Covenant Ministerium Annual Meeting Minutes
June 25, 2026

2026 Ministerium Officers

Rev. Harvey Drake - President
Rev. Dani Kilgore-Vice President
Rev. Carmen Bensink Lewis-Secretary
Rev. Angela Yee-Vice-Secretary
Rev. Alma Rosa Zamudio Maciel - Treasurer

Agenda 1. Call to Order, Introductions

President Harvey Drake called the meeting to order. Tamaro Revelo opened with a land recognition.

Agenda 2. Opening Prayer

Tamara Ravelo - English
Jane Chao Pomeroy - Chinese
Peter Hedstrom - Swedish
Dany Flores - Spanish
Alma Zamudio Maciel- English

Agenda 3. Worship

Rev. Josef Rasheed and Rev. Brandi Sanders were introduced as worship leaders for the meeting, with the theme of God's faithfulness woven throughout.

Agenda 4. How to Vote Presentation

Lumi Staff served as official Tellers and provided training on the voice and vote technology being used. Test votes were conducted, and instructions were given for how discussion and debate would be managed both for in-person and virtual participants.

Agenda 5. Organization of Meeting included the following:

a. Quorum Call

Quorum call. The total number of those registered for the meeting was 363. The number of registrants active at the moment of the Quorum call was 255. Quorum was met!

b. Adoption of Standing rules

Rev. Kendall Churchill (Parliamentarian) moved for adoption of the Standing Rules and provided a summary, noting all documents are available on the Ministerium website. Key highlights included:

Hybrid Meeting Guidelines

- Grace extended to all teams managing the hybrid format
- Participants joining online are responsible for their own technology
- Technical difficulties will not halt the meeting

Debate Rules

- Debate is limited to 30 minutes, with a one-time option to extend by vote
- Each person may speak once on an issue; if time allows, a maximum of two times
- All speakers should introduce themselves before speaking

Conduct & Tone

- Address comments to the moderator
- Advocate clearly for your position without dismissing others' opinions
- Maintain a courteous tone and assume good intent from fellow participants

Vote: For: 258 (99.61%) Against: 1 Abstain: 4
VOTE: STANDING RULES - ADOPTED

c. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by President Drake for the Approval of the Agenda, including Consent Agenda. *No discussion.*

Vote: For: 194 (100) Against: 0 (%) Abstain: 0
VOTE: AGENDA - APPROVED

d. Approval of Consent of Agenda

Secretary Bensink Lewis summarized the Consent Agenda, which included:

- **2025 Annual Meeting Minutes**
- **Meeting Officials:**
  - Parliamentarian: Rev. Kendall Churchill
  - Sergeants-at-Arms: Sally Carlson, Jordan Andlovec, Joey Le Sandra Asker, Greg Applequist
  - Tellers: LUMI Staff
- **Financial Report** for 2025–2026, provided by Treasurer Norris

Vote: For:241 (99.59%) Against: 1(.41%) Abstain: 5 (%)
VOTE: *AGENDA APPROVED*

e. Good Standing Requirements

Vice President Dani Kilgore gave an overview of the ECC's Good Standing requirements, opening with thanks to Danielle Ng, Bethany Saldana, and all regional conference staff for their work in ensuring members were in Good Standing ahead of the meeting.

Why It Matters: Good Standing holds members to shared standards of professional, personal, and communal health, and unlocks key benefits including voting rights at Annual Meetings, access to scholarships and grants, and eligibility for Crisis Care Fund support.

The Four Requirements

1. **Annual Dues** — Paid to the member's regional conference
2. **Minister's Profile Form** — Updated every three years
3. **Vocational Growth Tool** — Completed yearly

4. **Relational Connections** — Maintained through activities such as Midwinter, Ministerium Annual Meetings, Conference Ministerial Association meetings/retreats, regional cohorts, mentoring groups, Continuing Education, or Spiritual Direction.

f. Greetings from Colleagues

Secretary Bensink Lewis read greetings from members unable to attend the 2026 Annual Meeting. She noted this is a long-standing Ministerium tradition — an optional courtesy, not a requirement — where absent members send written greetings and prayers to the gathered community.

