

2016 COVENANT MINISTRY UPDATE

MOVING THE NEEDLE for the KINGDOM OF GOD



Watch the 2016 Mission & Ministry video at **CovChurch.org/ministry-update**. Order a free DVD copy for your church at **CovBooks.com**.



"Move the needle for the kingdom of God every day."

That's what Cecilia Williams, our executive minister of Love Mercy Do Justice, likes to say about our call as believers. And that's exactly what we're prayerfully trying to do in this partnership of congregations and ministries that we call the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC). We're a growing, multiethnic, multi-generational family of churches with lots of heart for making a difference together.

Our 875 congregations in the United States and Canada may not make us a large denomination; however, through the work of God's Spirit, our collective influence and impact is exponential. The Covenant Church and its affiliated ministries are touching millions of real lives in real places with the hope of Jesus. This is the power of our shared mission in Christ.

Together with you, the ECC and our 11 regional conferences seek to "move the needle" through our five mission priorities: Start and Strengthen Churches, Make and Deepen Disciples, Develop Leaders, Love Mercy Do Justice, and Serve Globally.

On the pages that follow and in the accompanying video, we hope to give you a glimpse of the profound difference you are making as we grow into and live out these five focuses of our mission and ministry. Because of your support and God's faithfulness, we continue to see significant advancement in each of these areas.

As you and your church reflect on the many ways that God is using these efforts, I ask you to consider how you will help move the needle even more for the kingdom in the coming year. Thank you for your continued partnership in this important work of sharing the gospel in word and deed, throughout our towns, cities, and conferences, and to all corners of the earth. Amen.

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GARY WALTER President





MAKE and **DEEPEN** DISCIPLES



We exist to partner with conferences in resourcing local churches to provide intentional pathways for persons of all ages to follow Jesus, grow toward Christ-likeness, and join in God's mission. From evangelism and camp ministries to Christian formation and stewardship to women ministries and worship arts, MDD comes alongside the local church to help it encourage and support its members.

CovChurch.org/make-and-deepen-disciples

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My dream is to cultivate a culture of missional discipleship throughout the denomination. My team hopes to raise the temperature for evangelism so that every ministry of the Covenant exponentially produces disciples that make disciples.

MICHELLE **SANCHEZ** Executive Minister



12,000

reported by Covenant churches.

22,000

Children and youth had life-changing

2,500

fall retreats for women.

5.000

Tennessee, to experience God at the ECC's triennial youth conference, CHIC.



START and **STRENGTHEN CHURCHES**



We believe the local church is God's basic strategy to carry out mission in the world. Through planting new churches and providing resources to strengthen existing congregations, we seek to reach more people with the hope of Christ. The ECC plants one new congregation every two to three weeks, and more than half of our established congregations have benefited from congregational vitality resources as they seek to serve in their communities.

I am excited and energized by the opportunity to further God's mission in the world and advance the kingdom through our call to plant and nurture Covenant congregations.

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DICK

67

2,934

450

28



LOVE MERCY DO JUSTICE

We join God in making things right in the world. From a biblically rooted framework, the ECC provides tangible ways of extending the love of Jesus in deed as well as word, advocating for the marginalized, the powerless, and the oppressed, and calling out injustices in our society. We seek to pursue and inspire the transformation of the personal, spiritual, social, and structural dimensions of life.

CovChurch.org/love-mercy-do-justice

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There has always been an expression of compassion and justice in the ECC. Today we have the opportunity to continue living out what our forebears understood as an integral part of God's call—to present the full gospel in word and deed. My hope is that the ministry of LMDJ is able to help an individual, congregation, community, or conference move closer to the heart of Jesus.

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CECILIA WILLIAMS Executive Minister



500

People participated in cross-cultural experiences through Sankofa and Invitation to Racial Righteousness.

\$100,000

n ministry initiative grants presented to compassion and justice ministries across the Covenant last year.

250

Participants gathered at Midwinter 2015 to discuss the themes of race and violence in today's society.

\$50 million

in free health care provided through partnerships with affiliated organizations, like Covenant Ministries of Benevolence.



DEVELOP LEADERS

We are committed to developing and strengthening leaders, both clergy and lay, through multiple avenues. We serve our clergy by investing in their ongoing personal and professional growth. We also engage in developing lay leaders through focused leadership training. The number of active clergy credentialed through the ECC now stands at more than 1,800 women and men.

CovChurch.org/develop-leaders

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Ministry requires the call of God, a lot of hard work, and the affirmation of the church. We are here to facilitate all of those dimensions of a Covenant. leader's vocation.





500

1.800



SERVE GLOBALLY

We are committed to God's mission and our participation in extending the whole gospel to the whole world. Through ministries of mission, relief, and development, the ECC acts globally to see more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world. Through the multifaceted efforts of Serve Globally, communities are being uplifted and lives are being transformed every day.

