

C O V E N A N T
YEARBOOK
STATISTICAL DATA & RESOURCES FOR CHURCHES

2013-14 EDITION

Minutes of the Annual Meeting 2013

Minutes of the 128th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church

Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center
Renaissance Ballroom
Detroit, Michigan
June 28-29, 2013

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

Friday, June 28, 2013
8:31 a.m.

1. MORNING WORSHIP

Moderator Stanley Long called the business session of the 128th Annual Meeting to order at 8:31 a.m., beginning with a time of worship. The worship team led a time of singing and J. Kevin Butcher, senior pastor at Hope Community Church in Detroit, gave a meditation.

2. OPENING STATEMENT BY THE MODERATOR

Moderator Stanley Long explained procedures, issued an opening statement, and introduced the officers and staff on stage.

Wilson Herrera, director of Hispanic ministries for the Department of Christian Formation, announced in Spanish that supporting material for various agenda items were written in Spanish and available to delegates.

3. GREETING FROM GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE, SUPERINTENDENT GARTH MCGRATH

Superintendent Garth McGrath greeted the assembly from the Great Lakes Conference and its churches.

4. REPORT ON CREDENTIALS AND MOTION

The moderator recognized Joan Hill, chair of the credentials committee, who presented the following motion on behalf of the credentials committee: "Those persons who have currently been registered and certified as delegates with the committee on credentials together with those who shall subsequently be registered and certified in the course of this Annual Meeting shall constitute the official roster of the 128th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church."

The motion carried.

Hill then reported that registration thus far included 358 credentialed voting delegates and 163 additional registrants in various non-voting categories for a total registered conference attendance of 521.

5. ACTION ON THE STANDING RULES

The moderator recognized Amanda Olson, vice-moderator, who, on behalf of the agenda committee, moved the adoption of the standing rules as follows:

STANDING RULES OF ORDER 2013 COVENANT ANNUAL MEETING

1) Obtaining the Floor

Only persons wearing appropriate credentials as delegates, advisers, or

resource persons may be present on the floor of the Annual Meeting or request speaking privileges. With the exception of points of order, points of personal privilege, or other items that require urgent attention, only those persons who approach a microphone shall be recognized by the moderator.

2) Voting

Voting on motions will typically be by voice vote. Any delegate may request voting by ballot on any particular question. This request, when supported by ten percent of the delegates present and voting, will be implemented. The moderator may direct that voting be by ballot on any question.

3) Time Limits

a) Reports that contain no proposal for action by the meeting shall be limited to ten (10) minutes, including the question period, with the exception of the president's report, the treasurer's report, and items specified in the agenda as longer reports.

b) Debate on any main motion, including its subsidiary motions, shall be limited to thirty (30) minutes, except as otherwise specified in the agenda. No amendment or other subsidiary motion to a main motion shall be allowed until debate on the main motion has ceased or ten (10) minutes have passed.

c) No speech in debate may exceed three (3) minutes unless this period is extended by a majority vote at the request of the speaker.

d) Time limits may be extended for a specific period by a two-thirds vote.

4) Submission of Motions in Writing

All main motions and complex subsidiary motions shall be submitted in writing to the secretary.

5) Items of Business Not on the Agenda

The Bylaws provide in Section 7.8.a.ii that "Items of business that are not on the agenda may be submitted in writing by a delegate to the moderator. If the item submitted is in order, a majority vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required to place that item on the agenda." It is further strongly requested that such items be submitted to the moderator as early as possible in the course of the meeting.

6) Consent Agenda

Items on the Consent Agenda may be removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of any two delegates. Items removed from the Consent Agenda shall be acted upon by the assembly at a place in the agenda determined by the moderator. If the Consent Agenda is not adopted by the unanimous consent of the meeting then each of the items on the Consent Agenda shall be acted upon by the assembly as a separate motion at a place in the agenda determined by the moderator.

7) Nominations from the Floor

A nomination from the floor shall be accepted only if the person nominated has agreed to have his or her name placed in nomination. (Note that the Bylaws provide in Section 7.9.c.v.2 and 7.10.j.ii that a delegate making a nomination may provide descriptive information similar in scope and content to that provided to the Annual Meeting by a nominating board or committee.)

8) Modification of Agenda Order

The moderator shall have the discretion to revise the order of agenda items to accommodate scheduling needs.

Agenda Committee Members

Stanley B. Long, *moderator*

Gary B. Walter, *president of the Covenant*

Amanda L. Olson, *vice-moderator*

Evelyn M.R. Johnson, *secretary of the Covenant*

Eric D. Filkin, *parliamentarian*

The motion to adopt the standing rules carried.

6. ACTION ON THE PROPOSED AGENDA

The moderator recognized Evelyn Johnson, interim executive vice-president, who reported that the Executive Board recommended the adoption of the agenda as follows:

Times Certain

FRIDAY

8:30–12:00 p.m.

Morning Business Session with Worship

1:30 p.m.

Irving Lambert Outstanding Urban Ministries Award

1:30–3:00 p.m.

Afternoon Business Session

3:30–4:45 p.m.

Roundtable Discussions–Mission Priorities +

SATURDAY

8:30–12:00 p.m.

Morning Business Session with Worship

9:15 a.m.

T. W. Anderson Outstanding Layperson Award

9:30 a.m.

Clergy Lifetime Service Recognition

9:45 a.m.

Ministerial Credentials

10:30 a.m.

2014 Mission and Ministry Budget

1:30–3:00 p.m.

Afternoon Business Session

Reports exceeding the ten (10) minute time limit per Standing Rule 3.a are marked: e.g., (30-min. report)

PREPARING OUR HEARTS

1. Morning Worship

ORGANIZATION OF THE MEETING

2. Opening Statement by the Moderator

3. Greeting from Great Lakes Conference, Superintendent Garth McGrath

4. Report on Credentials and Motion

a. Credentialing Report #1

b. Credentialing Report #2

c. Credentialing Report #3

5. Action on the Proposed Agenda *Esta material también se encuentra en Español*

6. Action on the Standing Rules

7. Approval of Honorary Delegates and Resource Persons

a. Honorary Delegates

b. Resource Persons

MEMBERSHIP IN THE MISSION

8. Churches Removed from the Roster
 - a. Recognition and Prayer
9. Churches Applying for Membership in the Evangelical Covenant Church
 - a. Recognition and Prayer (30-minute report)

STATE OF THE MISSION

10. Report of the President

ORGANIZING FOR MISSION

11. Introduction to Mission Priority Alignment
12. 2014 Constitution Amendment
13. 2013 Bylaw Amendments
 - a. Article X, Section 10.3.b.i – Ordered Ministry
 - b. Article VII, Section 7.10, Article XII, Section 12.2 – Benevolence

SERVANT LEADERSHIP FOR THE MISSION

14. Call of Executive Minister of Communication
 - a. Report of the Nominating Committee
 - b. Vote
15. Report of the Board of Nominations and Vote
16. Actions to Be Taken from the Ordered Ministry (Time Certain–Saturday, 9:45 a.m.)
 - a. Presentation of Candidates for Transfer of Ordination
 - b. Presentation of Candidates for Consecration as Missionaries
 - c. Presentation of Candidates for Ordination to Word and Service
 - d. Presentation of Candidates for Ordination to Word and Sacrament
 - e. Approval of Licenses
 - f. Change in Standing

HONORING FAITHFUL SERVICE IN THE MISSION

17. Irving Lambert Outstanding Urban Ministries Award (Time Certain–Friday, 1:30 p.m.)
18. T. W. Anderson Outstanding Layperson Award (Time Certain–Saturday, 9:15 a.m.)
19. Clergy Lifetime Service Recognition (Time Certain–Saturday, 9:30 a.m.)
20. Recognition of David and Judy Dolan, retiring missionaries
21. Recognition of David and Wendy Mark, retiring missionaries
22. Donn Engebretson, service as executive vice-president
23. Recognition of David Olson, outgoing executive minister of church growth and evangelism
24. Recognition of Executive Board members concluding term of service

FUNDING THE MISSION

25. Fiscal Year 2012 Financial Report
26. Presentation and Adoption of the 2014 Mission and Ministry Budget (Time Certain – Saturday 10:30 a.m.)

