

MINUTES *(for approval)*
Evangelical Covenant Church Ministerium Annual Meeting
June 22-23, 2021
(Virtual, all times CST)

The Ongoing Education Session on Tuesday afternoon was entitled “Lament, Healing, Joy and Leadership.” Our Keynote Speaker was Rev. Dr. Soong-Chan Rah. Rev. Dieula Previlon, Rev. Ruby Varghese, and Rev. Chery Lynn Cain led us in additional reflection on the same theme. Spanish translation was offered.

Opening worship on Wednesday morning at 9:45 was led by Rev. Brandi Sanders and the worship team.

2021 MINISTERIUM OFFICERS

Rev. Dr. Liz Mosbo VerHage, President
Rev. Dieula Previlon, Vice President
Rev. Laurie Cornell, Secretary
Rev. Mark Tao, Vice Secretary
Rev. Eric Hedberg, Treasurer
Parliamentarian serving this Annual Meeting: Rev. Anne Jorgensen

MINISTERIUM BUSINESS MEETING

Agenda 1. The meeting was called to order at 10:02 am by President VerHage. She spoke of the significance of this gathering, following both the serious and traumatic Annual Meeting two years ago, and the reality of no AM in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She also noted that this is the first time the Ministerium has conducted an AM, virtually. President VerHage then led us in prayer.

Agenda 2. The meeting was called to order at 10:06 am by President VerHage.
First roll call taken: 417 total attendance with 399 in Good Standing

Agenda 3. Organization of the meeting was addressed by President VerHage.

Agenda 3.a. The Adoption of the Standing Rules was motioned by Parliamentarian, Anne Jorgensen, who then summarized the rules.

A motion was presented to amend the Bylaws to include a requirement that the bios for candidates for Ministerium Officers and Agenda for the AM be posted at least 30 days prior to AM. It was noted that our body would need a majority of the entire Ministerium to be present at this meeting, to bring a Bylaws amendment today. Total registered for this meeting does not reach a majority.

An appeal to the ruling of President VerHage was made.

It was noted that an email related to the previous motion was sent to the Ministerium on 6-18-2021, prior to the deadline for additions to the Agenda.

Point of Order was raised. It was stated that an appeal to the moderator's ruling needed to be presented to the body for a vote.

President VerHage ruled that the original motion would be addressed and voted upon in the New Business Agenda #23 later in the meeting.

Vote called to approve the Standing Rules.

VOTE: YES 359 (99%) NO 3 (1%)

RULES ADOPTED

Agenda 3.b. Approval of Agenda, including Consent Agenda Items (*)

Agenda 3.c. *Consent Agenda Items

- i. Report on the Approval of 2019 Minutes*
- ii. Authorization for Approval Process for 2021 Minutes*
- iii. Appointments*
 - 0. 2021 Parliamentarian* - Anne Jorgensen
 - 1. 2021 Tellers – Dierdra Gray Clark, Steve Peterson
 - 2. Ratify Secretary 2020 appointment
- iv. 2019-2020 Financial Report
- v. 2020-2021 Financial Report
- vi. 2021 Pension Director Report
- vii. Greetings from Colleagues

Vote called: Motion to approve Agenda including Consent Agenda.

VOTE: YES 354 (98%) NO 8 (2%)

AGENDA APPROVED

Agenda 4. Vice President Previlon offered her report, thanking all Ministerium members for patience and participation in this meeting and throughout the past 18 months of the pandemic; acknowledging the unique challenges, laments and complexities; and honoring all the leadership and servanthood represented in local churches and regions of our denomination. She noted no Annual Meeting in 2020, but instead there were two virtual events: Reimagine Event in July 2020; and Make Room Event in March 2021 including annual Women in Leadership Event. A mobilization team has been launched for taking steps in areas of: Authorize women to lead; Advocating for survivors of abuse and harassment; and Advancing women of color, along with resources for white women's Antiracism work. Contact Rev. Dieula Previlon and Rev. Mary Peterson for more information.

Announcement of Women in Leadership Awards: **ShePreaches:** Rev. Stephanie Ahn Mathis; **SheAdvocates:** Rev. Dierdra Gray Clark; **SheLeads:** Rev. Dr. Liz Verhage.

Agenda 5. Update on Antiracism Pathways from 2019 Resolution was offered by Rev. Dominique Gilliard, Rev. Dr. Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom, and Rev. David Swanson.

