

C O V E N A N T
<b>YEARBOOK</b>
STATISTICAL DATA & RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES

**2013-14 EDITION**

**Minutes of the Ministerium 2013**



# **Annual Meeting of the Covenant Ministerium**

Detroit, Michigan

June 27, 2013

8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Tim B. Johnson, president, called the meeting to order at 9:24 a.m.

## **PRAYER**

Tim B. Johnson led in prayer.

## **ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING AND STANDING RULES**

The agenda was approved as presented.

The standing rules were approved as presented.

Members of the Ministerium paid their dues, updated their profile on CovConnect, completed the Vocational Growth Tool; and had healthy connections with ministerial colleagues.

A motion for the following appointments was approved by consensus:

Auditor—John Peterson

Parliamentarian—Brad Boydston

Resolutions—Canada Conference

Sergeants-at-arm—Pacific Southwest Conference

Tellers—East Coast Conference

The Ministerium approved these minutes.

Simon Kamu, president of the Covenant Church of Kenya was present, recognized, and welcomed warmly.

## **GREETINGS**

Greetings from our colleagues who could not be present were received by the annual meeting. Those who sent greetings include Jim and Cathy Stanley-Erickson, Jason Backlund, Jonathan Hancock, Peter Kozushko, and Doug Johnson.

## **STATE OF THE MINISTERIUM REPORT**

Tim Johnson shared how the words “count it all joy,” (James 1) had been whispered into his ear at his ordination while on his knees. He proceeded to share the ministry tale of two men he has worked with in his church, one deeply rooted in the church, but who eventually turned angry, divisive, and walked out on the church. The other, a recovering alcoholic with a lengthy prison record found new life in Christ, and though now battling cancer finds joy in serving Christ tending the community garden and leading a ministry to the homeless in downtown Minneapolis. In both cases, we are called to “count it all joy!”

Johnson also shared greetings from Richard Carlson, now retired and beloved professor from NPTS, who otherwise had again been invited to preach during our worship time, but due to health concerns, had to withdraw. Donn Engebretson had also prayed for him in our time of worship.

## **PRESENTATION OF BALLOT**

The nominating committee brought the name of John Peterson from Omaha, Nebraska, for the three-year term of treasurer. They had been unable to find a second

candidate. But constitutionally, we are required to bring two names pre-printed on the ballot (a nomination from the floor not being sufficient to be in compliance). As such, it was determined by the parliamentarian that we were out of order with our Constitution. A proposal that the executive committee appoint a temporary treasurer was approved. The matter was officially sent back to the nominating committee who we will come back next year with a valid ballot with two candidates. [After the conclusion of this day-long annual meeting, the Ministerium executive met briefly to appoint John Peterson to a one-year interim term of service as the ECC Ministerium Treasurer.]

#### REPORT OF EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY

Mark Novaak, executive minister of the ordered ministry, expressed thanks for the opportunity given him to serve the Ministerium. “Our staff prays regularly for you. We need each other. We are seeking to be proactively to support you,” he said. “I am concerned about our marriages. We need *margin*. We need time with our families,” he added. He further indicated that the staff of the office for the ordered ministry prays for those who are stuck, those who need a call. There is good news—SPE has grants for continuing education. We are going to find ways to keep it coming. His greatest joys as executive minister of the ordered ministry, as he concludes his first year in this role are these who are being ordained and consecrated. With that, the various categories of credentialed ministers were presented and acted on.

#### RECOMMENDATION FOR APPROVAL

The following candidates were recommended by the Board of the Ordered Ministry for their indicated permanent credential and by voice vote approved by the Ministerium for recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Individual seconds, submitted in writing in the course of the day’s proceedings by current members of the Ministerium, are indicated in parentheses.