DIMENSIONS OF THE MISSION

27. Written Reports by Mission and Ministry Leadership
President (*Esta material también se encuentra en Español*); Executive Vice-Pres-

- ident; Vice President for Finance; Christian Formation; Communication; Compassion, Mercy, and Justice; Ordered Ministry; Women Ministries; World Mission; Covenant Ministries of Benevolence; North Park University; North Park Theological Seminary; National Covenant Properties; Covenant Estate Planning Services/Covenant Trust Company
- 28. Report from Covenant Ministries of Benevolence
 - a. Emanuel Medical Center - Turlock
- 29. Report from North Park University
- 30. Report from Women Ministries
- 31. Report from Covenant Trust Company
- 32. Mission and Ministry Leadership Response to Delegate Questions

LIVING FAITHFULLY IN THE MISSION

- 33. Commission on Christian Action
 - a. Recommendation on Resolution on Stewardship and Generosity (30-minute report) *Este material también se encuentra en Español*
 - b. Report on Draft Resolution on Immigration (40-minute report) *Este material también se encuentra en Español*

PREPARING TO GO FORTH IN MISSION

- 34. Prayer for the Mission and Ministry of the ECC
- 35. Close of the Meeting
 - a. Approval of Minutes of 128th Covenant Annual Meeting
 - b. Delegate Evaluation
 - c. Report to Congregations
 - d. Arrangements for 2014 Annual Meeting
 - e. Closing Statement
 - i. Resolution of Sympathy
 - ii. Resolution of Thanks
- 39. Adjournment
- 40. Benediction

Annual Meeting Officers

Moderator: Stanley B. Long
 Vice-Moderator: Amanda L. Olson
 Secretary: Sandra E. Norris
Parliamentarian
 Eric D. Filkin

The motion to adopt the agenda carried.

7. APPROVAL HONORARY DELEGATES AND RESOURCE PERSONS

The moderator recognized Evelyn Johnson, interim executive vice-president, who recommended the approval of the following persons as honorary delegates:

Award Recipients: Anna Carney Parks, T.W. Anderson Layperson Award recipient.

Emeriti: Paul Larsen, president emeritus of the Covenant; Glenn Palmberg, president emeritus of the Covenant; Robert and Novella Larson, executive secretary emeritus of church growth and evangelism and his wife.

International Guest: Simon Kamau, moderator of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Johnson then recommended the approval of the following persons as resource persons:

Edward Delgado, CHET; Aune Carlson, J. Wilson Herrera, Millie Lungren, Department of Christian Formation; John Teter, John Wenrich, Department of Church Growth and Evangelism; Larry Anderson, Covenant Ministries of Benevolence; Jane Swanson-Nystrom, Communications; Cecilia Williams, Department of Compassion, Mercy, and Justice; David Husby, Covenant World Relief; Luke Palmerlee, Events Office; Elliott Johnson, Finance Office; Rob Hall, Rollin Persson, National Covenant Properties; Joseph Jones, North Park University; Carol Lawson, Theresa Marks, Danielle Ng, Department of the Ordered Ministry; Eric Filkin, Parliamentarian; Donn Engebretson, Cynthia Halverson, Richard Lucco, President's Office; Byron Amundsen, Lana Heinrich, John Kerl, Letha Kerl, Gwendolyn Mark, Leslie Mark, Adam Phillips, Baxter Swenson, Margie Swenson, Reesheda Washington, Department of World Mission.

The motion was seconded and carried.

Curt Peterson introduced Simon Kamau, moderator of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya, who brought greetings from Kenya and the national leadership of the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya. Peterson then introduced guests Shunichi and Masako Miyamoto from North American Japanese Outreach, missionaries from Japan Covenant Church serving with the Great Lakes Conference. They brought greetings from the Japan Covenant Church.

8. CHURCHES REMOVED FROM THE ROSTER

The moderator recognized Evelyn Johnson, interim executive vice-president, who highlighted the legacy of churches that, for a variety of reasons, were closed.

Johnson then presented a recommendation from the Executive Board, based on recommendations from the respective conferences, that the following churches be removed from the roster of member churches:

The Storehouse Covenant Church, Chicago, Illinois (closed)
QueensWest Covenant Church, Long Island City, New York (closed)
United Covenant Church, Wilton, Connecticut (closed)
Evangelical Covenant Church, Buffalo, New York (closed)
Covenant Community Church, Deland, Florida (closed)

The motion to remove the churches from the roster carried.

Adam and Amy Rohler, legacy coaches for the Evangelical Covenant Church, led in prayer, thanking God for the ministry of those churches.

9. CHURCHES APPLYING FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

The moderator recognized Dave Olson, executive minister of church growth and evangelism, who then introduced Garth McGrath, superintendent of the Great Lakes Conference. McGrath gave recognition to Larry Sherman, associate superintendent and director of church planting for the Great Lakes Conference, who passed away

unexpectedly earlier this spring. A video was shown celebrating his life and legacy.

Olson introduced John Teter, team leader for evangelism, and then introduced conference superintendents, associate superintendents, and directors of church planting to introduce pastors and representatives from each church applying for membership.

Olson, upon the recommendation of the respective conferences and regions, and on behalf of the Executive Board, moved that the 128th Annual Meeting accept the following churches into membership in the Evangelical Covenant Church:

Church	Approximate Membership	Approximate Attendance
CENTRAL CONFERENCE		
Cross Fellowship, Inc. An Evangelical Covenant Church Chicago, Illinois	10	20
New Community Covenant Church (Bronzeville) Chicago, Illinois	40	70
St. Luke's Christian Community Church An Evangelical Covenant Church Morton Grove, Illinois	55	45
EAST COAST CONFERENCE		
Evergreen Covenant Church Sanford, Maine	33	54
GREAT LAKES CONFERENCE		
City Covenant Church Detroit, Michigan	12	170
CityView Covenant Church Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania	16	50
Detroit Bible Tabernacle An Evangelical Covenant Church Detroit, Michigan	100	60
Miracle of Faith Ministries An Evangelical Covenant Church Detroit, Michigan	100	200
The Bridge Covenant Church Detroit, Michigan	20	30
MIDSOUTH CONFERENCE		
Harvest Community Church an Evangelical Covenant Church Houston, Texas	50	100
Lifepath Church An Evangelical Covenant Church Houston, Texas	200	275

NORTH PACIFIC CONFERENCE		
Cannon Beach Community Church	135	200
An Evangelical Covenant Church		
Cannon Beach, Oregon		
NORTHWEST CONFERENCE		
Awaken Covenant Community	75	150
Lilydale, Minnesota		
Blue Oaks Covenant Church	30	150
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota		
La Bendicion Evangelical Covenant Church	20	70
Brooklyn Park, Minnesota		
Real Life Covenant Church	8	120
Waseca, Minnesota		
Restoration Covenant Church	28	150
Apple Valley, Minnesota		
PACIFIC SOUTHWEST CONFERENCE		
Church Without Walls	69	120
An Evangelical Covenant Church		
Berkeley, California		
Covenant Grove Church	50	150
Modesto, California		
Restoration Covenant Church	57	125
Redlands, California		

By conference groupings, the churches were accepted into membership of the Evangelical Covenant Church and the moderator declared them to be full members.

John Teter, team leader for church planting, prayed for the new Covenant congregations.

Teter continued with an overview of the Ask the Lord of the Harvest evangelism initiative. Superintendents from each of the conferences brought forward response cards from the individuals in churches from their conferences. Incoming North Pacific Conference Superintendent Greg Yee offered prayer for effective evangelism throughout the denomination.

10. REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

The moderator recognized Gary Walter to give his report. He recognized the team that supports him—Executive Board, Council of Administrators, Council of Superintendents, and Covenant Offices Leadership Team. Walter highlighted the theme of this year’s Annual Meeting, Found Faithful: Loving Mercy, Doing Justice, and introduced a video which reviewed how the five mission priorities are being pursued.

Walter then called to the stage Reesheda Washington, project leader for Covenant Kids Congo; John Wenrich, director of congregational vitality; John Teter, team leader for church planting; Cecilia Williams, director of ministry initiatives for compassion, mercy, and justice; and Cynthia Halverson, executive director for advancement. Each highlighted their respective ministries.

Walter honored Richard Carlson, retired North Park Theological Seminary professor who is currently battling cancer, for his embodiment of this year's theme. Carlson is showing us how to walk slowly home to Jesus with dignity. Walter also recognized Raymond Dahlberg, executive director emeritus of world mission, who recently passed away.

Moderator Long invited the assembly to stand and appreciate the work and ministry of President Walter.

Juana Nesta, Executive Board member, prayed for Walter and the ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

The moderator recognized Roy Hori, delegate from Naperville Evangelical Covenant Church of Naperville, Illinois, who recently returned from a vision trip to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and bore witness to the effective infrastructure and ministry of Covenant Kids Congo powered by World Vision. He encouraged churches to have a Hope Sunday if they have not yet done so.

27. WRITTEN REPORTS BY MISSION AND MINISTRY LEADERSHIP

Vice-moderator Amanda Olson referred to the reports from leadership in the delegate notebooks, thanked them for their reports, and invited delegates to submit questions to her in writing for responses from administrators on Saturday afternoon.