David Swanson noted that the Resolution was presented and voted upon in 2019 with strong support; specific action and continued work have emerged from it with two primary streams: equipping and supporting clergy, and encouraging our Conferences to take practical steps. Dominique Gilliard gave an overview of year-long pathways; substantial number of participants in first cohorts which will conclude in July 2021. A relaunching will happen in July 2021, as well. Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom reported that the Mosaic Assessment for Conferences is underway with goals to: track our growth; recruit individuals for pathways; provide a tool for measuring areas of growth. Website information is available. Superintendents are key for goals of racial diversity in conference leadership itself; conference level encouragement to local churches; and communication of practical information for growth.

Agenda 7. (moved up in Agenda)

Board of the Ordered Ministry Report given by Chair, Rev. Greg Applequist. Chair Applequist noted that his 5-year term is completed and has been honored to serve. BOOM handles all credentialing and finalizations. The goal of care and discipline is always restoration. Develop Leaders team, Conference Staff, and if needed, BOOM are involved in interventions with clergy in crisis. He noted the goal that all clergy have resources to be healthy and strong; and that gifts of companionship and practical resources are available for pastors who are isolated and feel alone. He encouragement all to reach out if you are in pain.

Agenda 8. Develop Leaders Report was led by Executive Minister Rev. Lance Davis.

Agenda 8.a. Motion was offered to make the following amendments to the Rules for the Ordered Ministry in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Evangelical Covenant Church. These proposals will bring the rules in line with our current practices:

First proposed amendment: Article 1: The Board of the Ordered Ministry: Section 1.1. Composition. a.:
Change the number of members of the Board of the Ordered Ministry from twelve to: ***“fourteen elected members, twelve of whom shall be credentialed and two of whom shall be laypersons.”***

Second proposal: Change every reference to the pension program of the ECC to the phrase: ***“either the Covenant Ministers’ Pension Plan or the Ministers’ 403(b) plan.”*** (This applies to Article III Ordained to Word and Sacrament; Article IV Ordained to Word and Service; Article VI Commissioning; Article VII Consecrated Missionary; Article IX Licensure

There was brief discussion on these amendments.

VOTE: YES: 356 (99%) NO: 3 (1%)

VOTE: APPROVED

Agenda 8.b. Recommendation for Change in Standing:

i. Active to Inactive

VOTE: YES 358 (99%) NO 1 (1%)

VOTE: APPROVED

Richard Arnold
Aune Carlson
Ronald Ferguson
David Gibbons
John Paul Harris-Webster
Nathan Hillman
Velda Love
Arthur Matheny
Beatrice Radakovich

i.Active to Leave of Absence

VOTE: YES 359 (100%)

VOTE: APPROVED

Leo Anderson

i.Inactive to Active

VOTE: YES 358 (99%) NO 1 (1%)

VOTE: APPROVED

Kelly Johnston
Richard Rasanen
Todd Slehta
Douglas Vetvick

i. Transfer of Credential

Thomas King (United Church of Christ)
VOTE: YES 356 (99%) NO 3 (1%)

VOTE: APPROVED

Phillip J. Ladd (Progressive Christian Alliance)
VOTE: YES 353 (98%) NO 7 (2%)

VOTE: APPROVED

Eva Sullivan-Knoff (Progressive Christian Alliance)
VOTE: YES 351 (98%) NO 9 (2%)

VOTE: APPROVED

i.Resignation of Credential

VOTE: YES 347 (96%) NO 13 (4%)

VOTE: APPROVED

Dale Battleson
Helen Cepero
Mark Charbonneau
Daphne DeMaris
Benjamin Ecker
William Enns
CV Hartline
Franklin Lindquist II

Sarah Monson
Nils Peterson
John E. Phelan, Jr.
James Sandberg
Ann Snowberger
Brian Solecki
Ray Whitson III

Executive Minister Davis prayed over these colleagues' changes in standing.

