

Covenant Orientation

History of the ECC Syllabus

Purpose: This intensive course is specifically designed for those persons who are in various stages of the orientation process to satisfy credentialing requirements for ordination or commissioning. It is structured to provide students a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the history of the Evangelical Covenant Church, from its roots in Sweden to its current multiethnic reality. Students will apply skills of historical research and analysis to their own denominational history and explore the significance of this history to the present mission and identity of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Objectives: At the end of the course students will be able to...

1. **Factual knowledge.** Students will be able to identify and explain key figures, events, and themes from the history of the Evangelical Covenant Church.
2. **Historical interpretation.** Students will be able to (1) critically read primary texts; (2) evaluate and formulate historical arguments on the basis of original source evidence, for the purpose of
3. **Appropriation** in the life and mission of the Evangelical Covenant Church. This includes a growing capacity to (1) interpret the present life and mission of the ECC in light of its past, (2) demonstrate application of historical content and interpretation within their ministry as Covenant leaders.
4. **Stewardship.** Students will grow in commitment as stewards of their denominational history.

Structure

Three components comprise this course:

1. Pre-coursework
2. A week long intensive course
3. Post-coursework

Requirements:

Attendance and Participation: Participants are expected to be in attendance at all sessions. No early dismissals for travel plans can be accommodated. This session is interactive and participants will engage in various exercises throughout the process.

Required Resources

1. Karl A. Olsson, *By One Spirit* (Chicago: Covenant Publications, 1962).
2. Glenn P. Anderson, ed., *Covenant Roots: Sources and Affirmations*, 2nd edition (Chicago: Covenant Publications, 1999) [*Roots*]
3. Additional readings will be available on Moodle and through the digital collections of the Covenant Archives and Historical Library.

Assignments | All assessments should be submitted through Moodle as Word files.

Pre-course | Due at start of first session

- 200 pages of reading, according to guidelines indicated in bibliography below; record your reading in reading log, due at the beginning of class. See Moodle for reading log template.
- Reflection paper (3–4 pp.) in response to the following questions:
 1. What do you believe constitutes the 'essence' of the Covenant?
 2. What significance does Covenant history have for Covenant identity?
 3. Does the entirety of Covenant history (viz. 1885–present) constitute the roots and heritage of every Covenanter? Why or why not?
- Preparation for primary source presentation. Sources will be selected and submitted via Moodle. Requirements posted on Moodle.
- Completion of digital collections worksheet (Moodle).

During Intensive

- Primary source presentation & discussion: provide class with relevant background, summary of main themes, and discussion questions (total 1–2 pp.)

Post course

- REFLECTION PAPER (3–4 pp.) responding to the following questions:
 1. What do you believe constitutes the 'essence' of the Covenant?
 2. What significance does Covenant history have for Covenant identity?
 3. Does the entirety of Covenant history (viz. 1885–present) constitute the roots and heritage of every Covenanter? Why or why not?
- ESSAY EXAM. See Moodle for study guide, guidelines, and rubric.
- READING. 200 pages of reading in area of project.
- FINAL PROJECT. Your final project may take a number of different forms; all will require research, application, and advocacy. Select one of the following options. More detailed instructions will be provided in January.
 - Local church archive
 - Congregational history
 - Research paper
 - Sunday school or confirmation curriculum
 - Founders' Day worship service
 - Digital exhibit
 - Denominational service

Grading

All work will be graded on a pass/fail basis.