The following colleagues sent their greetings:

Gary Gilkinson	Jonathan Hancock	Barbara Bjelland
Brian Majerus	Derek C. Boggs	Matt Bleckley
Peter Kozushko	Greg Satterberg	Rachel Hart
Sharon Nelson	Stacey Littlefield	Todd Kardell
Earl Dunbar	Dave Hugare	Marv and Linda Norlien
Michael Baker	Scott Sagle	Adria Willett-Leonardo
Dan Palomino	Steve Hoden	Nora Nagaruk
Steve Eng	Jeremy Berg	Frank Alioto
Tammy J. Roach	David McCowan	Paul Couleur

Agenda 6. Reports From Educational Institutions

a. CHET (Centro Hispano Estudios Teológicos) - Rev. Carlos Ortiz

Carlos opened personally, sharing that he is himself a CHET graduate of 25 years, making the institution's mission deeply meaningful to him.

CHET exists to serve the church by equipping Latino leaders. Recent highlights include:

- Served **152 students** in the past winter
- Connected with **800+ alumni**
- Raised **$42,000** at their 36th anniversary campaign
- Improved academic systems, with documentation now certifying Spanish-speaking Bible institutes
- Advancing theological education within the Covenant

Carlos emphasized that Latino leaders need more than certificates — they need accessible pathways to bachelor's, master's, and doctoral preparation. This is framed as a missional response to the real needs of Latino churches. Healthy growth, he noted, requires strong systems, accountability, and institutional credibility.

Carlos ended by inviting the ministerium to:

- Send your emerging Latino leaders to CHET
- Pray, advocate, and help CHET gain visibility within the denomination
- Partner financially to help build sustainable pathways for Latino pastors

b. North Park University - Mary Surridge

Mary started by extending a deep word of thanks to Dr. Edwards for his leadership, friendship, and impact. The interim leadership plan has been fully affirmed with Rev. Mary Miller stepping into that role.

NPU grounds its mission in scripture — Genesis 1:27, Psalm 139:14, and Ephesians 2:10 — emphasizing the inherent value and dignity of every student. NPU welcomes students from all faith backgrounds, with the primary goal of creating an environment where students discover their worth as God's masterpiece, are prepared for graduation, and many are making decisions to follow Jesus.

The campus theme of *Show Up* was brought to life through three student stories representing rural, Latino, and Black experiences:A student from a rural, monocultural town learning to navigate diverse cultures

- A student without a traditional church background finding a place to begin their faith journey
- Students whose growth was made possible by professors and mentors who showed up with patience and love

The report closed with a heartfelt thank you for the Ministerium's partnership, acknowledging the difficulty of the work while calling everyone to come through together for students who are depending on them.

c. North Park Theological Seminary (NPTS) - Dr. Dennis Edwards

Dennis announced that NPTS received a *One Covenant Community* grant from the Lilly Endowment. The One Covenant Community project seeks to cultivate a thriving ecosystem of pastoral leadership across the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC) by strengthening the full arc of vocational discernment, theological education, credentialing, and lifelong support—through deep collaboration among Covenant institutions, conferences, congregations, and communities.

Dennis highlighted a unique fundraising opportunity — Lilly is matching every dollar raised with $2, making this an exceptional fundraising moment. The goal is raise $6,000,000 to be matched.

A new seminary website has launched — seminary.northpark.edu — and the Ministerium was encouraged to visit and support fundraising efforts.

The report closed with a sincere thank you to the Ministerium for their ongoing support — through prayer, opening their churches and conferences to seminary speakers, and their consistent partnership. The Ministerium was described as a tremendous source of support for the seminary.

d. Acknowledgment of Dr. Edwards

Treasurer Alma Zamudio Maciel thanked Dr. Edwards for his service and commitment to NPTS. A card was distributed for the ministerium to express their gratefulness. A gift was also given to express our deep gratitude.

e. Prayer for Institutions

Treasurer Alma Zamudio Maciel Prayer for Dr. Edwards and the other institutions.

Agenda 7. Ministerium Constitution Change Proposal

a. Presentation of the Proposed Amendment.
Parliamentarian Kendall Churchill explained a proposed amendment to the Ministerium Constitution which would add the President of Centro Hispano de Estudios Teológicos del Pacto Evangélico (CHET) as a member of the Ministerium's Executive Committee. The amendment was presented at the 2025 Ministerium Annual Meeting and is now being brought to a vote at this year's meeting.

Amended Ministerium Constitution 4.2 Added language is in Bold font.

> Section 4.2. These officers, together with the president of the Evangelical Covenant Church, the executive minister of the ordered ministry, the chairperson of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the dean of North Park Theological Seminary, **the president of Centro Hispano de Estudios Teológicos del Pacto Evangélico (CHET),** the chairpersons of the regional ministerial associations, and the presidents from each of the ethnic associations of the Evangelical Covenant Church (as defined by Article XV of the bylaws of the Evangelical Covenant Church) and the presidents of ministerium associations, approved by the ministerium, shall constitute the Executive Committee of the Covenant Ministerium.

b. Vote for Amendment

Vote: For: 255 (98.84%) Against: 3 (1.16%) Abstain: 5
VOTE: *Constitution Change APPROVED*

Agenda 8. Resolution of Sympathy

Vice Secretary Angela Yee introduced and read the Resolution of Sympathy. A video was also presented.