Agenda 8.c. Recommendation for Approval of Candidates

i. Approval of Licenses

VOTE: YES 367 (100%)

VOTE: APPROVED

i. Transfer of Ordination

VOTE: YES: 366 (99%) NO 1 (1%)

VOTE: APPROVED

Phillip L. Adkins
David Lee Bonselaar
Yoon Ik Chang
Alexander J. Cho
Edward Lee
Manoj M. Mathai
Linda D. Norlien
Marvin D. Norlien
Michael S. Park
Clayton S. Peck

i. Commissioning

VOTE: YES 367 (100%)

VOTE: APPROVED

Ruby A. Varghese

i. Consecrated Missionary

VOTE: YES 367 (100%)

VOTE: APPROVED

Jennifer Dao
Minh Q. Dao

i. Ordination to Word and Service

VOTE: YES 367 (100%)

VOTE: APPROVED

Elyse J. Aguirre
C. Luke Austin
Lynn A. Black
Sally T. Carlson

Julie T. Chamberlain
Kari M. Jacott
Robert A. Rife
Heather N. Smith
Shirley H. You

i. Ordination to Word and Sacrament

VOTE: 367 (100%)

VOTE: APPROVED

Erik P. Anderson
Christopher A. Bannon
Adam L. Barnett
Michael A. Bechtold
Chad M. Benkert
Samuel D. Berger
Joel D. Brand
Gary A. Brndiar
Page M. Brooks
Nicole D. Bullock
Cheryl Lynn Cain
John B. Carroll
Jessica F. Carter
Sara M. Charlton
Douglas Y. Cho
Mollie R. Clark
Grayson H. Daganaar
Meghan R. DeJong
Jordan T. Doles
Meztli Doles
Meghan M. Dowling
Linnea K. Ek
Stanislava Gadeliya
Andrew S. Gilkinson
Jose H. Gonzalez
John M. Goss
Christopher J. Gredenius
Sam E. Gyorfi
Katherine R. R. Hampson
Alexander K. Hardt
Nathan M. Hickox
Laura A. Johnson
Jeffrey E. Kaetzel
Dawn H. Lauber
Joy-Elizabeth F. Lawrence
Andrew T. League
Sandra S. K. Lee
Ryan P. Lunceford
Ryan P. Marshall
Janet Bowes Martinez
John L. Meader
Chad R. Melton
Edwin D. Menon

Mark T. Neely
Stephanie J. Nelson
Justin G. Noseworthy
Tyler J. Nylen
Andrew J. L. Ober
Michael J. Ostermann
Michael K. H. Park
Walter S. Quick IV
Earl J. Ravago
Alicia K. Reese
Flor L. Retamal
Cynthia M. Riley
Zachary J. Riley
Jeffrey G. Root
Nathan P. Salinas
Albert B. Schoffmann
Jack A. Shields
Cynthia M. Simpson
Rhyan J. Smith
Nancy R. Sneller
Joel M. Sommer
Ryan N. Spooner
Joanna Rebecca Stringer
Claire E. Strunk
Sherin Mathew Swift
Ethan D. Tews
Semmeal J. Thomas
Clifton E. Tidd, Jr.
John Franklin Udochi
Derek C. Vander Molen
Ramelia D. Williams
Bearett L. Wolverton
Jonathan H. Woolner
Alma Rosa Zamudio Maciel

Agenda 8.d. Rev. Terrance Woodson offered words of blessing and prayed over all of these colleagues.

Agenda 9. Executive Minister Rev. Lance Davis reported on the important, excellent work which has gone forward, led by each of the members of the Develop Leaders Team. This work includes: broad care for ECC clergy; SPE events; virtual events planned and led; work with NPTS and Covenant Orientation; Spanish translation work for courses and resources, including financial health. Rev. Davis noted brilliant administrative work in digitizing records and ongoing care of the credentialed clergy and chaplains. He mentioned the important, continued work on the “Freedom, Unity and Responsibility” paper, which will be ready for Gather 2022.

Agenda 10. President Rev. John Wenrich celebrated the historic and current mosaic of “mission friends” in our denomination. He described our mission as being joined to God’s mission in all parts of the world, in all settings and cultures. He noted key

barriers to pastoral/leadership health as stagnation and isolation. He called us to join God in all ways possible, reminding us of Jesus' words in John 8:12 – "I am the light of the world." He noted lament about the 2019 Annual Meeting and apologized for the confusion that surrounded the Restructuring Proposal that now has been postponed until 2022. He called on all to stay at the table, engage in future conversations and pray for the ECC body as a whole.

Agenda 11. Lifetime Service Recognition Awards presentation was led by Secretary Cornell, who read the list of names of the 52 colleagues and then offered a prayer of gratitude for their lives and ministries.

Agenda 6. Treasurer Hegberg thanked all the Conference Treasurers and Develop Leaders team who helped with Dues collection and Good Standing records.