##### **Finalization of Transfer of Ordination**

F. Remy Diedrich  
Thomas P. Lach  
Jeffrey T. Shupe (Howard K. Burgoyne)  
Johan J. Tredoux

##### **Consecration as Missionaries**

Hannah M. Baker (Baxter Swenson)  
Kimberly Delp (Baxter Swenson)  
Christy L. Taylor (Baxter Swenson)  
Christopher E. Wiebe (Baxter Swenson, Steven M. Hoden)  
Diane Wiebe (Baxter Swenson, Steven M. Hoden)

##### **Ordination to Word and Service**

Theresa Marks  
Dale W. Solberg (Mark Pattie)

##### **Ordination to Word and Sacrament**

Richard C. Arnold  
Jason L. Ashley  
Scott J. Austin (Drusilla McLeland)  
Matthew D. Bach

Darren C. Baughman  
 Michael A. Behm  
 Derek C. Boggs  
 Jeremy R. Bower  
 Jason B. Bradley  
 Grant R. Buchholtz (Baxter Swenson)  
 Miho O. Buchholtz (Baxter Swenson)  
 Jaron M. Burdick  
 Daniel W. Collison  
 Joel B Delp (Baxter Swenson)  
 Barbara A Ettinger (Howard K. Burgoyne, Brian Estrella)  
 Jonna Fantz (Mark Pattie, Drusilla McLeland, Julie Jane Capel)  
 Ileana Garcia-Soto  
 Steve V. Hoden (Pete Ekstrand, Steven M. Hoden)  
 Tracy L. Hufschmid  
 Isabel C. Hughes  
 Joon Shik Hwang  
 Devyn Chambers Johnson (Howard K. Burgoyne)  
 Kelly G. Johnston (Scot Gillan, Steve M. Hoden)  
 R. Lee Jost II (Richard G. Mylander)  
 Nancy K. Lewis (Paul Allen)  
 Michael L. Lotzer  
 Zachary W. Lovig  
 Jason A. Mach  
 John T. Madison  
 Mark Mathis (Drusilla McLeland)  
 Jeffrey J. McClain  
 Elizabeth D. McColl (Steven M Hoden)  
 Seth A Michael  
 Stacia P. Michael  
 Gregory S. Oppenhuizen  
 David M. Ostercamp  
 Pamela E. Pangborn  
 Wayne W. Park  
 Glenn S. Peterson  
 Mary E. Peterson  
 Rebecca L. Poor  
 Michael S. Przybylski (Dennis K Carlson)  
 Sarah R. Robinson  
 Bethann S. Rohlfsing  
 Kelsey C.H. Rorem  
 Perry K. Sakai  
 Peter D. Sjoblom  
 Jesse M. Slimak (Dennis K Carlson)  
 P. Glen Smith (Richard G. Mylander)  
 Min W. Song (Drusilla McLeland)  
 Joshua B. Swenson (Baxter Swenson)  
 Margaret E. Swenson (Baxter Swenson, Pete Ekstrand)

Olaf C. van de Klashorst  
Andrew D. Vanover (Pete Ekstrand)  
Kyliah A. Villa

Jerome Nelson, superintendent of the Central Conference, prayed for those receiving permanent credentials.

The Department of the Ordered Ministry, on behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, moved that the Ministerium recommend to the Annual Meeting the approval for the licensing of 520 individuals from all the conferences for either bivocational license or ministerial license. All were approved. Their names appear in the roster of the ministers in the *Covenant Yearbook*.

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the Department of the Ordered Ministry recommended that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 128th Covenant Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following individuals have been moved from active to inactive: Peter Beeman (OWSa), Linda Buie (CSM), Timothy Bukowski (OWSa), Steven Chellow (OWSa), Florence Gustafson (CM), Linda Forbes (OWSa), Timothy LaHann (OWSa), Craig Larson (OWSa), Adria Pearson (OWSa), Robert Sabin (OWSa), Joceyln Thornton (OWSa), Douglas Vetvick (CSM).

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the Department of the Ordered Ministry recommended that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 128th Covenant Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following individual has been moved from active to leave of absence: Daniel Booker (OWSe).

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the Department of the Ordered Ministry recommended that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 128th Covenant Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following individual has been moved from inactive to active: Sheldon Matheson (OWSa).

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the Department of the Ordered Ministry recommended that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 128th Covenant Annual Meeting that the following individual has resigned his ordination standing and requested that his name be removed from the roster of Covenant ministers: Darin Towle.