RESOLVED, that the 140th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church expresses its sympathy to the families of the Covenant pastors, global personnel, and pastors' spouses who have gone to be with the Lord, and that those families be presented with a program of the worship service in which there will be a time of remembrance and thanksgiving for the lives and ministry.

PASTORS
Gerald R. Meyers, November 25, 2022, West Pointe, California
Donald D. Bowers, June 5, 2025, Rancho Cucamonga, California
Steve Hickey, June 27, 2025, Soldotna, Alaska
Lowell V. Drotts, July 14, 2025, Deer Park, Illinois
Joe B. Scruggs, July 26, 2025, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
James O. Lindgren, August 16, 2025, Turlock, California
Monty R. Newton, October 26, 2025, Wheaton, Illinois
Paul R. Swanson, October 23, 2025, Golden Valley, Minnesota

Reynold C. Samundsen, October 26, 2025, Batavia, Illinois
Robert C. Dvorak, November 16, 2025, Keene, New Hampshire
Stephen M. Staurseth, December 8, 2025, Chicago, Illinois
C. John Weborg, December 13, 2025, Walnut, Illinois
Bernard L. Windmiller, December 17, 2025, Wauwautosa, Wisconsin
Victor M. Williams, January 5, 2026, Chicago, Illinois
Jack R. Lundbom, February 17, 2026, Chicago, Illinois
John V. Vogel, March 29, 2026, Kansas City, Kansas
Mark Killam, March 29, 2026, Wilmore, Kentucky
Stanley Long, April 1, 2026, Hayward, California
Dale Sandberg, April 26, 2026, Montgomery, Alabama

GLOBAL PERSONNEL
Katheryn E. Fredriksen, April 2, 2025

PASTOR'S SPOUSES
Marjorie Scruggs (Joe), May 10, 2025, Broken Arrow, Oklahoma
Lois Palmquist (Roger), November 5, 2025, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Marion Sustad (Orville), November, 16, 2025, Westminster, Colorado
Dorothy Westberg (Harry), January 15, 2026, North Oaks, Minnesota
Rosalee Bowers (Donald), January 3, 2026, Rancho Cucamonga, California
Joan B. Larson (Benjamin), February 22, 2026, Ely, Minnesota
Magui Guimarães (Wainer), February 17, 2026, Brazil
Betty J. Samundsen (Reynold), February 28, 2026, Batavia, Illinois
Barbara Hansen (Ernest), March 8, 2026, Lacey, Washington
Dorothy Pearson (Donald), March 14, 2026, Golden Vally, Minnesota
Rae Ann Foley (Ross), April 17, 2026, Cambridge, Minnesota
Venita Meyers (Gerald), April 28, 2026, West Pointe, California

Agenda 9. Celebration Stories

Report from Ancy Post — President of CAPA (Covenant Asian Pacific American)

CAPA is committed to creating space to encourage, equip, and care for Asian Pacific American pastors in their ministry journeys. What began as a small community gathering at Midwinter has grown to over 200 people.

CAPA hosted its inaugural leadership conference, **CAPACON**, in Malibu, CA, centered on the theme "*Where Do I Fit?*" with Daniel Lee from Fuller Seminary. The most powerful feedback wasn't about the content itself, but the profound sense of being valued as Asian Americans — an immediate feeling of understanding that required no explanation. Key Highlights:

- Participants wrestled with shared questions and experiences while acknowledging that **Asian Americans are not a monolith** — stories and cultures differ widely
- Time was spent in **ethnic identity groups**, allowing deeper reflection within specific ethnicities
- **Food** was intentionally central — in Asian culture, hospitality through food communicates welcome, belonging, and love. Ancy noted that attendees may not remember every conversation, but they will remember the food and the feeling of being seen, cared for, and at home

Ancy closed by saying she doesn't simply see a successful event — she sees friendships formed, a growing network of leaders, and God's faithfulness. She expressed deep gratitude to the Covenant Church and the Ministerium for investing in the associations and reminding members they are not alone.

Agenda 10. Recognition of outgoing Ministerium Officers

Vice Secretary Angela Yee read the names of those outgoing ministerium officers and prayed for them.

