Conference Dessert Receptions

## REGISTRATION FEES

Youth Workers Connection 2012	Through 12/15/11	After 12/15/11
Primary Registrant	\$195	\$209
Additional Registrant	\$165	\$195

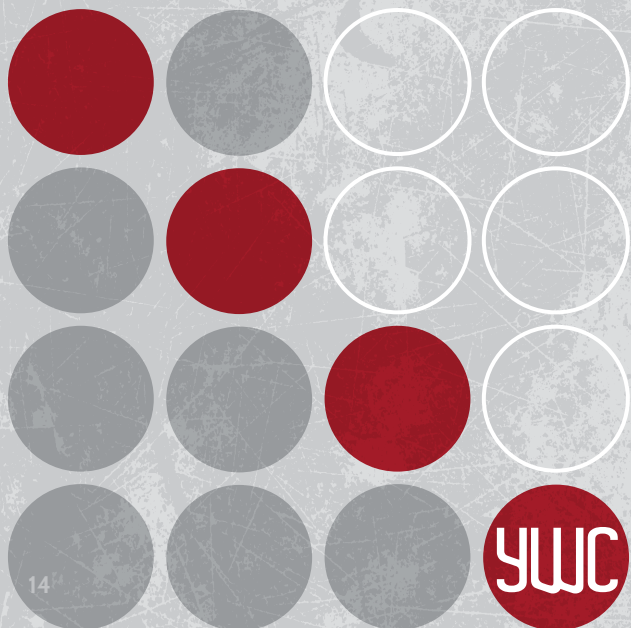
## LODGING

### Hyatt Regency Chicago-Downtown

151 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60601  
phone: (312) 565-1234, fax: (312) 239-4414

### Hotel Reservation Deadline: Wednesday, January 4, 2012

You are responsible for your own reservations. The block of rooms reserved at the Hyatt Regency Chicago for YWC attendees will be held at a discount rate of \$119 (plus tax) per night for single-double occupancy until the deadline date of January 4 or until the room block is full, whichever comes first. You can make your



YWC



## WORSHIP

### Harvey Carey SATURDAY EVENING

Harvey Carey is the founder and senior pastor of the Citadel of Faith Covenant Church in Detroit. He is a dynamic speaker whose global ministry continues to change lives with the transforming truth of God’s word. Carey has developed a nationally emulated youth ministry model that has reached thousands of teens in inner cities across the nation. His inspiring leadership and vision for urban renewal unites people across boundaries of race, age, class, and culture. He and his wife, Nancy, and their daughter live in Detroit.



### Mike Novelli SUNDAY MORNING

Mike Novelli is continually seeking the most effective ways to help people learn. This passion led him to explore experiential teaching methods for thirteen years as a church youth pastor. Now Novelli’s full-time focus is to create learner-centered events, resources, and curriculum for ministries and educators. He is founder of Echo, a ministry that explores the art of Bible “storying”. He and his wife, Michele, have two children. They live in Elgin, Illinois.



### Bianca Juarez SUNDAY EVENING

Bianca Juarez Olthoff is a writer and speaker who spends most of her time as chief storyteller for the A21 Campaign, an organization committed to abolishing human trafficking. She enjoys blogging about life, love, and the pursuit of Jesus. When given the opportunity to teach God’s word, disciple youth, or discuss theology with a group of women, she relishes those paths by which she helps people to know God’s love. She lives with her husband, Matt, in Los Angeles, California, and loves having dance parties in the living room with her two step children.



### Kris Causton MONDAY MORNING

Kris Causton is associate pastor at Excelsior (MN) Covenant Church. A former youth pastor, Causton now serves the church by using her gift of communication in speaking at youth and adult events, camps, and retreats around the United States and Canada. In addition to being a mother and pastor, Causton fancies herself a detective—looking for clues about what God is up to in the world. She and her husband, Jeff, live in Chaska, Minnesota, with their two children and a garden full of thistles.



### Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie MONDAY EVENING

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie is the first woman to be elected bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church. Prior to her historic election in 2000, she served as pastor of Payne Memorial AME Church in Baltimore, Maryland, for ten years, where she pioneered successful efforts to bridge the gap between the church and its surrounding community. In 2005 she made history again when she became the first woman president of the Council of Bishops in the AME and continues to serve as the presiding prelate of the 13<sup>th</sup> Episcopal District of the AME church. She and her husband, Stan, have three children and reside in Tennessee.



reservation online at [CovChurch.org/connection](http://CovChurch.org/connection). If you would rather make a reservation by phone, call (888) 421-1442 and ask for the group rate for the Evangelical Covenant Church. Please notify the hotel of any special needs related to handicap accessibility in the facility. For double occupancy reservation, those sharing a room (other than with spouse) must give name and city of roommate when making reservations.

## TRANSPORTATION

You are responsible for arranging your own transportation from the airport to the hotel. During YWC, all distances between the venues are walk-able or transportation is provided. The only exception is on Monday, January 30, the concluding dinner and worship service for Youth Workers Connection will be held in partnership with the Midwinter Conference at the Hyatt Regency O’Hare. We will provide transportation to the Hyatt Regency O’Hare on Monday afternoon; however, you are on your own for transportation back to the Hyatt Regency Chicago following the evening wor-

ship service. If you are interested in staying at the Hyatt Regency O’Hare following the conclusion of Youth Workers Connection, please be sure to make a separate reservation with that hotel beginning on Monday evening. Details and reservation instructions can be found online at [CovChurch.org/midwinter](http://CovChurch.org/midwinter).

## MEALS

Your registration fee will include four meals: dinner on Saturday and Monday evenings, as well as breakfast on Sunday and Monday mornings. For the meals on your own:

- Participate in the Chicago dining experience at a variety of local restaurants within walking distance.
- Enjoy food and snacks in the comfort of the hotel at Stetson’s Chop House, the BISTRO at 151, BIG Bar, DaddyO’s Pub or J’s Express. Room service at the Hyatt Regency Chicago is also available twenty-four hours.



The Evangelical Covenant Church

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# MIDWINTER CONFERENCE 2012

## Important Next Steps

- Review all that Midwinter has to offer, including:
  - Outstanding Speakers
  - Engaging Workshops
  - Lunch Options: Round-Table Discussions, Lunch Forums, Special Events
  - Pre-Conference Educational Opportunities
- Register online at [CovChurch.org/midwinter](http://CovChurch.org/midwinter) or by mail or by fax with the registration form.
- Reserve your hotel room today. See page 8 for detailed instructions.
- Visit [CovChurch.org/midwinter](http://CovChurch.org/midwinter) for more information and updates.
- **SAVE THE DATE** for Midwinter '13: February 4-8 in San Diego, California.