On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the Department of the Ordered Ministry recommended that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 128th Covenant Annual Meeting for the dismissal of the following person from the ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church and that his name be removed from the roster of Covenant ministers: Jason Lee.

The Covenant Ministerium approved these changes in ministerial standing and received the reports. Mark Novak prayed for these ministerial transitions. Sue Fabro, ending her service on the Board of the Ordered Ministry, in turn prayed for Novak.

## REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

Gary Walter, president of the ECC, highlighted a few items: nearly 200,000 individuals are worshipping in our churches; nine new long-term missionaries; twenty-one new churches, half multiethnic, being welcomed into the Covenant; Greg Yee, new superintendent in the North Pacific Conference; Ed Gilbreath, new executive minister of the Department of Communications; advances in Hispanic ministries; financial headwinds exist; identity and cohesion challenges as is living into a mosaic

community; and significant re-alignment of Covenant Offices in process.

How can the ministerium be supportive? 1) What you expect of individuals in your own church, do so yourself in partnership with the conference and denomination. 2) Covenant Kids Congo—7,000 child sponsorships so far; goal is 10,000 by the end of the year. We need every congregation involved. 3) Every congregation—Practice the “Three P Approach to Stewardship”—percentage giving; progressive giving—move up that percentage incremental, and priority giving. The same standards we want for our own members in our churches, may we practice in our conference and denomination. Three things bind us together: the beliefs we hold, the mission we share, and the relationships we cherish.

## REPORT FROM NORTH PARK THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

David Kersten, dean of North Park Theological Seminary (NPTS), is completing his first academic year. Highlights include—under the transition team led by Tim “Yak” Johnson the school ran well. Head count at 280, 160 degree seekers. One hundred sixteen full-time equivalency, 92 new students; next fall—lagging behind a bit, down about 30 percent in overall pipeline of students. Recently graduated 55 students; 22 in the call process. Twelve have been placed, so looking for call/placement for ten students; Phil Anderson retired in June after thirty-four years in church history. (Warm applause for Phil.)

Task Force 1 Strategic Planning: Are we moving toward an economic sustainable rate? Twenty key programmatic issues are on horizon, three main ones: 1) Revision of the Master of Divinity Degree. Ninety-two hours now required, will drop down to 78 or 80 hours, but with fewer hours in the classroom up front. 2) Intentional lifelong learning plan. This will be especially for the first five years post-seminary, and will all be decided on and owned in discussion with the whole Covenant and ministerial community. Ministry is the last field without standardized continuing education. 3) Distance Learning. The emerging model in theological education is a Hybrid-Intensive Model with lots of reading up front; five to six days intensive classroom days with professor, then writing papers afterwards. Workshop component with practitioners in the field.

Task Force 2 Faculty: There are three pending retirements—Klyne Snodgrass, Carol Norén, Jay Phelan—leaving just twelve faculty members. The newly entering faculty—Hauna Ondrey (church history) and Jody Hartland-Boyer (Louisville Institute Funding, Mennonite from Toronto)—are coming for two years. Stephen Chester will be taking a sabbatical to finish a book, then will become academic dean.

NPTS won the Lily Endowment Grant for Financial Development for Student Debt. There will be financial counselors for all seminary students. Covenant Trust will provide this. National Covenant Properties is looking to take over Stafford loans. This will raise the whole community in better financial understanding.

A D. Min. in Urban Ministry (Soong-Chan Rah, director) in partnership with Fuller has been approved.

Wilfredo de Jesus, graduate of NPTS, was on the cover of *Time* magazine featuring Hispanics in America. He was also named among top 100 influential people in the world.

There is an emerging vision for NPTS to be the provider of theological education for the whole church; a study house—residential, virtual, and global.

In response to a question, Kersten indicated that a basic paradigm for theological

education in the future would be: one third residential, one third intensive, one third online.

#### REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

David Parkyn, president of North Park University (NPU), had sent a written report in the form of a PowerPoint presentation that was sent out ahead of time to those signed up for this meeting. To this he added reflections from Psalm 1:3, "They are like a tree planted by streams of water," building on that metaphor as it relates to students at NPU and the trees that have been planted on the campus that was once farmlands void of trees.