Conference Ministerial Association Chairs

Kevin Brown - East Coast Conference
Randy Hoffbeck - Alaska Conference
Brad Kindall - Northwest Conference

Association Presidents

Rev. Ken Morse - Covenant Chaplains Association - President

ECC Ministerial Executive Board

Rev. Carmen Bensink Lewis - Secretary

Agenda 11. Report from Rev. Dennis Carlson — Board of Ordered Ministry

BOOM serves as a peer review board overseeing the work of Serve Clergy, focusing on two areas: credentialing and care. Every four years it also serves as the nominating committee for the Executive Committee — Herb Frost will continue as chair. A warm tribute was paid to Danielle Eng for her exceptional credentialing work. She is absent due to the passing of her father on Father's Day — the Ministerium was asked to keep her in their prayers.

BOOM walks alongside clergy navigating difficult seasons, offering pathways for care, restoration, and encouragement toward peer accountability groups — recognizing that even pastors can make poor choices requiring discipline and support.

This year marks the 50th year of ordination, with men and women being ordained at nearly a 50/50 ratio — a milestone celebrated with great joy.

A special task force is exploring what ordination means within the Covenant. About 20 years ago, a *Word and Service* category was created to elevate commissioned colleagues. Over time the distinctions have blurred, and the task force is exploring merging these back into one ordination with more robust continuing education requirements. More details expected within the next year.

Dennis expressed gratitude for the honor of serving and announced the passing of the baton to Pia Restrepo.

Agenda 12. Report from Rev. Herb Frost — Develop Leaders/Serve Clergy

Herb started with a word of deep gratitude to Dennis.

The roster stands at 2,548 clergy, with 7% Asian and 6% Black or African American representation. Of the 1,657 currently active, 69% are men and 31% are women. This is a body still living into the fullness of the Kingdom of God — there is still room for renewal, still room for the vision of what senior pastoral leadership can become.

The toughest leadership roles are the ones that combine constant scrutiny, high demands, and limited authority — university presidents, hospital CEOs, and local pastors carry this burden. Herb would add denominational presidents to that list. What makes it heavier is the lack of unified support alongside the call to lead faithfully forward, in contexts that are always local and never generic. And this framing still leaves out the second-seat pastors — the associates, the ones in the background roles — and the quiet, essential work they do. Thank you for the love you've shown God in helping his people, and for continuing to help them still.

Mediterranean spirituality centers one of the oldest statements about being human: our sinfulness. Celtic spirituality starts somewhere else — with the positive calling to be beings of light, sent out by Jesus. Christ shines in the darkness, births light, and calls forth the light already placed in us.That light dims whenever we turn in on ourselves. It's restored through repentance — which is exactly what John's baptism offered, and exactly why the Pharisees refused to go to him.Underneath the theology are the real, recurring realities: marital health, mental and emotional health, trauma both past and present, financial strain, functional competence, and the challenges of leadership itself.

The question is whether internal resources are sufficient. Survival mode looks like limited joy, minimal investment in self, and demands that outpace energy. Thriving looks like joy in the work, a regular sense of meaningful contribution, a growth orientation, and connection instead of isolation. The move from surviving to thriving isn't one leap — it's a series of small shifts: naming what's depleting you, naming what gives you life, and committing to one small change.

The Aaronic blessing. "Tell Aaron and his sons, this is how you are to bless the people: The Lord bless you and keep you." Galatians 2:20 reminds us we are his agents. So when you see one another, remind each other: God is very fond of you. Let your countenance be a gift of grace and peace.

Break

Agenda 13. Quorum Call

The number of registrants active at the moment of the Quorum call was **(215)**. Quorum was met!

Agenda 14. ECC Presidents Report - Rev. Tammy Swanson Dreheim

Thank you for being here and for investing in our impact family called the Covenant. And for the record — I do have a son and granddaughter here, but that wasn't a criterion for selecting Scottsdale.

A few updates: I've been reflective lately. I can't believe I've already served four years, and yet it feels like I've served a long time — because it's been such a great joy to be out among you, seeing God at work. I've made it a priority to be in a variety of settings — geography, ethnicity, and more. If you've been in one Covenant church, you've been in *one* Covenant church. So what's my home church? I'm not home much, so every church is my home. You are my eternal family. We are together forever.

When I started, I wanted to get to all the conference meetings — and I did it. Just like the local church, if you've been in one conference, you've been in one conference. It's so important to get out and see the differences.

In these polarizing times, our pastors and churches have leaned in. I don't hear talk of splitting anymore. We've lost a few along the way, but I think we've fared well — growing in our unity, not our uniformity. Focused on mission, we don't demand that all of us think the same on every topic. Thank you for leaning in and faithfully committing to growing in this area. As John 17 reminds us: the unity the church experiences is a witness to the world. Thank you.