Treasurer Hedberg offered the motion to accept the budget as prepared and presented. Discussion included budget items for stipends for coaches; resources for translation work; financial commitment to the Mosaic Association.

Vote: Yes: 328 (98%) No 7 (2%)

VOTE: BUDGET APPROVED

The meeting recessed for lunch from noon – 1:00 pm

Second roll call following lunch: 415 attending and 406 in Good Standing

Agenda 12. Reports from North Park Theological Seminary and Centro Hispano de Estudios Teologicos (CHET)

Rev. Dr. David Kersten, Dean of NPTS, spoke of excellent collaboration and partnerships between the seminary and the Covenant Orientation program; regional conference programs in the PSWC, the Midwest Conference and soon in the East Coast Conference. Rev. Dr. Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom, Dean of faculty, is collaborating with LMDJ and implementation of the Resolution on Antiracism; she continues to lead and teach in the School of Restorative Arts at Stateville Correctional Center and soon the program that is launching in the women's prison, as well.

Faculty transitions include Timothy Johnson; James Bruckner, and Mary Chase-Ziolek, retiring; Soong-Chan Rah has joined the faculty at Fuller Theological Seminary. NPTS has welcomed two new faculty members: Jules Martinez-Olivieri, Milton B. Engebretson Chair of Evangelism and Justice, and Michelle Dodson, teaching fellow in the Ministry Field.

CHET – Rev. Dr. Juan Martinez shared his testimony and gratitude for his new role as President of CHET; also noting virtual classes which began in response to the COVID pandemic; a vision for an ongoing hybrid model of program; and celebration of ALIPE partnership and regional conference connection.

Agenda 13. Mosaic Commission Report was given by President Rev. Mary March, who spoke of the mission to lean into the 6-fold test together; lamenting the increased hate crimes born of the COVID pandemic; affirming the solidarity among our whole Covenant mosaic; and reminding us of the prophetic image of all nations from Revelation 7-9.

Rev. TJ Smith, President of the Indigenous Association spoke of the core truth among First Nations that everyone is family, enacting well the core truth from the Scriptures. He lamented the huge percentage of deaths from COVID-19 among Indigenous sisters and brothers.

Rev. Bryan Murphy, President of the African American Association honored the expressions of resilience after times of pain and commitment to rebuild after suffering; urging us to live into the family of God pictured in Isaiah – we are “repairers of the breach and restorers of streets to live in.”

Rev. Juana Nesta, President of ALIPE spoke of the call to the purposeful narrative portion of the 6-fold test; lamenting the churches who have lost members to COVID-19. She noted Romans 12:15 which calls us to weep and rejoice together, and then prayed over us all.

Agenda 14. Presentation of the Resolution to Repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery was given by Christian Action Commission Member and honored elder, Rev. Lenore Three Stars. This document will be voted on at the Evangelical Covenant Church Annual Meeting later this week. She spoke of her own life story, noting that her son is first member of family to not be born on a reservation. The doctrine of discovery was a practice with effects alive today: white supremacy, poverty; loss of theology of the land; and environmental racism, among other injustices. The details of the Resolution were discussed in anticipation of the vote later in the week.

Agenda 15. Motion from the Nominating Committee for vote on Ministerium Officers: President and Vice-Secretary. There were no nominees from the floor.

Extended discussion began related to the nominating process for Ministerium Officers. President VerHage described the process. The Executive Committee of the Ministerium functions as the initial nominating committee by submitting recommendations to the Executive Board. The Board, then, functions as the second step of the discernment process, including extending invitations to pastors being considered for each role. Various questions about the process continued.

Question was called to end discussion and proceed to the vote. (2/3 majority vote needed to move to the voting process.)

VOTE: YES 165 (46%) NO 193 (54%)

VOTE: QUESTION FAILED

Discussion continued related to concerns about the nominating process.

Motion made to extend discussion and was seconded. (2/3 majority vote needed to extend)

VOTE: YES 204 (55%) NO 188 (45%)

VOTE: MOTION FAILED

2 pm Roll Call: 408 attending and 400 in Good Standing

Candidates for President were Jeff Hunter and Taylor Burgoyne
VOTE: Hunter 95 (28%) Burgoyne 241 (72%) **ELECTED:** Taylor Burgoyne

Candidates for Vice-Secretary were Dan Lee and Ruby Varghese
VOTE: Lee 165 (49%) and Varghese 171 (51%) **ELECTED:** Ruby Varghese

Agenda 16. Words of thanks expressed for Ministerium Officers completing their service. Vice President Previlon spoke of President Liz VerHage's leadership gifts, wisdom and generosity of spirit; and Treasurer Hedberg spoke of Vice Secretary Mark Tao's theological wisdom, insight and discernment gifts.

Agenda 20. (Moved up in Agenda) Rev. David Holder, Vice Chair of the Covenant Executive Board offered a report. He noted the pain and seriousness of votes from the 2019 Annual Meeting, along with consequences of broken trust, relational and system stress; revelation of needed work across interfacing groups of Board of Ordered Ministry, Ministerium, Covenant Executive Board and denominational Annual Meeting Officers. He reported that an independent organization was hired to guide relational healing processes. He called upon all to choose a humble posture as God continues to shape us.

Agenda 19. (Moved up in Agenda) Statement of Lament and Prayer for 2019 Ministerium Annual Meeting (created by Rev. Dr. Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom and Rev. Dr. David Bjorlin) was introduced and read by President VerHage, who reminded us that truth telling and lament are needed in response to what we as a body experienced in 2019. Scripture calls us to lament and naming reality.

Short break taken

Agenda 17. Vice Secretary Rev. Mark Tao began his report by speaking of Executive Board's efforts to increase communication to the entire Ministerium by creating a Covenant clergy website and using FB tools. He noted gratitude for officers with whom he served along the way, as well as Executive Committee colleagues. Mark called us all to lean further into racial and gender justice, affirming the Mosaic Association and other leaders. Our heritage of Covenant Freedom is being challenged by a movement toward hierarchy of order; rule of law; protection of white safety – all of which cause harm to our own brothers and sisters. Vice President Tao cautioned the seeking of power; perpetuation of white patriarchy. Instead, remember God calls us to mutual relationship and shared power; making room for difference, and a rejection of corporate power and practice based on domination. His final call was to grant visibility for those who lack it! This is our legacy and our Biblical and prophetic witness!

Agenda 18. President Rev. Dr. Liz Mosbo VerHage expressed gratitude to all who contributed to this meeting and the work of the Ministerium over the past years. She noted several "Firsts" during the past years: Online events; Resolution on Antiracism; First Women in Leadership Awards along with the "Make Room Event" in the place of in-person Midwinter gathering; and the sobering first Ministerium Hearing of Contested Credentials at the 2019 AM. She called us all to note how much is left to address in our Ministerium and wider Covenant Church body, including

questions: How is authority handled? Where and why has the identity of the Covenant been shifting? How can we grow deeper into a truly multi-ethnic body – how would it look? She concluded her remarks with a final reference to Isaiah 49:7-8:

“This is what the Lord says:

In the time of my favor I will answer you, and in the day of salvation I will help you; I will keep you and will make you to be a covenant for the people, to restore the land and to reassign its desolate inheritances; to say to the captives, ‘Come out,’ and to those in darkness, ‘Be free!’ ”

Vice President Previlon prayed over Liz and Mark.

Agenda 22. (moved up in Agenda) PROPOSED COVENANT MINISTERIUM BYLAWS AMENDMENT

ARTICLE V

Contested Credentials Hearing

Section 5.1 *A Minister who has been notified by the Board of Ordered ministry that the Board of Ordered Ministry will recommend to the Covenant Ministerium the removal of said Minister’s credentials may contest such a recommendation before the Annual Meeting of the Covenant Ministerium. Any Minister who seeks to contest the removal of their credentials must submit their intent to do so in writing to both the President of the Covenant Ministerium and the Chair of the Board of Ordered Ministry no less than 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Covenant Ministerium.*

Section 5.2 *The Executive Officers of the Covenant Ministerium will notify the Covenant Ministerium in writing no less than 60 days prior to the Annual Meeting of the Covenant Ministerium at which a Contested Credentials Hearing is to take place. This notification will include the charges of the Board of Ordered Ministry against the Minister in question.*

Section 5.3 *The minister who is contesting the removal of their credentials and the Board of Ordered Ministry will be given equal time to present their cases at each stage of the Contested Credentials Hearing.*