Tammy Hallam prayed for Gary Walter and David Parkyn and then introduced the Traceys, our continuing education presenters from Mending the Soul. The Traceys gave an excellent presentation of their healing work with victims of abuse, which has grown in recent years throughout the United States, to our mission fields in Latin America and also to war torn region of Eastern DR Congo and Rwanda. This came on either side of our lunch break.

#### REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF CHET

Ed Delgado, president of CHET, had also sent a three-page written report in advance on the recent activities at CHET, our Covenant Hispanic pastoral training school. To this he added further comments on the 190 full-time equivalency students and the roughly 600 total number of students taking classes in one of the many satellite programs in the United States and beyond. Most of the students are already engaged in practical ministry in Spanish-speaking immigrant communities. They will be celebrating their twenty-fifth anniversary next year.

Dennis Carlson prayed for both Ed Delgado and Dave Kersten.

#### ELECTION RESULTS

John Peterson appointed to a one-year term as interim treasurer with a two-candidate ballot to be presented for the treasurer position next year.

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

Given a cash surplus in our account, last year's budget included several one-time grants that did good work for several segments of our broader constituency including: \$5,000 for a national vision/planning meeting for ACCW (Advocates of Covenant Clergy Women); \$5,000 for the Ministers' Crisis Fund; \$1,000 for Rural Pastoral Training in Western Alaska; \$2,000 to help establish a North Park Theological Seminary Alumni Association; \$3,000 for additional scholarships for NPTS students to attend Midwinter given that it was in San Diego last year and not close by in Chicago; and \$10,000 for a conference on the ministry dealing with contemporary pastoral care issues. These were all indicated on the treasurer's report, representing the major changes from last year's budget to this year's budget.

Mike Cogan prayed for John Peterson, who will be assuming the role of treasurer.

The treasurer's report was audited by John Peterson. He was not present at the meeting to report on it.

Mike Cogan presented the proposed budget for 2013-2014, which was accepted by voice vote.

#### INSTALLATION OF NEW TREASURER

The new treasurer, John Peterson, was installed.

## ADVOCATES FOR COVENANT CLERGY WOMEN (ACCW) REPORT

Julie Jane Capel, NPTS, together with Valeyo Garrett, treasurer, expressed thanks for a grant in 2006 that established funding for a total of six awards, that are given in alternate years, that is, three each year for either women in ministry or people who are actively advocating for Covenant clergy women. This year's award recipients were present as follows: 1) Anderson-Nordland Missionary Award to Katie Isaza, Medellín, Colombia, which will support her in completion of her master's degree in Christian Formation; 2) Priscilla Pastoral Grant to Caroline Rose, co-pastor of Royal Palm Covenant Church, to assist in the Royal Palm Beach Mentor Ministry for young women thirteen to twenty-one years; and 3) Mordecai Award to Theodore Law, Access Evangelical Covenant, Houston, Texas, for a man who has demonstrated active support of women in pastoral ministry.

All are welcome to join the ACCW. On Saturday during the lunch all are invited to hear testimonies of women in ministry.

Dru McLeland prayed for the award winners and the work of ACCW.

## CHRISTIAN ACTION COMMISSION

Liz Mosbo Verhage, chair of the CAC, reported that two resolutions will be presented to the Covenant Annual Meeting. The first on stewardship and generosity is in its final form after a two-year process and will be up for vote. The second is a draft resolution on immigration to start the conversation, to get input from the wider church for edits. This latter resolution was handed out, available in both English and Spanish.

She reported that there is a discussion guide for the resolution on stewardship and generosity.

## OTHER BUSINESS

No other business was reported.

## RESOLUTIONS

### **Time of Remembrance**

A handout was distributed with the names, dates, and place of passing of twenty-two from our ministerial circle who have finished their earthly race and joined the church triumphant, including twelve pastors, two missionaries, and eight spouses. Dennis Carlson read the list of names and followed with a pray of remembrance.