I've also been thinking about those who have gone before us. It's hard, but I watch with great gratitude. We said goodbye to Dr. Paul Larson, who served for 12 years. I knew Paul first as my pastor, and many of you could say the same — a mentor, a friend. Please keep his wife, Elizabeth, and their family in your prayers.

One thing I admired in Paul was his deep love for the ECC. Our best days are still ahead of us, because God isn't finished yet — and I share that conviction. The last annual meeting with presidents from around the world created a memory I will never forget, and drew us back to the global vision of being the Kingdom of God.

I was also able to read out our vision statement: *Living into the Kingdom of God through a prayerful, intergenerational, multiethnic, growing movement of churches served by women and men striving to follow the way of Jesus by loving others as Jesus loves us.*

At 8303, we're working on a plan to see our vision for renewal enhanced in several areas. Let me call attention to a couple of things:

- **Covenant Voices** — a denomination-wide listening initiative on how we experience and live out what it means to be Covenant today.
- **Paving the Way** — a pilot cohort of senior pastors who already affirm women in ministry, preparing local churches for calling women pastors. It will explore tools and strategies to help congregations consider both women and men when calling pastors.
- **Living into the Kingdom of God**, a response to Christian Nationalism — we're starting a resource paper to address this false gospel. The team behind this represents five conferences and reflects the diversity of our church, helping us live more fully into the Kingdom of God under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Transitions

- We install Carlos Ortiz at CHET, who has led with godliness and effectiveness over the last six months.
- Thanks to Dr. Edwards — I cannot tell you how extraordinary Pastor Edwards has been, multiplying gifts among us and forming pastoral leaders through his writing and ministry.
- We honor five global retirees and commission two new global personnel.
- At the conference level, four superintendents were re-elected: Kara (2nd term), Brian (2nd term), Kathryn (3rd term), and Howard (6th term).
- Next year there will be two more reviews: Brian Johnson and Curtis Ivanhoff.
- We hold Midsouth in prayer as they search for their next superintendent, and we're grateful for all our superintendents and their staff.

As we walk through these leadership transitions, I'm reminded that we are blessed with extraordinary men and women — each one representing a "yes" to Jesus and his work in his Kingdom. Thank you for saying yes. Your labor is not in vain, and God is working through you. Thank you for letting me serve beside you — it has been one of the great privileges of my life.

Agenda 15. Nominating Committee for Ministerium Officers

a. Presentation of Candidates for Election of Secretary.
Pictures and bio's were put on the screen for viewing and reading.

The Nominating Committee of the Covenant Ministerium move to elect as Secretary of the Covenant Ministerium: Rev. Paul Burger or Rev. Gary Carlson. This needs no 2nd as it comes from the Nominating Committee of the Covenant Ministerium. Are there any nominations from the floor? No nominations. Ballot is closed. No discussion.

b. Vote for Secretary(3 year term)
Vote: Paul Burger: 136 Gary Carlson: 99

c. Announcement of results
ELECTED: Rev. Paul Burger as Secretary

Agenda 16. Financial Report & Budget Presentation for 2026-27

Treasurer Alma presented the budget and addresses the changing realities the team addressed as they made difficult changes to the budget. Dues are the only source of income for the budget. Expenditures fall into three main areas: Investing in our membership (65%), investing in leading (33%) and administration (2%)
2025-26 Numbers
Began the year with $18,000 and ended with $5,000
Collected $24,000 less than planned
Total income: $111,000
Total expenses: $124,000
Deficit: $13,000
2026-27 Budget
Dues income: $106,970
Expenditures decreased by an average of 15%

Discussion
Speaker 1: Spoke in favor of the motion, with a question and a possible recommendation. The question was about the $0 amount given by the Southeast Conference. The recommendation was to consider making dues non-optional.

Note: The $0 number listed for Southeast conference was a mistake in the budget.

Speaker 2: Noted that annual meeting registration income changed from $7,000 to zero, and expressed appreciation to Covenant Events for covering the shortfall.

Vote: For: 251(98.82%) Against: 3(1.18%) Abstain: 6
VOTE: Budget APPROVED

Agenda 17. Vocational Service Awards 2025

The announcement of Vocational Service Awards 2025-2026, which acknowledges clergy who have reached the age of sixty-five, was led by Vice Secretary Angela Yee. She invited those whose names were on the list and present to stand; and then offered a prayer over their lives and ministries.