Section 5.4 *Prior to the start of the Contested Credentials Hearing the President of the Covenant Ministerium will introduce a motion to establish time frames for the Contested Credentials Hearing, including deliberations and debate. The President of the Covenant Ministerium must submit this motion to both the Minister in question and the Board of Ordered Ministry at least one month prior to the Annual Meeting of the Covenant Ministerium so as to provide adequate time for preparation. This motion may be debated and amended by the Covenant Ministerium.*

Section 5.5 *No testimony that is directly relevant to the Contested Credentials Hearing may take place prior to the hearing itself. Anyone wishing to present first-hand information about the minister in question or the recommendation of the Board of Ordered Ministry must do so as a witness during the Contested Credentials Hearing. The President of the Ministerium will determine what constitutes directly relevant testimony.*

Section 5.6 *The President of the Covenant Ministerium will preside over the Contested Credentials Hearing and will be responsible to maintain proper order. The President of the Covenant Ministerium must make every reasonable effort to preside in an impartial manner ensuring an equitable and fair process. No one, save for those directly involved in the Contested Credentials Hearing or the President of the Covenant Ministerium, may obtain the floor during the hearing. Any questions, or points of order arising during the hearing must be submitted to the President of the Ministerium in writing. If the President of the Covenant Ministerium feels that he or she cannot be impartial for whatever reason they may recuse themselves and the Vice-President of the Covenant Ministerium will assume the responsibilities of the President for the purposes of the Contested Credentials Hearing.*

Section 5.7 *The Board of Ordered Ministry will present first at each stage of the Contested Credentials Hearing. The hearing will be ordered as follows:*

- a) Opening Statements.*
- b) Witness testimony.*
- c) Closing Statements.*

Section 5.8 *Deliberation will begin following the conclusion of closing statements. Both the minister who is contesting the removal of their credentials and the representatives from the Board of Ordered Ministry who presented will exit the room until a decision has been reached. Deliberation will be ordered as follows:*

- a) Debate on approving or not approving the recommendation of the Board of Ordered Ministry to remove the credentials of the minister in question.*
- b) Vote on the recommendation for the removal of credentials, a two-thirds vote is required to approve the recommendation.*
- c) If a two-thirds vote is reached on the recommendation for the removal of credentials, the Board of Ordered Ministry will then, with the concurrence of the Covenant Ministerium, submit the recommendation to the Annual Meeting of the ECC.*
- d) If a two-thirds vote is not reached then the matter returns to the Board of the Ordered Ministry.*

The writing process of this Proposed Bylaws Amendment was summarized. In order to address the governance gap, a draft was written and submitted to the Executive Committee in November 2019, which discussed and recommended that it be presented at the Ministerium 2020 Annual Meeting (which did not meet due to the pandemic). BOOM reviewed it and also recommended that it be discussed and voted upon. Recently, a workgroup from the Covenant Executive Board, which also has been addressing governance gaps from the 2019 AM, reviewed this proposed Bylaws Amendment and submitted recommendations to Ministerium. They do not have power in the Ministerium, yet, their recommendations have been posted and can be discussed.

Rev. Taylor Burgoyne, 2019 Parliamentarian, spoke of the rationale for creating and adopting this amendment:

The 2019 Contested Credentials Hearing process was limited and flawed because the Ministerium does not have specific rules or structures for such a situation and

therefore was required to follow Robert's Rules as the guide. We recognized that we can and must do a much better job of guiding any future contested credential process. We want a healthy structure in place, if needed.

Goals include: clarifying timeline for everyone being prepared; ensuring fairness; requiring that both sides be heard and allowing those representing both perspectives time to interact with one another. This amendment removes the two-vote process of once on guilt and once on consequence. Threshold commitment: the vote requires 2/3 majority. A decision of great significance and this magnitude should require 2/3 majority.

Lengthy, rigorous discussion followed, noting both appreciation for the role of the Ministerium in such a process; and concern that this amendment would give the Ministerium too much power. It also was noted that credentialed colleagues often are most aware of the details and nuance of situations that would lead to a contested credential hearing; and that the desired system of checks and balances may require Ministerium leadership in this type of situation. A concern that this amendment does not honor the wisdom of the delegates gathered for the ECC Annual Meeting was noted.

A motion was offered to change the vote threshold from 2/3 to simple majority. Motion was seconded.

Discussion continued related to the specific nature of "recommendation" rather than "removal" in the Ministerium's role in a Contested Credential Hearing. Pastors spoke both for and against this motion, related to the level of knowledge and expertise, and also understandable limitations of both the Ministerium as a whole, and the collection of delegates gathered at any particular ECC AM. Members called for a process that offers as much caution, care and discernment, as possible; and noted the need to uphold minority voices.

Decision made to extend discussion time to 10 more minutes.

Vote was called and clarified: the motion on the floor is to change the 2/3 majority to simply majority in the proposed amendment of the Bylaws Section 5.8.

Majority vote is needed to pass this amendment to the Proposed Bylaws Amendment.

VOTE: YES 121 (32%) NO 252 (68%)

2/3 majority remains in Section 5.8

VOTE: AMENDMENT NOT PASSED

Return to discussion on original motion of Proposed Bylaws Amendment.

The question was called to end discussion on original amendment and vote.
(2/3 majority needed to end discussion)

VOTE: YES 326 (89%) NO 40 (11%)

VOTE: DISCUSSION ENDED

Vote on Proposed Ministerium Bylaws Amendment (needs 2/3 vote to pass)

VOTE: YES 286 (79%) NO 76 (21%)

VOTE: COVENANT MINISTERIUM BYLAWS AMENDMENT PASSED

Agenda 21. ECC Restructuring Proposal Discussion

Discussion included a question about whether or not the rationale for this restructuring was financial in nature. Comments were made about systemic problems with the restructuring including strong concerns about consolidation of power and authority; reasonable checks and balances are not well represented in proposal; and in the proposal development process key ECC leaders were not consulted.

Agenda 24. (moved up in Agenda) Video honoring all Pastors, Missionaries and Spouses who have died in the past two years was played. Secretary Cornell prayed over this Memorial list.

25 minute break at 5:05 pm; Resume business at 5:30 pm
Final Roll Call at 5:33 pm 300 attending and 293 in Good Standing

Agenda 23. New Business

Motion from the floor of a proposed addition to the Ministerium Bylaws was presented and seconded.

Motion: "Insert into the Bylaws (Article I Section 1.1b) the requirement that the Ministerium be given 30-day notice of the Ministerium Annual Meeting Agenda and Bios of those nominated for vote on an Officer role."

Discussion began with a Point of Order that Bylaws Amendments can be amended by 2/3 vote of members present at current meeting. Further discussion included merits and the limitations of the timeframe of 30-day notice for posting such information. Parliamentarian Jorgensen noted that Officer Nominations can always be brought from the floor at the point of the vote.

A point of order was raised that a motion is on the floor; we need to go through a formal process of amending the motion.

President VerHage ruled that the presenter of the original motion is free to make a slight change in his motion.

Revised Motion: Changes to Article I Section 1.1(b): The nominating committee shall convene annually at the Midwinter Conference and shall present to the annual meeting of the Covenant Ministerium a ballot in printed form, with two candidates for each office to be elected. **Addition to this section of the Bylaws: Names on each ballot must be published to the whole Ministerium at least 30 days prior to the AM. A draft Agenda will be published electronically to the Ministerium 30 days in advance of the Ministerium AM, with a finalized agenda published no less than 72 hours prior to the meeting.**

Discussion continued related to this revised wording.

A motion was presented to postpone this motion indefinitely, and was seconded. (Majority vote required to pass)

VOTE: YES 215 (79%) and NO 56 (21%)

VOTE: AMENDMENT FAILED

Agenda 25. Executive Session; Facebook streaming is now ending. If you are not a member of the Ministerium, you should remove yourself now.

Parliamentarian Jorgensen gave instructions for this agenda item:

We must look back at Minutes in 2019. We have to approve them in this meeting. They have been open to all members of the Ministerium already. The second vote is to choose whether or not to make them public to others who are not members of the Ministerium.

Agenda 25.a. Motion to approve 2019 Exec Session Minutes was presented.

Motion to Approve Executive Session Minutes

VOTE: YES 216 (90%) NO 23 (10%)

VOTE: MINUTES APPROVED

Agenda 25.b. Motion to make public 2019 Executive Session Minutes was presented.

The vote was called with clarification that a yes vote is a vote to open Minutes to the public and a no vote keeps them closed.

VOTE: YES 48 (19%) NO 213 (81%)

VOTE: OPEN MINUTES FAILED

Agenda 26. Vice President Previlon prayed over the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:16 pm CST

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Laurie A. D. Cornell

Secretary

Executive Board of the Evangelical Covenant Church Ministerium