### **Pastors**

Fred W. Knecht, March 17, 2002, Cheboygan, Michigan  
Harry J. Ekstam, August 2, 2012, Batavia, Illinois  
Robert A. Kronberg, November 4, 2012, Omaha, Nebraska  
John A. Withem, November 4, 2012, Woodland, California  
L. Edward Nelson, December 30, 2012, Longview, Washington  
Teofisto N. Gaurano, January 28, 2013, Chicago, Illinois  
Norris M. Peterson, April 23, 2013, Moline, Illinois  
G. David Korsen, April 23, 2013, Caledonia, Michigan  
Albert R. Josephson, April 30, 2013, Surrey, British Columbia  
Charles E. Nelson, May 4, 2013, Vancouver, Washington  
Larry L. Sherman, May 7, 2013, Lyon, Michigan  
Raymond L. Dahlberg, June 21, 2013, Northbrook, Illinois

**Missionaries**

Marie C. Rojas (Andrew), November, 18, 2012, Plantation, Florida

Anne Ericson (L. Daniel), March 8, 2013, Plantation, Florida

**Spouses**

Helen B. Swanson (Richard), September 9, 2012, East Dennis, Massachusetts

Edith L. Larson (Robert A.), October 4, 2012, Batavia, Illinois

Ann J. Carlson (Irving), November 26, 2012, Loveland, Colorado

Marilyn Drotts (Lowell), December 27, 2012, Dennis, Massachusetts

Susan Henrickson Enns (G. Marlan), January 2, 2013, Spring Valley, California

Ruth N. Erickson (Roy), February 6, 2013, Mercer Island, Washington

Ruth S. Wilkens (John), February 28, 2013, Mount Vernon, Washington

Doris W. Derby (L. Jackson), May 1, 2013, Turlock, California

**Expressions of Gratitude**

Canada Conference was not present to present a formal resolution of gratitude to all who made this meeting in Detroit a significant part of our greater Covenant gathering, sandwiched inbetween Mission Detroit (finishing that day) and the ECC Annual Meeting (beginning that evening).

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m. an invitation to meet again on June 26, 2014, in Chicago, Illinois.

Dennis Carlson, Secretary  
Covenant Ministerium

## ADDENDUM

### TREASURER'S REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED APRIL 30, 2013

	<b>Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Budget</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2012-2013 Actual</b>	<b>Fiscal Year 2013-2014 Budget</b>
<b>Income</b>			
Dues	\$100,000.00	\$100,815.00	\$105,000.00
Interest	75.00	87.44	75.00
Annual Meeting	1,800.00	1,107.15	1,500.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$101,875.00</b>	<b>\$102,009.59</b>	<b>\$106,575.00</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
SPE	\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00
Annual Meeting	1,500.00	1,975.16	1,500.00
Executive Committee	17,000.00	14,907.72	17,000.00
Conference on the Ministry	2,000.00	0.00	10,000.00
Administration	200.00	43.80	100.00
<i>Midwinter Scholarships</i>			
Pastors	17,000.00	17,000.00	17,000.00
Military Chaplains	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
NPTS	6,000.00	6,000.00	3,000.00
Retired Pastors	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
<i>Organizations &amp; Ministries</i>			
Women Intern Grants	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Diversity Intern Grants	6,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
ACCW	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
Covenant Quarterly	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
CHET	1,000.00	1,000.00	1,000.00
NPTS Deacon's Fund	5,000.00	5,000.00	5,000.00
ACCW Nat'l. Meeting Grant	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Ministers' Crisis Fund Grant	5,000.00	5,000.00	0.00
Western Alaska Training Grant	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00
NPTS Alumni Assn. Grant	2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00
Discretionary Fund	10,000.00	0.00	0.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$132,700.00</b>	<b>\$118,926.68</b>	<b>\$114,600.00</b>
<b>Net Income Less Expenses</b>	<b>(30,825.00)</b>	<b>(16,917.09)</b>	<b>(8,025.00)</b>
<b>Ending Cash Balance</b>	<b>\$15,180.94</b>	<b>\$29,088.85</b>	<b>\$21,063.85</b>