David H. Ahrens
Edward J. Arroyo
Marc A. Bellaart
Bradley J. Bergfalk
Leofin R. Blanco
Ronald D. Bowman
Robert L. Bryceson
Joseph J. Chase
James Y. Choi
John T. DeLancey
John B. DuBall
Annie Espinoza
Bradley D. Friedlein
Stanley A. Friedman
Gregory A. Fullerton
Jonathan W. Hancock
John P. Human
Andrea L. Johnson
Scott E. Jorgenson
Denise M. Kesanen
Brian D. King
Calvin J. Lindstrom
Stacey lL Littlefield
Kevin L. Lockett
Jeff M. Mazzariello
Bruce McGregor
Fredy Amilcar Merida
Kimberly Anne Morrison
Dean R. Nelson
David K. Nesburg
Timothy C. Olsen
Erico V. Ortega Romero
Robert B. Peterson
Susan L. Peterson
David A. Rasmussen
Bradley L. Reed
Cheryl L. Scherer
Rosa M. Segura
Daniel S. Soderberg
Eric C. Sorenson
Nancy H. Sugikawa
Craig A. Swanson
John Franklin Udochi
Gayle S. Wagar-Gilreath
John S. Wenrich
Linda S. Williams
Michael J. Wilson

Lunch Break

Agenda 18. Prayer and Worship

Agenda 19. Quorum Call

The number of registrants active at the moment of the Quorum call was **(197)**. Quorum was met!

Agenda 20. Continuing education

Continuing education focused on the 50th Anniversary of the ECC ordaining women. Three women shared their testimonies as a woman ordained in the Covenant. ACCW gave a report and Superintendent Brian Johnson spoke about the 51st year of ordaining women.
The following women spoke:

Kat Hampson - Perspective of recently ordained (1-5 yrs)
Carmen Bensink Lewis - Perceptive of several years ordained (15-20 yrs)
Carol Nordstrom - Perspective of one of the first women ordained (45-50 yrs)

ACCW representative Bronwyn Murphy
Today we hold two things at once: celebration and grief.We celebrate. Half of our ordinands are women. Women are serving in every context of ministry. Our male colleagues stand beside their female colleagues in support. There is so much good. And we grieve. Barriers based on gender still exist. We hold those stories too.

As ACCW, we exist to serve women: increasing pulpit supply, serving as ambassadors, and helping women navigate the ordination process.We are storied beings, each with her own story.

But our stories don't exist in a vacuum. They shape one another. Bronwyn shared the persistence of Pastor Sumit Sem in her our story, always encouraging her to take the next step towards ordination. And the story keeps going. One woman's persistence becomes another's calling, which opens a door for the next. As advocates, we sit in the middle of these two realities. Fifty years is worthy of celebration. But let us not settle for "good enough." Let us carry this work into the next fifty years of advocacy.

Superintendent Brian Johnson
Brian Started with thanking our sisters who have been faithful. He then shared the following story. In 2012, forty people left our church because a couple of voices became militant about women in ministry. But four years later, this church called its first female pastor. The church flourished, and the girls in our community had a new vision for their own calling. That is what it looks like to embody the gospel of reconciliation.

Whenever Bryan meets with a church search committee, it's a joy when they understand the next pastor may be a woman. But that doesn't just happen. It is the result of a trusted leader who has taken the time to do two things:

- Teach what Scripture models and what Scripture reveals. The Spirit is poured out equally on men and women. In a culture where many want to baptize hierarchy, let's teach the gospel.

- Schedule gifted and called women to preach in our churches, and not once a year, but regularly. Normalize women in the pulpit. Some of us have been around long enough to know that what people see week after week shapes what they believe is possible.

Disciple your congregations, because if you don't, someone else will. You may meet some resistance, but the good news of Jesus has always messed with the status quo.

Agenda 21. Recommendation for Change in Standing — Serve Clergy

These motions come from the Board of Ordered Ministry, so they do not need a second for the vote. However, anyone who wishes to offer a personal second for any individual receiving a credential may do so, by submitting that request in writing to Secretary Bensink Lewis. Those names will then be included in the Minutes for this meeting.

a. Active to Inactive

The Board of the Ordered Ministry moves that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 141st Covenant Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following individuals has been moved from active to inactive.