CovChurch.org/serve-globally

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I want to see the ECC live into its five mission priorities on a global level. My hope and dream for any ministry of which I am a part is that it would be engaged in holistic mission—evangelism, disciplemaking, and compassion, justice, and reconciliation through cross-cultural partnerships and approaches.





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38

Countries were touched by Serve Globally ministries.

50

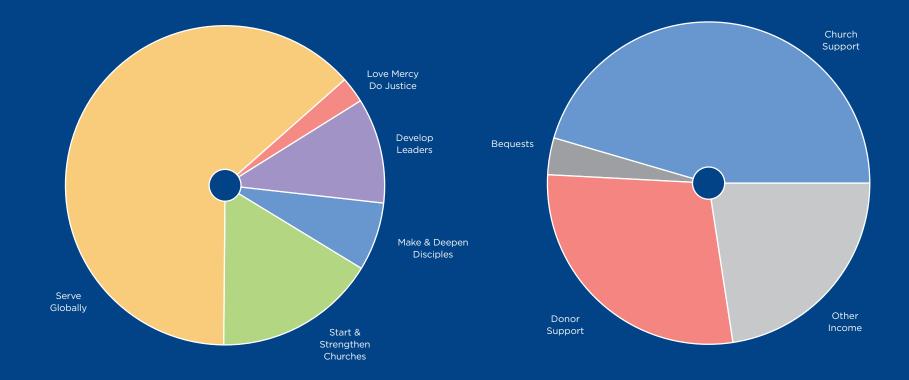
Paul Carlson Partnership & Friends of World Mission each elebrated 50 years of mission.

9,000

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900

MISSION and MINISTRY BUDGET FY 2015 Ministry Budget: \$24,714,000



PLANNED EXPENDITURES

PROJECTED INCOME

COVENANT WORLD RELIEF SANKOFA MIDWINTER NORTH PARK UNIVERSITY CHIC SWEDISH COVENANT HOSPITAL WOMEN MINISTRIES MEDICAL CLINICS ANNUAL MEETING CHURCH PLANTING EVANGELISM COVENANT COMPANION TRIENNIAL COVENANT WORLD MISSION NORTH PARK SEMINARY GROUP HOMES AVA CENTRO HISPANO DE ESTUDIOS TEOLÓGICOS RACIAL RIGHTFOUSNESS MILITARY CHAPLAINS YOUTH MINISTRY BIBLE STUDIES CONFERENCE CENTERS CLERGY TRAINING ALASKA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY NATIONAL COVENANT PROPERTIES LAY TRAINING PAUL CARLSON PARTNERSHIP CHILDREN'S MINISTRY CREDENTIALING

MOVING THE NEEDLE for the KINGDOM OF GOD

Denominational and regional conference leaders are often asked by congregations for practical guidelines for how to be supportive and generous in financial partnership of our collective mission. These four simple principles can help you apply good personal stewardship practices to your congregation's giving.

PERCENTAGE GIVING. This is the biblical principle of proportionality. The first step is to convert your current ECC and conference giving to their respective percentages of general fund income. For example, if your total budget is \$200,000 and you give \$10,000 to the ECC and \$5,000 to the conference, your current percentages would be 5 percent to the ECC and 2.5 percent to the conference. Use those percentages as the beginning planning point as you move forward.

PRIORITY GIVING. This is the biblical principle of giving from the first fruits of the harvest to God. Forward the determined percentage on a monthly basis to both the ECC and your regional conference, calculated from the previous month's general fund income. **PROGRESSIVE GIVING.** This is the biblical principle of increasing faithfulness over time. Our hope is that every congregation will increase its percentage giving to both the ECC and conference as we support and expand the work of God's kingdom regionally, nationally, and globally.

PACESETTING GIVING. This is the biblical principle of modeling generosity in ways that inspire others and amplify impact. Our perennial hope is that each congregation would invest 10 percent of their income in the national/global mission of the ECC and 5 percent in the regional mission of the conference, as many already do. If you are not already there, we recognize this may be a multiple step process.

Covenant people are generous people, and generous people can make a difference in the world. On behalf of a grateful movement, thank you for your partnership in the increasing difference we make together throughout your region, the United States and Canada, and all over the world.





LEADERSHIP TEAM

GARY WALTER, president

MICHELLE SANCHEZ, executive minister of make & deepen disciples RICHARD LUCCO, executive minister of start & strengthen churches MARK NOVAK, executive minister of develop leaders CECILIA WILLIAMS, executive minister of love mercy do justice AL TIZON, executive minister of serve globally

EDWARD GILBREATH, executive director of strategic communication REBECCA GONZALEZ, executive director of operations PAUL HAWKINSON, executive director of finance GAYLE GILREATH, director of advancement strategy

QUESTIONS?

FOR MORE INFORMATION on supporting ministry through the Evangelical Covenant Church, please contact the Office of Mission Advancement at 773-784-3000 or visit **CovChurch.org.**

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