

Agenda Item No. 7.a.

Candidate for Executive Minister of Compassion, Mercy, and Justice

Deborah C. Blue, Director of Adult Ministries – The Department of Christian Formation

Called to serve in the Department of Christian Education and Discipleship (now the Department of Christian Formation) of the Evangelical Covenant Church in 1996, Debbie Blue served as Associate of Consulting and Training. She currently serves as the Director of Adult Ministries, serving local Covenant churches through the development of print resources, leadership development, facilitating retreats and training workshops for adult spiritual formation; consultation in the area of adult ministries and racial righteousness; adjunct professor at NPTS teaching adult ministries/adult formation classes; coordinator and trainer for the racial righteousness efforts for the ECC.

Debbie served as a volunteer in youth, young adult and Christian education ministries in the local church for 17 years prior to receiving her call.

She received her B.S. in Bioengineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1988 and her M.A. in Christian Education from North Park Theological Seminary in 1996. She is currently pursuing a certificate in spiritual direction through the Center for Spiritual Direction at North Park Theological Seminary.

Debbie was commissioned by the ECC in 1998 and Ordained to Specialized Ministry in 2003.

She is the mother of three adult children, grandmother to five grandchildren, and a member of Community Covenant Church in the Chicago area.

Agenda Item No. 7.b

Candidate for Executive Minister of Church Growth & Evangelism

Gary B. Walter, Executive Minister of Church Growth & Evangelism

Gary B. Walter was first elected as Executive Minister of the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism in 1999. Prior to this position he had served as the ECC's Director of New Church Development for eight years.

Gary was born in Santa Rosa, California. He received his BA from the University of California at Berkeley. His Master of Divinity degree is from North Park Theological Seminary, with studies at Fuller Theological Seminary. Upon completion of seminary, he served as Associate Pastor of Newport Covenant Church in Bellevue, Washington, and Senior Pastor of Clairemont Covenant Church in San Diego, California.

Gary is married to Nancy Osterlund Walter. They have three daughters, Amy, Alissa, and Lauren. They live in Palatine, Illinois, where they are charter members of DeerGrove Covenant Church.

Agenda Item No. 7.c
Candidate for Executive Minister of Women Ministries

Ruth Y. Hill, Executive Minister of Women Ministries

A native of Bellingham, Washington, Ruth Hill attended Seattle Pacific University and graduated in 1972 with degrees in psychology and education. She continued her studies in education at the University of Washington.

In 1972 she and her husband, Brad Hill, were called by the Covenant to serve as missionaries to Congo (then Zaire). During nineteen years of service there, she taught high school, trained couples for pastoral ministry and was very active in women's ministries. In 1991, the Hills moved back to Bellingham to serve Bellingham Evangelical Covenant Church for the next eight years.

Ruth Hill has served on mission boards at the conference and denominational level.

In September 1999 was called to serve as Executive Minister of Women Ministries for the Evangelical Covenant Church. She and Brad now live in Chicago.

The Hills' family includes daughter Rachel and Ben Cassidy, their two sons Arthur and Grant, and daughter Rebecca and Robert Worl and their daughter, Annabelle.

Agenda Item No. 7.d
Candidate for Executive Minister of World Mission

Curtis D. Peterson, Executive Minister of World Mission

Curt Peterson was first elected Executive Minister of World Mission in June 2003. Previously, Curt was pastor of Montecito Covenant Church in Santa Barbara, California, 1980-2003. From 1973-1980 Curt was a church planter in the St. Louis area, serving Christ Covenant in Florissant and Community Covenant in Kirkwood. Curt also served as chair of the Covenant Executive Board, chair of the Pacific Southwest Conference Executive Board, chair of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, and a member of the World Relief Commission.

Clarity of mission and vision, staff reorganization and sound financial management of world mission were priorities for Curt in his first term. The mission, values and goals of the department are now identified. Reorganization of the department into four divisions to better serve missionaries, local ECC churches and national partners will be in place by September, 2007. The current operating budget is now balanced and sustainable and fund deficits are being reduced annually.

Curt received his B.A. in Philosophy from UCLA in 1969, his Master of Divinity from Fuller Theological Seminary in 1972, and completed orientation studies at North Park Seminary in 1973. He was ordained in 1974. Curt and his wife, Martie, have three married sons: Erik, Nils and Jonathan and three grandchildren.