CELEBRATING THE MISSION ITEM—LOVE MERCY, DO JUSTICE VIDEO

A video was shown highlighting Sankofa: A Journey Towards Racial Righteousness.

11. INTRODUCTION TO MISSION PRIORITY ALIGNMENT

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, president, who gave an overview of the new mission priority alignment for Covenant Offices, the final leg of the larger Organizing for Mission initiative. Walter indicated that constitutional amendments will be read into the minutes for action at next year's Annual Meeting, and bylaw amendments will be proposed in Spring 2014 for presentation to the 129th Annual Meeting. Discussion followed.

The moderator recognized a delegate who gave appreciation and recognition to the changes. The delegate then encouraged the Executive Board, Council of Superintendents, and Council of Administrators to review the distribution of costs within the offices; specifically the distribution of health-care benefits assumed by employees as there is a disproportionate burden on some employees versus others.

12. 2014 CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

The moderator recognized Evelyn Johnson, interim executive vice-president, who read the following amendments proposed by the Executive Board, to be spread on the minutes for consideration at the 2014 Annual Meeting:

Proposed Amendment to Constitution Article VI, Section 6.1

Current wording: "The ECC shall have a president, one or more vice presidents, a corporate secretary, and a corporate treasurer. The Bylaws may provide for assistant officers."

Proposed wording: "The ECC shall have a president, a corporate secretary, and a corporate treasurer. The Bylaws may provide for assistant officers."

Proposed Deletion to Constitution Article VI, Section 6.4

Current wording: "The vice president(s) shall be selected as provided in the

Bylaws. Each vice president shall have the duties and responsibilities provided in the Bylaws, and the duties and responsibilities assigned by the president that are consistent with this Constitution and Bylaws.”

Proposed wording: Delete in its entirety.

A delegate raised a question whether the proposed amendments were already being implemented at the denominational office level despite not being voted on until next year. It was clarified that there is still an interim executive vice-president, departments are still in place, and this year’s budget is still separated by department. A follow-up concern was raised about making sure there is discussion next year regarding the deletion of certain positions within the proposed amendments.

The assembly recessed at 12:03 p.m.

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

Friday, June 28, 2013

1:30 p.m.

CELEBRATING THE MISSION ITEM—SERVING GLOBALLY VIDEO

A video was shown highlighting Covenant World Relief soup cans.

17. IRVING LAMBERT OUTSTANDING URBAN MINISTRIES AWARD

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, president, and Debbie Blue, executive minister of compassion, mercy, and justice, to present the Irving C. Lambert Award to Nathan Toots of First Covenant Church, Anchorage, Alaska. Blue gave a history of the award, and Walter presented a citation, which highlighted various aspects of Toots’s ministry and contributions in urban and ethnic ministries. In Toots’s absence, Curtis Ivanoff, regional field director for the Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska, accepted the award with his own words of appreciation for Rev. Toots’ ministry.

25. FISCAL YEAR 2012 FINANCIAL RESULTS

The moderator recognized Dean Lundgren, vice-president for finance and treasurer, who gave a financial report for 2012. The auditors gave a clean report. There were no audit exceptions, no material weaknesses, and no disagreements with management.

Thomas Sprague, member of the Executive Board finance committee, prayed for Lundgren and the future of Covenant finances.

4b. CREDENTIALING REPORT #2

The moderator recognized Joan Hill for her second report. Registration thus far included 393 credentialed voting delegates and 171 additional registrants in various non-voting categories for a total registered conference attendance of 564.

14. CALL OF EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION

Report of the Nominating Committee

The moderator recognized Owen Youngman, chair of the nominating committee, who reported on the process of nomination, highlighted the gifts and character of Edward Gilbreath.

Vote of Call

Youngman then recommended, on behalf of the Executive Board, that Edward

Gilbreath be called as the executive minister of communication.

The tellers distributed the ballots and Ed Lee, chair of the tellers, gave instructions.

A delegate asked whether Gilbreath is a member of a Covenant church. Youngman indicated that he is in the process of pursuing membership at a Covenant church.

13. 2013 BYLAW AMENDMENTS

The moderator recognized Evelyn Johnson, interim executive vice-president, who recommended, on behalf of the Executive Board, the following amendment to the Bylaws:

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article X, Section 10.3.b.i

Current wording: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry shall have fourteen elected members and the ex-officio members identified in these Bylaws. Twelve elected members of the board shall be ordained or commissioned ECC ministers and two elected members of the board shall be laypersons. A majority of the elected clergy members of the board shall be ordained to word and sacrament. At least two elected clergy members of the board shall be either ordained to specialized ministry or commissioned. At least one elected member of the board shall be a consecrated missionary.”

Proposed wording: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry shall have fourteen elected members and the ex-officio members identified in these Bylaws. Twelve elected members of the board shall be ordained or commissioned ECC ministers and two elected members of the board shall be laypersons. A majority of the elected clergy members of the board shall be ordained to word and sacrament. At least two elected clergy members of the board shall be staff persons. At least one elected member of the board shall be a consecrated missionary.”

Mark Novak, executive minister of the ordered ministry, reported on the rationale behind the proposed amendment. A delegate asked a clarifying question about the number and composition of persons on the board. Discussion followed. A delegate asked whether striking the word “ordained” would allow a non-credentialed staff member to serve. Discussion followed, and then a delegate proposed the following amendment: “At least two elected clergy members of the board shall be ECC credentialed staff persons.” After debate and clarification, the amendment was withdrawn.

The original motion carried.

Johnson then invited David Dwight, president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, to explain the rationale of the following amendments related to the Board of Benevolence and then recommended, on behalf of the Executive Board, the following amendments to the Bylaws:

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article VII, Section 7.10.g.iii

Current wording: “three or four members of the Board of Directors of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence shall be elected each year for a term of six years; and”

Proposed wording: “two or three of the Board of Directors of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence shall be elected each year for a term of six years; and”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article XII, Section 12.2.b

Current wording: “The Board of Directors of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, also known as the Board of Benevolence, shall consist of twenty-one to twenty-six members, including the elected members and the ex-officio

members identified in these Bylaws. Each member of the Board of Benevolence shall be a member of an ECC congregation. Each member of the Board of Benevolence serves all ECC congregations.”

Proposed wording: “The Board of Directors of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, also known as the Board of Benevolence, shall consist of sixteen to nineteen members, including the elected members and the ex-officio members identified in these Bylaws. Each member of the Board of Benevolence shall be a member of an ECC congregation. Each member of the Board of Benevolence serves all ECC congregations.”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article XII, Section 12.2.b.i(2)

Current wording: “Except in the case of a vacancy, three or four members of the Board of Benevolence shall be elected each year for a term of six years.”

Proposed wording: “Except in the case of a vacancy, two or three members of the Board of Benevolence shall be elected each year for a term of six years.”

Proposed Amendment to Bylaws Article XII, Section 12.2.b.i(6)

Current wording: “At least eight of the elected members of the Board of Benevolence shall be female. At least eight of the elected members of the Board of Benevolence shall be male.”

Proposed wording: “At least five of the elected members of the Board of Benevolence shall be female. At least five of the elected members of the Board of Benevolence shall be male.”

A delegate offered a friendly amendment for Article VII, Section 7.10.g.iii, adding the word “member” after “two or three....”

The motions carried as amended.

Johnson then recommended, on behalf of the Executive Board, the following deletion to the Bylaws:

Proposed Deletion to Bylaws Article XII, Section 12.2.b.i(5)

Current wording: “At least one elected member of the Board of Benevolence shall be an elected member of the board of directors of Covenant Retirement Communities. At least one elected member of the Board of Benevolence shall be an elected member of the board of directors of Emanuel Medical Center. At least one elected member of the Board of Benevolence shall be an elected member of the board of directors of Swedish Covenant Hospital.”

Proposed wording: Delete in entirety and re-number subsequent sections.

The motion carried.

15. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF NOMINATIONS AND VOTE

The vice-moderator recognized Hilary Applequist, chair of the Board of Nominations, who explained the procedures and task of the board. She explained the rationale and decision of the 2011 Annual Meeting to go from a two candidate ballot to a single candidate slate for all boards. Applequist then presented the ballot as follows (asterisk indicates incumbent):

EXECUTIVE BOARD

6-year term

Roy E. Applequist

6-year term

Jeffrey A. Houston

6-year term

Alice S. Lee

6-year term

Jonathan Ro

6-year term

Michael L. Wilson

BOARD OF NOMINATIONS

5-year term

Mario DiazCeballos

5-year term

Daniel Lillestrand

5-year term

Wayne Park

5-year term

Ronald Persson

BOARD OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY

5-year term

Gregory S. Mesimore

5-year term

Scott M. Peterson

5-year term

Stephen N. Wong

BOARD OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

5-year term

R. Hugh Magill

5-year term

Thomas W. Nelson

BOARD OF WOMEN MINISTRIES

5-year term

Marissa L. Nulton

5-year term

Sheryl L. Sands

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

5-year term

*D. Darrell Griffin

5-year term

Mark H. Lindberg

5-year term

LoAnn Peterson

5-year term

Kristine E. Strand

5-year term

William N. Werner

ANNUAL MEETING OFFICERS FOR 2014 and 2015

Secretary

2-year term

Deani C. Blue Jordan

The moderator called for nominations from the floor. There were none. The moderator declared nominations closed. The tellers distributed the ballots and Ed Lee, chair of the tellers, gave instructions.

28. REPORT FROM COVENANT MINISTRIES OF BENEVOLENCE

The moderator recognized David Dwight, president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, who referred to his report as found in the delegates notebooks.

Emanuel Medical Center–Turlock

Dwight then gave context and process for the past two years that led to the decision of the Board of Directors of Emanuel Medical Center to propose the sale of the hospital to Tenet Healthcare. The sale was approved by the Board of Benevolence, Finance Committee of the Executive Board, and Executive Board of the ECC in September 2012. Dwight reported that the sale should close sometime this fall.

Dwight then gave an overview of the implications as a Church and as Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, indicating that the structure of the transaction preserves the future of the hospital. The proceeds will establish a community foundation that will fund healthcare needs to Turlock and the surrounding community. A delegate asked whether the foundation will be a Covenant entity, to which Dwight responded that the attorney general of California limits the use of the resources to the community of Turlock, but there will be Covenant people holding two seats on the foundation board.

14. CALL OF EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATION, CONTINUED

Ed Lee, teller chair, reported that Edward Gilbreath was called as executive minister of communication by a vote of 297 to 0.

Gary Walter, president, invited Gilbreath to share a few words and Owen Youngman, chair of the nominating committee, prayed for Gilbreath.

The assembly recessed at 3:11 p.m.

THIRD BUSINESS SESSION

Saturday, June 29, 2013

8:31 a.m.

1. MORNING WORSHIP, CONTINUED

Moderator Stanley Long called the business session to order at 8:31 a.m., begin-

ning with a time of worship. The worship team led a time of singing and Janine Davis, pastor at Citadel of Faith in Detroit, gave a meditation.

18. T.W. ANDERSON OUTSTANDING LAYPERSON AWARD

The moderator recognized Gary Walter to present the T.W. Anderson Outstanding Layperson Award to Anna Carney Parks, member of Church of the Redeemer in Los Angeles, California. Walter presented the citation, which included highlights of her servant leadership and service to her church and community.

Parks responded with gratitude for the meaningful ministry Covenant churches have had in her life and formation, describing the particular events that brought her to the Covenant Church as a child. The eventual formation of the Church of the Redeemer has been formative in her life as she has embraced diverse ministry and the utter dependence on God that is required.

15. REPORT OF THE BOARD OF NOMINATIONS AND VOTE, CONTINUED

The moderator called on Ed Lee, chair of the tellers, who reported the following election results with the numbers indicating affirmative votes:

EXECUTIVE BOARD

6-year term

Roy E. Applequist (280)

6-year term

Jeffrey A. Houston (272)

6-year term

Alice S. Lee (274)

6-year term

Jonathan Ro (270)

6-year term

Michael L. Wilson (265)

BOARD OF NOMINATIONS

5-year term

Mario DiazCeballos (277)

5-year term

Daniel Lillestrand (270)

5-year term

Wayne Park (273)

5-year term

Ronald Persson (277)

BOARD OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY

5-year term

Gregory S. Mesimore (274)

5-year term

Scott M. Peterson (278)

5-year term
Stephen N. Wong (279)

BOARD OF PENSIONS AND BENEFITS

5-year term
R. Hugh Magill (277)

5-year term
Thomas W. Nelson (288)

BOARD OF WOMEN MINISTRIES

5-year term
Marissa L. Nulton (277)

5-year term
Sheryl L. Sands (285)

BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

5-year term
*D. Darrell Griffin (279)

5-year term
Mark H. Lindberg (272)

5-year term
LoAnn Peterson (269)

5-year term
Kristine E. Strand (264)

5-year term
William N. Werner (264)

ANNUAL MEETING OFFICERS FOR 2014 and 2015

Secretary

2-year term
Deani C. Blue Jordan (303)

The moderator declared all of the above duly elected to the positions.
Lee led in a word of prayer for all those who were elected.

4C. CREDENTIALING REPORT #3 (FINAL)

The moderator recognized Joan Hill for the final report from the credentialing committee, which is as follows:

Representing	Delegates	Churches
Conferences/Regions		
Canada	2	1
Central	82	40
East Coast	24	16
Great Lakes	60	27
Midsouth	10	6
Midwest	26	16
North Pacific	29	19

Northwest	56	28
Pacific Southwest	19	15
Southeast	8	5
Alaska	1	1
Total Delegates from Conferences/Regions	317	174
General		
Officers of the Covenant	3	0
Executive Board	22	7
Council of Administrators	11	1
Annual Meeting Officers	3	1
Board of Nominations	1	0
Covenant Ministerium	2	0
Assoc. of Cov. Camps and Conf. Centers	1	0
Commission Delegates	1	0
World Mission Fields	17	1
Regional Conferences	25	2
Regions Mission Organizations (ECCAK)	1	0
Total of General Delegates	87	12
TOTAL CREDENTIALIAED DELEGATES	404	186
Honorary Delegates	5	2
Advisers from Covenant Institutions	2	1
Advisers from Non-member Churches	2	2
Resource People	32	1
Registered General Conferees	105	28
Exhibitors	15	0
Support Staff	24	1
Total Additional Attendees	185	35
Total Registered Conference Attendance	589	221

19. CLERGY LIFETIME SERVICE RECOGNITION

The vice-moderator recognized Mark Novak, executive minister of the ordered ministry, who offered a word of explanation for this award which recognizes those who have served in credentialed ministry when they turn sixty-five years old. Novak called those present from the following list forward to be recognized, and Gary Walter, president, presented them with plaques of recognition (asterisk indicates those present for the award):

John Jyung-Nam Ahn, Los Angeles, California
 *Timothy K. Anderson, Red Wing, Minnesota
 Bruce M. Baehr, Liverpool, New York
 Martha F. Berg, Tokyo, Japan
 Javier M. Cardenas, Chicago, Illinois
 Yacid C. Cardenas, Chicago, Illinois
 *Terry G. Cathcart, Ishpeming, Michigan
 *Dennis A. Choate, Ubon Ratchathani, Thailand
 Duane R. Cross, Chandler, Arizona
 *Ronald C. Gelaude, Dexter, Michigan

*Thomas C. Glossi, Fort Collins, Colorado
 William A. Goodwin, Sumner, Washington
 Ellen L. Haworth, Kuki-Shi, Japan
 Lyle A. Heinitz, Whitewater, Wisconsin
 Tristan E. J. Hohler, Vero Beach, Florida
 *Nancy Jo Hoover, McMinnville, Oregon
 *Rudy E. King, New Richmond, Wisconsin
 Anne M. Kregelberg, Bartlett, Tennessee
 *Mark E. Larson, McMinnville, Oregon
 *Carol J. Lawson, Chicago, Illinois
 *J. Shan Martin, Richland Michigan
 *Dwight A. Nelson, Libertyville, Illinois
 Eric N. Newberg, Tulsa, Oklahoma
 Monty R. Newton, Arvada, Colorado
 *John M. Norland, Granite Falls, Minnesota
 Ida-Regina L. Oliver, Chicago, Illinois
 *Mark S. Olson, Chicago, Illinois
 *Anna Marie Peterson, Coppell, Texas
 *Judy B. Peterson, Excelsior, Minnesota
 *Philip M. Rohler, Shaker Heights, Ohio
 John H. Satterberg, Minneapolis, Minnesota
 *Bennie Simmons Jr., Gary, Indiana
 Douglas T. Stevens, Pleasant Hill, California
 Kenneth R. Wilson, Santa Ana, California

16. ACTIONS TO BE TAKEN FROM THE ORDERED MINISTRY

The moderator recognized Mark Novak, executive minister of the ordered ministry, and Carol Lawson, director of ministry services, who gathered the candidates being presented for credentialing.

