



Covenant Ministerium Annual Meeting Agenda **June 26, 2024**

2024 Ministerium Officers

Rev. Harvey Drake-Interim President

Rev. TJ Smith-Vice-President

Rev. Carmen Bensink Lewis-Secretary

Rev. Ruby Varghese-Vice-Secretary

Rev. Sandy Norris-Treasurer

Agenda 1. The meeting was called to order at by president Drake at 8:35 pm.

Agenda 2. The Ministerium Officers chose to invite several colleagues from our community to offer prayer and blessing over our gathering at various points throughout the day. These individuals represent the growing mosaic of the Covenant church and will pray in various languages. Rev. Eunice Do (Cantonese), Rev. David Greenidge (Eng), Rev. Prajakta David (Hindi). Pastor Drake introduced the officers of the ministerium.

Agenda 3. The Ministerium Officers desired our time together to be focused on the God we are called to serve. One way to do this is through music. Rev. Josef Rasheed and Rev. Brandi Sanders will lead us in worship throughout our meeting, reminding us that we need God and that we stand on his faithfulness. God is our Rock.

Agenda 4. As our denomination continues to struggle with division and trust the Ministerium Officers decided to focus our continuing education component on practical ministry case studies. Vice President TJ Smith explained that we will be doing the case studies in community. Prior to our discussions Dennis Carlson will share the process for any pastor coming before us for contested credentials.

The initial process of becoming and ordained minister includes the following; discernment, preparation, best fit for service, licensing, COMS, vocational excellence Board of ordered ministry and COMS interviews. Ordination includes vows taken to live under the ethical principals as Covenant pastors. Never the less life can go sideways. We are blessed with systems of accountability and support which has been developed to help clergy with the goal of healing and restoration. If a credential is suspended then BOOM discerns if there is a pathway back to ministry.

Pathways:

- reporting: to superintendent, directly to serve clergy, or a pastor might self report. This covers any/all of the ethical guidelines vowed to uphold.
- On site inquiry is arranged with superintendent, serve clergy, or necessary staff. If the charges are unsubstantiated the pastor continues. If the concerns are valid their credentials are sustained and terms of suspension are established
- Minister is asked to come to before BOOM and the full board, accompanied by superintendent/advocate.
- Healing process and support services are discerned.
- The board walks with a pastor for one to four years, often with two to four meetings with the board.
- The goal is always restoration of the pastor and safety of the people. The one exception is sexual relations with a minor, in this case the suspension is irrevocable.
- The Covenant makes a financial commitment to restoring a pastor. Including counseling, travel, etc. Hours of staff time are expended. For serious cases this can easily be over \$10,000.

The work of the board is confidential. The pastor under care may choose to contest the removal of credentials. The pastor under suspension presents their case in favor of maintaining credential to the ministerium, which then votes. If the ministerium does not affirm by 2/3 super majority the pastor returns to the care of BOOM. If they do affirm the pastors case goes to the annual meeting of the ECC. The annual meeting is the only body able to remove credentials which are contested. A 2/3 majority is needed.

TJ Smith introduced the case studies explaining the desire for different stories to be heard through dialogue. Participants are encouraged to hear one another's stories in order to know each others hearts. Nine case studies, written by Support Clergy and others from our community (Dean Edwards, Tammy Long & Juana Nesta) were distributed. Rev. Herb Frost or conference superintendents are available for anyone who has questions regarding the process Dennis Carlson outlined previously for contested credentials.

TJ prayed and we broke into groups, both in person and on line for discussion. These case studies will be sent out this week for use in our conferences and churches.

Thanks was extended to our events team (Erik, Jill, Jordan and Lumi).

Agenda 5. Lumi Staff, as official Tellers for this meeting, offered training voice and vote, noting the voice and vote technology provided. Test votes were conducted. Instructions were given for how discussion and debate would be conducted both in the room onsite, and virtually.

Agenda 6. Organization of Meeting included the following:

6a. Quorum Call

Quorum call was handled next. The total number of those registered for the meeting was 435. The number of registrants active at the moment of the Quorum call was 328.

Quorum was met!

6b. Adoption of Standing rules

Parliamentarian Jorgensen offered a motion for the Adoption of the Standing Rules, and then summarized the rules. She noted that all documents are online on the Ministerium Website. Please use this website as we are in discussion today. The Standing Rules summary included hybrid meetings - each year we get better at anticipating bugs - and the complexity of that process. She noted that those who were virtual participants need to be responsible for their own devices and service, and any limitations of service or device failure, will not affect the flow of the Agenda, including any votes.

She also reiterated that debates, slight change due to the lag of going back and forth between on line and in person. We've extended the debate time to 30 minutes, with one extension of 30 minutes by 2/3 vote of approval if desired. Those who wish to participate in a debate should choose the most appropriate position, when indicating a desire to speak. This would be required for both in the room and online, as there would be only one cue. She reminded everyone to address the Moderator; to speak positively and respectfully about your own perspective; and noted that it is never appropriate to presume the motives or character of those who may hold an alternative opinion on any issue. She encouraged us to advocate well and not denigrate others. People might want to reference past credential hearings. Omaha was done in executive session and therefore we cannot in public speak of what happened in this hearing. The credential hearing in Kansas City was not in executive session so it can be spoken of. You are allowed 2 minutes to speak. This is for fairness and respect for all of us.

Vote: For: 333(98.81) Against: 4(1.19) Abstain: 2

VOTE: STANDING RULES ADOPTED

6c Approval of Agenda

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

Vote: For:329 (99.10%) Against: 3 (.90%) Abstain: 2

VOTE: AGENDA APPROVED

6d. Consent of Agenda

The Consent Agenda was summarized by Secretary Bensink Lewis. She reported on the Approval of the 2023 Ministerium Annual Meeting Minutes by the Executive Committee of the Ministerium, at the November 2023 meeting. She noted the list on the Agenda which included the Parliamentarian: Anne Jorgensen; the Sergeants-at-Arms: Rev. Tiana Coleman, Rev. Sherin Swift, Rev. Michelle Huskamp, Rev. Kendall Churchill, Rev. Criss Mitchel and the Tellers for this meeting: LUMI staff. The Consent Agenda also included the Financial Report for 2023-2024, provided by Treasurer Norris.

Vote: For: 332(99.40%) