



Covenant Orientation

Mission & Ministry

of the Evangelical Covenant Church

January 26-30, 2015

Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel
Denver, CO

Monday 9:00 – 5:00, Tuesday – Friday, 9:00 – 1:30

**Margie
Swensen**
Covenant World
Mission

Paul de Neu
North Park
Theological
Seminary

**Garth
Bolinder**
Midsouth
Conference

**Sally Carlson
Larson**
Canada
Conference

**Robert
Owens**
Southeast
Conference

Purpose: This course is designed to explore how the Evangelical Covenant Church pursues Christ's priorities in the world by covenanting together congregationally, regionally, denominationally and globally.

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

1. Articulate the mission of God and the ECC connection with God's initiative
2. Describe the 5 Fold Test and how the 5 Missional Priorities relate to them/grow out of them
3. Articulate the scope of ECC mission and ministry congregationally, regionally, denominationally, and globally.
4. Describe and define congregational polity as lived out in the Covenant.
5. Access ECC resources and services.
6. Identify ways the denomination and conference partner with congregations to expand mission opportunities.
7. Conceptualize one's identity as a missional leader in the ECC.
8. Identify the Covenant's current and future mission and ministry priorities and challenges.
9. Take steps toward developing and cultivating collegial relationships with others in the class.

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.

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Pre-course preparation: Rest well before coming. Anticipate making new friendships with colleagues in ministry from around the world. Participants are expected to be familiar with the reading and video assignments listed in the required learning materials list below.

Required Learning Materials: Reading and viewing all learning materials is to be completed in advance of the first session. Learning materials will provide general background for the experiences and will be referenced periodically during the sessions. All learning materials are available electronically as a download listed below except the book which must be purchased.

Required Resources: (click on the blue hyperlink to download these items:)

["The Danger of the Single Story"](#) video

Divided By Faith, by Michael O. Emerson and Christian Smith available from Covenant Bookstore or Amazon.com

[Donald Frisk collection of Covenant Literature](#) (be able to access and search in it)

[ECC Five-Fold Test](#)

[Living Faith: Reflections on Covenant Affirmations](#) (chapter on Mission of the Church). Purchase online.

These items are in a zip file located at <http://www.covchurch.org/vocationalministry/orientation/downloads/>

Covenant World Mission Today

Covenant World Mission Vision Statement

ECC Polity Chart

History of Covenant World Mission

Presentation of the Swedish Evangelical Mission Covenant Church in America

Recommended Resources:

[Covenant Affirmations](#) (purchase online)

[Covenant Church at a Glance](#) (purchase online, somewhat dated)

From Oppression to Jubilee Justice by Lowell Noble available through Amazon.com

["A Great Ambition"](#) video

[A Guide to Local Archives for Covenant Churches](#)

These items are in a zip file located at <http://www.covchurch.org/vocationalministry/orientation/downloads/>

Living in the Tension through Christian Communitas

Playing with Matches and Other Images of the Gospel

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Assignment Options for Mission and Ministry Course 2015

There are two written assignments. Choose one from each of the sections below according to your ministry role.

For those involved with local church ministry...

Choose **one** from section A:

A1. What Is Our Polity? Write an article of no more than 2500 words describing your church's polity that you can give to new or prospective members. Give some historical analysis explaining why your church has the polity it has today. Articulate what you understand to be the strengths and present/future challenges of your church's polity. Reference all your sources.

A2. What are ECC Priorities? Prepare a lesson plan that you can share with your church, small group or Sunday school class explaining the five priorities of the ECC including how the ECC is structured to help your church move forward in these five priorities. Reference all your sources.

And choose **one** from section B:

B1. Who Are We? Write a 2500 word article describing your church through the lens of the 5-Fold Test that you will share with your church's leadership team. Explain the purpose of the 5-Fold test. Be honest in your portraying the areas of growth for your context. Refer to course material in your work. Reference all your sources.

B2. Where are We Going? Write a 2500 word article evaluating your church's connection with the *missio Dei* locally, regionally, denominationally, and globally. Create a document that you will share with your church leadership team. Refer to course material in your work. Reference all your sources.

B3. Who are Our Neighbors? Do a demographic study of your ministry's local community context evaluating the missional challenges and opportunities of your church's area of impact. Create a report you will share with your church's leadership team. A very helpful resource link is www.city-data.com. Reference all your sources.

For those involved in missions, chaplaincy or ministries other than local church...

Choose the first question (A1) and adapt it to your ministry context in regards to organizational polity, articulating strengths and weaknesses

Choose one of the second options (B1, B2, or B3) and adapt it for your ministry context. The resource link www.city-data.com only applies to US contexts, unfortunately. Other specific questions can be answered by course instructors.

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Add **your name** to the top of each assignment with your chosen question printed out.

- Each paper should **be four to five double-spaced pages** (no more than six, please!)
- Use 1 inch margins of Times New Roman or Arial font in 12 point size.
- Grading: All assignments must be completed by **March 15, 2015**. All grades will be pass/fail.
- **All written assignments are due to the manager for Covenant Orientation**

Email your paper to covenant.orientation@covchurch.org as an attachment with the student name and course title as the subject line.