Presentation of Candidates for Transfer of Ordination

Lawson presented the following motion: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, recommends that the 128th Annual Meeting approve the following persons’ application to transfer their ordination to the Evangelical Covenant Church:”

F. Remy Diederich, Cedarbrook Church, Menomonie, Wisconsin, from
 Christian and Missionary Alliance
 Thomas P. Lach, Community Covenant Church, Menominee, Michigan,
 from LaSalle Street Church
 Jeffrey T. Shupe, Bethany Covenant Church, Bedford, New Hampshire, from
 Grace Chapel
 Johan J. Tredoux, Community Evangelical Covenant Church, Lenexa, Kansas,
 from Church of the Nazarene

The moderator offered delegates an opportunity to vote on each candidate application separately. After hearing no request for separate votes, the candidates were voted on as a group. The motion carried.

Presentation of Candidates for Consecration as Missionaries

Lawson presented the following motion: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, moves that the 128th Annual Meeting grant consecration to missionary service to the following persons:”

Hannah M. Baker, Belgium
Kimberly Delp, Ecuador
Christy L. Taylor, East Asia
Christopher E. Wiebe, East Asia
Diane R. Wiebe, East Asia

The moderator made provision for recording in the minutes the names of those delegates who made requests to second the recommendation of specific candidates for consecration as missionaries:

Hannah M. Baker by Sally Carlson, Meagan Gillan
Kimberly Delp by Sally Carlson
Christy L. Taylor by Sally Carlson, Susan Poston
Christopher E. Wiebe by Sally Carlson, Meagan Gillan, Steven M. Hoden,
Susan Poston
Diane R. Wiebe by Sally Carlson, Meagan Gillan, Steven M. Hoden,
Susan Poston

The moderator offered delegates an opportunity to vote on each candidate application separately. After hearing no request for separate votes, the candidates were voted on as a group. The motion carried.

Presentation of Candidates for Ordination to Word and Service

Lawson presented the following motion: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, moves that the 128th Annual Meeting grant ordination to word and service of the following persons:”

Theresa D. Marks, Ordered Ministry, Chicago, Illinois, Pastoral Care
Dale W. Solberg, Alaska Christian College, Soldotna, Alaska, Leadership

The moderator made provision for recording in the minutes the names of those delegates who made requests to second the recommendation of specific candidates for ordination to word and service:

Theresa D. Marks by Howard Burgoyne, Meagan Gillan, Diane Stevenson

The moderator offered delegates an opportunity to vote on each candidate application separately. After hearing no request for separate votes, the candidates were voted on as a group. The motion carried.

Presentation of Candidates for Ordination to Word and Sacrament

Mark Novak, executive minister of the ordered ministry, presented the following motion: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, moves that the 128th Annual Meeting grant ordination to word and sacrament of the following persons:”

Richard C. Arnold, Graham Evangelical Covenant Church, Graham,
Washington

Jason L. Ashley, Evangelical Covenant Church, Nelson, British Columbia
 Scott J. Austin, Artisan Church: An Evangelical Covenant Church, Rochester,
 New York
 Matthew D. Bach, Grace Hills Bible Church, Angels Camp, California
 Darren C. Baughman, Pathways Hospice, Fort Collins, Colorado
 Michael A. Behm, Real Life Covenant Church, Waseca, Minnesota
 Derek C. Boggs, Evangelical Covenant Church, Princeton, Illinois
 Jeremy R. Bower, Salem Road Covenant Church, Rochester, Minnesota
 Jason B. Bradley, Good Shepherd Evangelical Covenant Church, Joliet,
 Illinois
 Grant R. Buchholtz, Japan
 Miho O. Buchholtz, Japan
 Jaron M. Burdick, St. Paul's United Church of Christ, Franklin Park, Illinois
 Daniel W. Collison, First Covenant Church, Minneapolis, Minnesota
 Joel B. Delp, Ecuador
 Barbara A. Ettinger, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship
 Jonna J. Fantz, Crossroads Church, Woodbury, Minnesota
 Ileana Garcia-Soto, Green Timbers Covenant Church, Surrey, British
 Columbia
 Steven V. Hoden, Palmyra Mission Covenant Church, Hector, Minnesota
 Tracy L. Hufschmid, Providence St. Vincent's Medical Center, Portland,
 Oregon
 Isabel C. Hughes, St. Luke's Christian Community Church, Morton Grove,
 Illinois
 Joon Shik Hwang, New Life Covenant Church, Palatine, Illinois
 Devyn Chambers Johnson, Community Covenant Church, Springfield,
 Virginia
 Kelly Gillan Johnston, Evangelical Covenant Church, Wakefield, Nebraska
 R. Lee Just II, Christ The Servant Evangelical Covenant Church, Olathe,
 Kansas
 Nancy K. Lewis, First Covenant Church, Oakland, California
 Michael L. Lotzer, Faith Covenant Church, Burnsville, Minnesota
 Zachary W. Lovig, Trinity Evangelical Covenant Church, Oak Lawn, Illinois
 Jason A. Mach, North Park Evangelical Covenant Church, Machesney Park,
 Illinois
 John T. Madison, Evangelical Covenant Church, Port Allegany, Pennsylvania
 Mark H. Mathis, Milwaukie Covenant Church, Milwaukie, Oregon
 Jeffrey J. McClain, Blackburn's Chapel United Methodist Church, Todd,
 North Carolina
 Elizabeth D. McColl, Northwest Covenant Church, Mount Prospect, Illinois
 Seth A. Michael, Gateway Covenant Church, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
 Stacia P. Michael, Gateway Covenant Church, Prince Albert, Saskatchewan
 Gregory S. Oppenhuizen, Cornerstone Covenant Church, Turlock, California
 David M. Ostercamp, Linwood Covenant Church, Wyoming, Minnesota
 Pamela E. Pangborn, Ashland Theological Seminary, Southfield, Michigan
 Wayne W. Park, Harvest Community Church, Houston, Texas
 Glenn S. Peterson, Lighthouse Covenant Church, Sarnia, Ontario
 Mary E. Peterson, Highland Covenant Church, Bellevue, Washington

Rebecca L. Poor, Saranac Community Church, Saranac, Michigan
 Michael S. Przybylski, New Harvest Christian Church, Oregon, Ohio
 Sarah R. Robinson, Community Covenant Church, Clear Lake, Washington
 Bethann S. Rohlfing, St. Louis University Hospital, St. Louis, Missouri
 Kelsey C.H. Rorem, Seattle Pacific University, Seattle, Washington
 Perry K. Sakai, New Hope Covenant Church, Oakland, California
 Peter D. Sjoblom, Central Conference, Chicago, Illinois
 Jesse M. Slimak, Odyssey Hospice, Southfield, Michigan
 P. Glen Smith, Journey Covenant Church, Liberty, Missouri
 Min W. Song, New Life Covenant Church, Palatine, Illinois
 Joshua B. Swenson, Ecuador
 Margaret E. Swenson, World Mission, Chicago, Illinois
 Olaf C. van de Klashorst, Moses Cone Health System, Greensboro, North Carolina
 Andrew D. Vanover, Thornapple Evangelical Covenant Church, Grand Rapids, Michigan
 Kyliah A. Villa, Re-Entering Call Process

The moderator made provision for recording in the minutes the names of those delegates who made requests to second the recommendation of specific candidates for ordination to word and sacrament:

Jason L. Ashley by Sally Carlson
 Darren C. Baughman by Tammy Swanson-Draheim
 Michael A. Behm by Carey Prigge, Terri Prigge
 Derek C. Boggs by Howard Burgoyne
 Jeremy R. Bower by Sally Carlson, David Danielson, Karen Danielson and Rick Lindholtz
 Grant R. Buchholtz by Sally Carlson
 Miho O. Buchholtz by Sally Carlson
 Jaron M. Burdick by Sally Carlson, Meagan Gillan, Rick Lindholtz
 Daniel W. Collison by Terri Stromberg
 Joel B. Delp by Sally Carlson
 Barbara A. Ettinger by Howard Burgoyne
 Ileana Garcia-Soto by Sally Carlson, Meagan Gillan
 Steven V. Hoden by Sally Carlson, Steven M. Hoden, Donald Ostrom
 Devyn Chambers Johnson by Howard Burgoyne, Sally Carlson, Diane Johnson, Gary Johnson
 Kelly Gillan Johnston by Sally Carlson, Meagan Gillan, Steven M. Hoden, Tammy Swanson-Draheim
 R. Lee Jost II by Richard Mylander, Tammy Swanson-Draheim
 Nancy K. Lewis by Paul Allen, Diane Stevenson
 Zachary W. Lovig by Sally Carlson
 Jason A. Mach by Sally Carlson, Rick Lindholtz
 John T. Madison by Sally Carlson, Donald Ostrom
 Jeffrey J. McClain by Russell Carlson, Sally Carlson
 Elizabeth D. McColl by Howard Burgoyne, Sally Carlson, Meagan Gillan, Steven M. Hoden
 Seth A. Michael by Dawn Burnett, Andrew Burnett, Sally Carlson

Stacia P. Michael by Dawn Burnett, Andrew Burnett, Sally Carlson
Gregory S. Oppenhuizen by Herb Frost
Glenn S. Peterson by Russell Carlson, Sally Carlson
Rebecca L. Poor by Howard Burgoyne, Sally Carlson, Diane Stevenson
Sarah R. Robinson by Sally Carlson, Meagan Gillan
Kelsey C.H. Rorem by Sally Carlson
Peter D. Sjoblom by Howard Burgoyne, Meagan Gillan
P. Glen Smith by Richard Mylander, Tammy Swanson-Draheim
Min W. Song by Sally Carlson
Margaret E. Swenson by Howard Burgoyne, Sally Carlson
Andrew D. Vanover by Sally Carlson

The moderator offered delegates an opportunity to vote on each candidate application separately. After hearing no request for separate votes, the candidates were voted on as a group. The motion carried.