James Bergquist (OWSa)
Daniel Booker (OWSe)
Timothy Boynton (OWSa)
Aaron Cho (OWSa)
Timothy Coyer (OWSa)
Kathryn Hage (OWSa)
Michael Hotz (OWSa)
Brandon Hovey (OWSa)
Marcus Lantz (OWSe)
Brenda Salter McNeil (OWSa)
Blake Merwin (OWSa)
Peter Morris (OWSa)
Joel Rude (CSM)
Joshua Swenson (OWSa)

Motion is to approve, does not require a second. discussion: none

Vote: For: 190 (97.44%) Against: 5 (2.56%) Abstain: 3
VOTE: **REPORT APPROVED**

b Inactive to Active
The Board of the Ordered Ministry moves that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 141st Covenant Annual Meeting that the ministerial standing of the following individuals has been moved from inactive to active.

John Paul Harris-Webster (OWSa)
Bradley Thompson (OWSa)

Motion is to approve, does not require a second. discussion: none

Vote: For: 206 (100%) Against: 0 Abstain: 1
VOTE: **REPORT APPROVED**

c. Transferred Credential
On behalf of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, we recommend that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 141st Covenant Annual Meeting that the following individuals have transferred their ordination standing

G. Coby Cagle (OWSa) to the PCUSA.
Mae Cannon (OWSa) to the Reformed Church in America.
Simon Guevara (OWSa) to Glen Ellyn Bible Church.
Youngki Kim (OWSa) to ECO: A Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians
Stephen Pitts (OWSa - retired) to The Wild Fig Network.
Christina Tinglof (OWSa) to The Wild Fig Network.
Brian Turnbow (OWSa) to the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.
Anne Vining (OWSa) to The Wild Fig Network.

Motion is to approve, does not require a second. discussion: none

Vote: For: 203 (99.02%) Against: 2 (.98%) Abstain: 6
VOTE: **REPORT APPROVED**

d**. Resignation of Credential**
The Board of the Ordered Ministry moves that the Covenant Ministerium approve the report to the 141st Covenant Annual Meeting that the following individuals have resigned their ministerial standing and requested that their names be removed from the roster of Covenant Ministers

Joel Anderle (OWSa)
Lois Farrington (CSM - Inactive)
Catherine Gebers (OWSa - Inactive)
Stephen Graham (OWSa - Inactive)
Mathew Hollen (OWSa)
Eugene Kim (OWSa)
Daniel Lee (OWSa)
Elizabeth Sandell (CSM - Inactive)

Motion is to approve, does not require a second. discussion: none

Vote: For: 207 (97.64%) Against: 5 (2.36%) Abstain: 7
VOTE: REPORT **APPROVED**

Rev. Frost prayed over the names who are changing status. All of these represent transition. We receive these transitions with both joy and pain and express our gratitude for their ministry and their service.

22. Recommendation for Approval of Candidates — Serve Clergy

a. Approval of Licenses

We recommend that the Covenant Ministerium concur with the recommendation of the regional ministerial association and the Board of the Ordered Ministry that ministerial licenses be granted to the individuals shown on the License List document.

Motion is to approve, does not require a second. discussion: none

Vote: For: 215 (100%) Against: 0 Abstain: 4
VOTE: RECOMMENDATION APPROVED

b. Transfer of Ordination

We recommend that the Covenant Ministerium concur with the recommendation of the regional ministerial association and the Board of the Ordered Ministry that the following persons be approved for transfer of ordination to the ECC.

Gamaliel Adame
Serving: Iglesia del Pacto Evangelico Grace, Chicago, IL
Ordaining Body: The Evangelical Covenant Church of Mexico
Conference: Central

Ben M. Hutchison/*second Rick Mylander*
Serving: Department of the Air Force Chaplain Corps
Ordaining Body: Southern Baptist
Conference: Midsouth

Jin Y. Lee
Serving: ECC Denominational Offices
Ordaining Body: Korean American Presbyterian Church
Conference: Central

Motion is to concur with the recommendation, does not require a second.
Is there any request for one or more names to be separated out: No

Vote: For:220(100%) Against: 0 Abstain: 0
VOTE: RECOMMENDATION

d. Ordination to Word and Service

We recommend that the Covenant Ministerium concur with the recommendation of the regional ministerial association and the Board of the Ordered Ministry that the following persons be granted ordination to word and service

Jennifer Botzet- Sanctuary Covenant Church, Minneapolis, MN
Jessica Lynn-Leep Fick - Engage South KC Covenant Church, Kansas City, MO
Jose V. Garcia - La Viña Covenant Church, Kerman, CA
Zachary Pennell - Good Samaritan Community Covenant Church, Valley Springs, CA
Stefanie A. Reiner - First Covenant Church, Mason City, IA/*second Kendall Churchill*
Kimberly Jo Roberts - Highrock Church, Arlington, MA
Rachel Kimiko Speedie - Young Life ONE of Greater Sacramento, Elk Grove, CA
Timothy L. White - New Community Covenant Church, Chicago, IL

Motion is to concur with the recommendation, does not require a second.
Is there any request for one or more names to be separated out:

Vote: For: 210 (100%) Against: 0 Abstain: 0
VOTE: RECOMMENDATION

e. Ordination to Word and Sacrament

We recommend that the Covenant Ministerium concur with the recommendation of the regional ministerial association and the Board of the Ordered Ministry that the following persons be granted ordination to word and sacrament.