Approval of Licenses

Mark Novak referred the assembly to the list of applications for licensure and presented the following recommendation: “The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the approval of the Covenant Ministerium, moves that the 128th Annual Meeting grant ministerial license as follows:” The list included ministry license, bi-vocational ministry license, and world mission license. The names of those with ministerial license appears in the roll of ministers in the *Covenant Yearbook*, 2013-2014 edition.

The motion carried.

The moderator recognized Jerome Nelson, superintendent of the Central Conference, to pray for all of the candidates.

Change in Standing

Novak referred to the following reports, as found in the handout:

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, reports to the 128th Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following ministers has been moved from active to inactive: Peter Beeman, Linda Buie, Timothy Bukowski, Steven Chellew, Benchuan Gong, Florence Gustafson, Linda Forbes, Timothy LaHann, Craig Larson, Adria Pearson, Robert Sabin, Jocelyn Thornton, Douglas Vetvick.”

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, reports to the 128th Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following minister has been moved from active to leave of absence: Daniel Booker.”

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, reports to the 128th Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following minister has been moved from inactive to active: Sheldon Matheson.”

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, reports to the 128th Annual Meeting that the following individual has resigned his ministerial standing and requested that his name be removed from the roster of Covenant ministers: Darin Towle.”

Novak then presented the following recommendation:

“The Board of the Ordered Ministry, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, recommends to the 128th Annual Meeting 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 motion carried.

Novak prayed.

CELEBRATING THE MISSION ITEM—START AND STRENGTHEN CHURCHES VIDEO

A video highlighting Navigate, a ministry resource experience designed to help and strengthen established churches was shown.

30. REPORT FROM WOMEN MINISTRIES

The moderator recognized Meagan Gillan, executive minister of women ministries, who reported on another year of very active ministry. She indicated that the proposed mission priority alignment means significant changes for the future of Women Ministries. After ninety-seven years as an independent organization, they welcome the opportunity to become a fully integrated part of the denomination. Gillan noted that Triennial will be held August 15-18, 2013, in San Diego and about 750 people have registered so far. She then introduced a video of Vicki Tsui, sharing her personal experience at Triennial.

CELEBRATING THE MISSION ITEM—DEVELOP LEADERS VIDEO

A video with a word of witness from seminary student Joe Poppino was shown.

29. REPORT FROM NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY

The moderator recognized David Parkyn, president of North Park University, who reported on the good news of the ministry of North Park University today, noting that the university has a mosaic of students enrolled including more populations than ever before reflecting the breadth and depth of God’s kingdom.

31. REPORT FROM COVENANT TRUST COMPANY

The moderator recognized Ann Wiesbrock, president of Covenant Trust Company, who reported on the mission and ministry of Covenant Trust Company. Wiesbrock noted that though Wall Street operates by fear and greed, Covenant Trust Company seeks to operate under ownership, relationship, love, honoring God, doing good and being generous.

26. PRESENTATION AND ADOPTION OF THE 2014 MISSION AND MINISTRY BUDGET

The moderator recognized Dean Lundgren, vice-president for finance and treasurer, who gave a presentation on the mission and ministry budget for fiscal year 2014 and a proposed mission and ministry budget of \$24,445,000.

Lundgren presented the following motion: “The Executive Board recommends to the 128th Covenant Annual Meeting a Mission and Ministry Budget of \$24,445,000 for the fiscal year of 2014. The Mission and Ministry expense budget is as follows:”

Christian Formation	\$ 954,000
Church Growth and Evangelism	\$ 3,277,000
Communication	\$ 1,200,000
Compassion, Mercy, and Justice	\$ 458,000
North Park University	\$ 1,000,000
Ordered Ministry	\$ 1,322,000
Women Ministries	\$ 320,000

World Mission	\$ 9,430,000
Shared Services	\$ 3,944,000
Covenant World Relief	\$ 1,400,000
Paul Carlson Partners	\$ 1,140,000

A delegate requested that a more detailed report of income be included in the future. The motion to approve the budget, as presented, carried.

The moderator recognized Donn Engebretson, assistant to the president for mission funding and director for global advancement, and Efrem Smith, superintendent for the Pacific Southwest Conference, who gave a presentation on practical guidelines for how to be generous and supportive in financial partnership with both the denomination as a whole and the regional conference within which it resides.

Gil Friesen, member of the Executive Board finance committee, prayed.

33. COMMISSION ON CHRISTIAN ACTION

The moderator recognized Liz VerHage, chair of the Commission on Christian Action, who gave an overview of the Commission and the process of writing, reviewing, and approving resolutions.

Recommendation on Resolution on Stewardship and Generosity

VerHage then recommended, on behalf of the Executive Board, the adoption of the following resolution on Stewardship and Generosity:

2013 RESOLUTION ON STEWARDSHIP AND GENEROSITY

Introduction

This resolution invites us as followers of Christ to live out our identity as generous stewards of God’s material and spiritual gifts. It seeks to remind us that the good (and sometimes hard) news of Scripture is that we are dependent on God to sustain us and shape our understanding of wealth and possessions. It calls the church to be a formational community that counter-culturally embraces biblical stewardship and generosity as foundational to our life, faith, and witness.

The Biblical Foundation: A God of Abundance

The biblical story reveals a God of abundance who graciously invites us to be stewards of creation and reflect God’s generous nature.

1) Creation reveals a God of abundant giving. The book of Genesis teaches us that God’s intrinsic abundance overflowed in the act of creation. God created all things and declared them good (Genesis 1:31a). Human beings are created in God’s image. We are called to be stewards of God’s abundance by taking the role of caretakers, maintaining right relationships within creation, and depending on God’s daily provision (Matthew 6:30-33). Stories such as the widow’s oil (2 Kings 4:1-7) remind us of God’s generosity. Jesus’s miracles of the feeding of the multitudes (Matthew 14:13-21; John 6:1-14), the abundant catch of fish for the disciples (John 21:1-14), and turning water into wine (John 2:1-11) are all profound signs of the abundance of our giving God.

2) Sin distorts our understanding of God’s abundance and our relationship to God’s gifts. This distortion rejects God as the giver and sustainer of life and fosters a false sense of self-sufficiency. The story of manna in the desert reveals both God’s care for us, and the human tendency to let fear lead us to hoard

(Exodus 16). The Bible, as well as human history, witnesses to the destruction caused when humans reject their role as stewards (Genesis 3:17-19; Hosea 9:1-2; Joel 1:1-12), and live lives shaped instead by greed, fear, and idolatry (Exodus 16:20; Romans 1:25). This fragments our relationships with God, each other, and the rest of creation and leads to the devaluation of human beings made in the image of God. Injustice and oppression become normal when our relationships with God and each other become secondary to our relationship with things (Isaiah 3:13-15).

3) God begins to restore humanity's dependence on God's abundance. God called ancient Israel to be a light to the nations, a community committed to trust God with every aspect of life. Their central practice was keeping the rhythm of Sabbath—a call to cease from work one day each week in order to worship God, engage in community, and rest (Hebrews 4; Exodus 20:8-11). Sabbath reminds God's people that the work of redemption depends on God. Sabbath calls God's people to set aside the illusion that our labor sustains our lives and recognize God as the giver of every good and perfect gift (James 1:17-18). Sabbath provides the means by which right relationships with God, each other, and the rest of creation can be maintained. God also challenged the people to practice a more comprehensive Sabbath in God's call to the Year of Jubilee. Jubilee was intended to be a cyclical celebration that enabled the land to stay fruitful, released people from debt and slavery, protected people from unjust acquisition of property, and ensured that each person had access to the basic necessities of life (Leviticus 25). Jesus used the language of Jubilee to describe his ministry (Luke 4:14-21). Sabbath and Jubilee challenge us to live lives of stewardship, generosity, and justice as followers of Jesus.

4) God's abundance is fully revealed in Jesus Christ. Jesus is God's abundance in the flesh, the very presence and fullness of God. Through the gift of Christ, the kingdom of God and its call to radical living powerfully break into our world. The Gospel accounts of the life and ministry of Jesus continually address our identity as stewards and challenge our assumptions about wealth and consumption: Lazarus and the rich man (Luke 16:19-31), the sower (Matthew 13:1-23), the good Samaritan (Luke 10:29-37), the great banquet (Matthew 22:1-14), the shrewd manager (Luke 16:1-9), the vineyard and the tenants (Matthew 21:33-46), the rich young ruler (Matthew 19:16-30), the widow in the temple (Luke 21:1-4), and his meeting with Zacchaeus (Luke 19:1-10), to name a few. Jesus's death and resurrection revealed the abundant life and power of God over sin, death, destruction, and false dependencies and freed humanity to live in right relationship with God, each other, and the rest of creation.

5) God calls the church to be a community of abundant generosity and stewardship. The church is Christ's body which reflects God's abundant grace and provision (Acts 1:8) and which looks forward to the final consummation of creation. The early church models an inclusive community of mutual dependence that crosses economic divides and provides care for those inside and outside the church: "All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need" (Acts 2:44-45, TNIV). The New Testament church also demonstrated Christ's teaching in its consistent call to care for the poor (Galatians 2:10; James 1:27) as a mark of the in-breaking kingdom of God. Through the power of the Holy Spirit,

the church is emboldened to live a life of liberated stewardship as we await the coming of God's final kingdom.

Consumerism Threatens Generous Stewardship

Modern North American culture promotes harmful messages about wealth and possessions that directly compete with the biblical story. It is hard to be generous stewards in a culture that believes more is always better, we are what we own, and that security is found in possessions.

When we succumb to these beliefs, we develop harmful habits that interfere with our call to be generous stewards. These habits have led many to take on substantial consumer debt by purchasing unnecessary products, often with little thought for who made them, under what conditions, and at what cost to creation. These habits also promote a sense of entitlement that ensnares both rich and poor alike, fostering selfishness, greed, and fear, while many in our world struggle to access basics like clean water and daily food. Consumerism runs so deep that sometimes even humans are seen as commodities, evidenced by a pervasive human trafficking industry.

Christians are not immune from the influence of consumerism. We recognize many who would like to be financially generous are not able to because of the weight of debt. We may also be tempted to approach God for our own selfish gain, treat prayer like an ATM, or view church as a marketplace where we pick and choose religious services that meet our desires. When we in the church fail to reorient our lives from these disordered relationships with wealth and possessions, we decrease our capacity to live counter-culturally, be radically generous, and share the gospel of Jesus Christ in word and deed to a broken world.

Our Call: Stewardship and Generosity

God calls us to live as generous stewards in response to God's abundance and sustenance. Christ's life, death, and resurrection free us to see wealth and possessions differently, to seek first God's kingdom and righteousness (Matthew 6:33). The Holy Spirit reminds us that our identity is secure because of our relationship with God in Christ, not from what we own and control (Romans 8:16).

God calls the church to be the primary formational community that shapes disciples for lives of stewardship and generosity. Whether we have much or little, we are all called to put our hope and trust in God, be content and thankful, and to give abundantly and cheerfully (Luke 12:16-21; 16:10-13; Philippians 4:11-13; 2 Corinthians 9:7). Scripture also contains a specific and emphatic call to those who have much: "Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life" (1 Timothy 6:17-19, TNIV).

The church is also called to be the place where we continually retell and hear the good news of God's grace and abundance. The church provides the context to confess that we all fail to live out our call to be generous stewards. We are

each invited to participate in the learning community of the church in order to re-form and reframe our lives. We are salt and light for a world that desperately needs a hope-filled alternative for how to view wealth and possessions.

Our Response

Living into our call to be stewards who depend on God's gracious giving and character is no doubt a lifelong journey. We commit ourselves to depend on God's abundant provisions to sustain us in our daily walk individually and together.

Therefore, be it **RESOLVED** that Covenant congregations and individuals endeavor to:

1) Encourage more open conversations about possessions, personal finances, and stewardship in order to break the taboos surrounding these issues as we submit all of life to Christ's lordship.

2) Teach stewardship and generosity to adults, youth, and children by using discipleship materials that address money and consumption; useful resources could include the Covenant Stewardship Starter Kit, the Covenant Stewardship web page, money management and estate planning services with Covenant Trust Company, and also materials that speak specifically to personal finances.

3) Engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, solitude, fasting, and reflection on Scripture, allowing space for the Holy Spirit to reform us, remind us about our identity, and ground us in God's providing character.

4) Practice Sabbath-keeping, affirming that keeping the Sabbath is a God-given antidote to the belief that our efforts alone protect and sustain our lives.

5) Create a culture of generosity in our congregations through tithing and the giving of our time, talents, and service so that the church becomes a radical example of sacrifice and self-giving to the world.

6) Intentionally create discussion around how we obey God's command of Jubilee in our present-day context, acknowledging the challenge of interpreting the contemporary implications of leaving land fallow, remitting debts, freeing slaves, and returning property.

7) Practice stewardship from a global perspective by becoming informed about global implications of production and consumption.

8) Intentionally include creation care as part of our stewardship, and investigate practices that help us reduce consumption personally and corporately, such as recycling, composting, eating and cooking only what we need, and limiting the use of unnecessary packaging in our purchases.

9) Become responsible consumers by understanding the true costs of the products we buy and supporting fair trade, local growers, and local businesses.

10) Intentionally live into the great heritage of generosity and stewardship that is ours as members and friends of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

11) Support global development efforts that help provide for all, such as micro-finance, women's empowerment, community development, equal access to education, food security, and access to clean water.

12) Support organizations that promote economic justice through holistic and biblical methods, such as Covenant World Relief, Paul Carlson Partnership, Covenant World Mission, World Vision, Bread for the World, Habitat for Humanity, Christian Community Development Association, and Opportunity International.

Delegates expressed gratitude for the work of the commission. The motion to accept the resolution carried.

Report on Draft Resolution on Immigration

VerHage introduced John Tanagho, member of the Commission on Christian Action, and together they gave a presentation on the draft Resolution on Immigration.

The presentation was followed by a time of feedback from the floor. Debbie Blue, executive minister of compassion, mercy, and justice, invited Amanda Olson, pastor of Grace Evangelical Covenant Church in Chicago, Illinois, to describe some of the conversation and beginning transformation of her congregation as they have considered this topic. Delegates were invited to bring their lunches and join the Commission on Christian Action for further discussion during the break.

The assembly recessed at 12:03 p.m.

FOURTH BUSINESS SESSION

Saturday, June 29, 2013

1:30 p.m.

CELEBRATING THE MISSION ITEM—MAKE AND DEEPEN DISCIPLES VIDEO

A video was shown introducing Adventures with God, a children's curriculum originally written in Spanish and now translated into English. The curriculum is being used around the world. Millie Lungren, associate director in the Department of Christian Formation, introduced Katie Isaza, Evelyn Johnson, Margie Swenson, and Tanya Constanza and thanked them for their contributions in developing the curriculum. She noted that Pia Restrepo, who was unable to attend the Annual Meeting, assisted in the development process, and Hillcrest Covenant Church in Prairie Village, Kansas, helped fund the project and hosted the initial writers' conference.

20. RECOGNITION OF DAVID AND JUDY DOLAN, RETIRING MISSIONARIES

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, president, and Curt Peterson, executive minister of world mission. Peterson presented a citation of recognition to David and Judy Dolan for their faithful ministry as missionaries and regional coordinators for thirty-six years. David responded, thanking God for the opportunity to share in what God is doing in Asia, especially among Chinese people. He extended thanks to the Church for supporting their work.

21. RECOGNITION OF DAVID AND WENDY MARK, RETIRING MISSIONARIES

Peterson then presented a citation of recognition to David and Gwendolyn Mark for their faithful ministry as missionaries and regional coordinators among the people of Mexico for thirty years. Wendy expressed thanks for the prayer and support they have received from the church, recognizing they could not have done the work without it.

CELEBRATING THE MISSION—INTERVIEW WITH SIMON KAMAU

The moderator recognized David Husby, director of Covenant World Relief, who invited Simon Kamau, moderator of the Kenyan Covenant Church, to the stage and

interviewed him about his church and its sudden growth related to refugees from the Congo. Kamau shared that they have been able to provide scholarships for potential students, they have advocated for them, and have given general assistance to the refugee families. Through partnership with Covenant World Relief and by creating businesses to raise finances, they work to empower people to achieve what they normally would not be able to accomplish.