Maria F. Alarcón González - Iglesia Unidad, Fridley, MN
Kathleen Shaw Andlovec - First Covenant Church, Portland, OR/ *second Jorden Andlovec*
Christa M. Armstead - Midtown Covenant Church, Sacramento, CA
Jenny R. Armstrong - First Covenant Church, Duluth, MN
Hannah M. Baker - Global Personnel: Middle East/North Africa/ *second Jared Baker*
Lynnette A. Boyer -Alaska Conference, Anchorage, AK/*second Craig Nordstrom, Phil Cannon, Curtis Ivanhoff*
James A. Bryde - Faith Covenant Church, Farmington Hills, MI/*second Kendall Churchill, Eric Er*
Bertha E. Carrillo Sandoval - Nuestra Esparanza Covenant Church, Brooklyn Center, MN
Gabriel Jay Catanus - Garden City Covenant Church, Chicago, IL
Hyang Sook Choi - Department of the Army Chaplain Corps
Anthony J. Clerkin - Hope Covenant Church, El Dorado, KS
Kathleen K. Doty - University Covenant Church, Davis, CA
Melissa Duncan - Revive Covenant Church, West Chicago, IL
Asher B. Ernst - City Covenant Church, Spokane, WA
R. Jason Heppner - Hillcrest Covenant Church, Prairie Village, KS
Nichole M. Hernandez - Coastline Covenant Church, Redondo Beach, CA
Albert O. Hong - New Hope Covenant Church, Oakland, CA
Jason S. Hovis - Karmel Evangelical Covenant Church, Princeton, MN/*second Dean Nelson*
Laura S. Jackson - Faith Covenant Church, Farmington Hills, MI/*second Kendall Churchill, Eric Er*
Rachel M. Johnson - Northbrook Evangelical Covenant Church, Northbrook, IL
Won J. Kim - Christ Covenant Church, Villa Park, IL
Laura A. Kozamchak - Presbyterian Homes and Services, White Bear Lake, MN/*second Andrew Stonina*
Juan H. López Pérez - La Bendición Covenant Church, Brooklyn Park, MN
Fernando David Manzano - La Viña Covenant Church, Kerman, CA
Joseph P. Marcucci - Highrock Church, Arlington, MA
Ethan C. May - Anchor Bay Covenant Church, Beverly, MA
Maritza N. Medina - El Encino Covenant Church, Norwalk, CA
Osvaldo Mercado - Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico Belén, Chicago, IL
Paul L. Metzger - Tigard Covenant Church, Tigard, OR
Barry L. Norris - Valley Evangelical Covenant Church, Stillman Valley, IL
Austin D. Penn - Community Covenant Church, Osage City, KS
Mark E. Peterson - Evangelical Covenant Church, Clay Center, KS
Aaron F. Reiher - First Covenant Church, Eureka, CA
Terri M. Russell - Salem Covenant Church, New Brighton, MN/*second Andrew Stonina*
Jamison R. Staples - Renew Covenant Church, Eau Claire, WI
Eliza R. Stiles - Faith Evangelical Covenant Church, Wheaton, IL

Debra L. Strahan - Jesus People USA Covenant Church, Chicago, IL
Jaisy Tam-Harbridge - 20 Church, Vineland, ON
Rachel M. Taylor - Peninsula Covenant Church, Redwood City, CA
Lauren C. Thurston - Mekoryuk Evangelical Covenant Church, Mekoryuk, AK/s*econd Craig Nordstrom, Phil Cannon, Curtis Ivanhoff*
Elijah K. Yuek - South Sudan Covenant Church, Sioux Falls, SD

Motion is to concur with the recommendation, does not require a second.
Is there any request for one or more names to be separated out: No

Vote: For: 229 (100%) Against: 0 Abstain: 0
VOTE: RECOMMENDATION

Rev. Susan Cosio prayed for all of the ordinands.

Agenda 23. Worship & Communal Prayer

Agenda 24. Closing Prayer

Vice President Angela Lee said a closing prayer.

Agenda 25. Benediction & Meeting Adjournment

President Harvey Drake made a motion to adjourn to 2026 Ministerium Annual meeting.
Motion approved.