23. RECOGNITION OF DAVID OLSON, OUTGOING EXECUTIVE MINISTER OF CHURCH GROWTH AND EVANGELISM

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, president, who presented a citation of recognition to David Olson for his service as executive minister of church growth and evangelism to the Evangelical Covenant Church from 2009 to 2013.

Olson recognized the Covenant Church as a great home for his family for the last twenty years and thanked the assembly as representative of the entire denomination for all the ways the church has formed him and his spirit.

22. RECOGNITION OF DONN ENGBRETSON, SERVICE AS EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT

Walter then presented a citation of recognition to Donn Engebretson for his service to the church and dedicated leadership as executive vice-president of the Evangelical Covenant Church from 2001 to 2012.

Engebretson expressed overwhelming gratitude for being included in what God is doing in the world and for being a part of the gracious family of the Evangelical Covenant Church. He said he is thankful for the people of the church, his colleagues, and his wife.

32. MISSION AND MINISTRY LEADERSHIP RESPONSE TO DELEGATE QUESTIONS

David Dwight, president of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, and Gary Walter, president, responded to questions that had been submitted the previous day regarding their ministry areas.

CELEBRATING THE MISSION ITEM—SERVING GLOBALLY VIDEO

The video highlighting Covenant World Relief soup cans was shown for a second time due to low attendance in the room when it was shown the previous day after the lunch break.

24. RECOGNITION OF EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS CONCLUDING TERMS

The moderator recognized Gary Walter, who expressed appreciation on behalf of the Evangelical Covenant Church to Connie McKelvey, Thomas Nelson, Thomas Robinson, and Owen Youngman for their service on the Executive Board and presented them with gifts on behalf of the Executive Board.

34. PRAYER FOR MISSION AND MINISTRY OF THE ECC

The moderator encouraged delegates to pray in groups for the five mission priorities of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

35. CLOSE OF THE MEETING

Approval of Minutes of 128th Covenant Annual Meeting

The moderator recognized Evelyn Johnson, interim executive vice-president, who

presented the following recommendation: “The minutes of the 128th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church shall be reviewed and corrected by the officers of the Evangelical Covenant Church and approved by the Executive Board.”

The motion was seconded and carried.

Delegate Evaluation

Johnson then gave instructions for completion of the 2013 Annual Meeting evaluation forms that will be emailed to delegates.

Report to Congregations

The moderator recognized Don Meyer, executive minister of communication, who expressed appreciation to the Department of Communication for their work during this Annual Meeting. Delegates were encouraged to bring a report to their churches. A document summary will be available on CovChurch.org as well as emailed to delegates.

Arrangements for 2014 Annual Meeting

The moderator recognized Luke Palmerlee, events manager, who announced that the 129th Covenant Annual Meeting would be held in Chicago, Illinois, June 26-29, 2014.

Closing Statement

The moderator recognized Evelyn Johnson, who presented the following resolution of sympathy:

We praise God for the following partners in ministry whom God called to himself since last we met. Their names will be remembered at the Saturday evening worship service.

RESOLVED, that the 128th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church express its sympathy to the families of the Covenant pastors, missionaries, and pastors’ spouses who have gone to be with the Lord, and that those families be presented with a program of the Saturday evening worship service during which they will be remembered and gratitude expressed for their lives of service.

Since the last Annual Meeting, we have been notified that the following Covenant pastors, missionaries, and pastors’ spouses have died:

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

Pastors' 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

The motion was seconded and carried.

Johnson then presented the following resolution of gratitude:

RESOLVED, that the 128th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church express its gratitude to those who have envisioned, planned, served and executed this meeting with excellence and a deep commitment to Christ and his work in and through the Evangelical Covenant Church:

- to the churches of the Great Lakes Conference and superintendent, Garth McGrath, for welcoming us to this mission region and offering the gift of hospitality;

- to Great Lakes Conference staff and, in particular, office administrator, Jody Eidnes, for connecting the planning team, volunteers and resources from their churches that blessed our time together;

- to the Detroit Metro pastors and church leaders and, again Jody Eidnes, their “organizer par excellent,” who together translated the vision of Covenant Mission Detroit to action;

- to volunteers of all ages who welcomed us with enthusiasm, guided us to our places, served as ushers, and generally helped us have a memorable experience;

- to Barb and Jim Coslow, volunteer coordinators, the sergeant-at-arms (Greg Mesimore, chair) and tellers (Ed Lee, chair) for overseeing the distribution of materials in the business session and helping us have voice and vote in the meeting;

- to the Credentials Committee (Joan Hill, Chair), and Jill Ulven, event registrar, who together verified the certified delegates and tallied additional registrants;

- to our Covenant organizations and institutions who provided support for various dimensions of our experience including National Covenant Properties—morning beverage and mugs, North Park University—lanyards and name badge holders; Covenant Initiatives of Care and Bethany Benefit Service—“live streaming” of various events for the broader Covenant, and Covenant Ministries of Benevolence—the reception on Saturday evening;

- to Steve Burger, director of children’s ministry, Evangelical Covenant Church, for guiding the planning for Covenant Kids Ministry and the volunteers who implemented the plan;

- to our moderator, Stanley Long; vice-moderator, Amanda Olson; parlia-

mentarian, Eric Filkin; secretary, Sandra Norris; and backup secretary, Tricia Cisneros, for guiding our business meetings and maintaining accurate records;

- to Geoff Twigg and Josef Rasheed, our worship leaders, who with the band members, vocalists, organist, and multiple participants guided us in worship, and, to Doreen Olson who led the overall process of worship planning and support for the worship leaders;

- to the Detroit Children's Choir and their leaders for bringing us a message of hope through music;

- to Jeffrey Bondorew who, along with his team managed production for both worship services and business sessions;

- to our preachers who opened God's word during worship times and deepened our understanding of love mercy, do justice: Alex Gee Jr., Kevin Butcher, Noel Castellanos, Janine Davis, and Richard Lucco;

- to the roundtable discussion facilitators (ECC, conference, and guest resource persons) and special interest group leaders who guided the Friday afternoon resourcing experiences;

- to all those who participated in the prayer team before and during Covenant Mission Detroit and Annual Meeting; and, to Wilson Herrera, leader of the morning prayer sessions;

- to the displayers who created visual reminders and introduction to the multiple resources available to advance Christ's mission through the Evangelical Covenant Church;

- to the Commission on Christian Action members who focused our thoughts on personal stewardship and generosity and guided dialogue related to immigration;

- to Lina Herrera who translated key documents for the Annual Meeting into Spanish. And, to those who did the translating of worship services and business sessions into Spanish;

- to the photographers who recorded our gathering and its impact for many years to come;

- to the staff of the Department of Communications who managed communication services before and during the event, including onsite reporters and personnel involved in media services and the Bookstore;

- to many who transported items essential for the Annual Meeting from 8303 W. Higgins Rd. in Chicago to Detroit, Michigan, and back again;

- to the Covenant Events Office staff: Hilary Honnette, Jorden Meyers, Jill Ulven, and Luke Palmerlee, leader, who worked tirelessly with grace and excellence behind the scenes;

- to Covenant leaders (staff and volunteer board, commission, and committee members) who provided input and overall guidance in preparation for this Annual Meeting and served in various roles throughout our time together;

- and to all of the Covenant church delegates, general conferees, and visitors who gave of their time, their energy and devotion to deliberate on the trajectory of our future and celebrate our commitment to seeing more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world.

RESOLVED, that the Covenant Annual Meeting express its appreciation to those who offered Christian witness, service, skill, organizational excellence, hospitality, and good humor to this 128th Covenant Annual Meeting.

The motion was seconded.

During the highlighting of the specific areas in the Resolution of Gratitude, Johnson recognized and called to the platform Jody Eidnes, administrator of the Great Lakes Conference Office, for her commitment and “can do it” approach to coordinating the planning of both Mission Detroit and general hospitality services for the Annual Meeting. The vice-moderator, Amanda Olson, offered a prayer of thanksgiving for Jody’s service.

Johnson recognized all Covenant Offices staff present with a special expression of gratitude for their support in preparation and implementation of Annual Meeting.

Johnson asked for a special point of privilege to acknowledge Eric Filkin, parliamentarian, and Sandy Norris, secretary, and presented them with gifts. She also acknowledged Tricia Cisneros, administrative assistant in the Executive Vice President’s office, who has provided constancy and consistency to the Annual Meeting business sessions for twelve years.

36. ADJOURNMENT

The moderator declared the 128th Covenant Annual Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

37. BENEDICTION

The assembly ended in benediction by Gary Walter, president.

Annual Meeting Officers

Moderator: Stanley B. Long

Vice-Moderator: Amanda L. Olson

Secretary: Sandra E. Norris

Parliamentarian

Eric D. Filkin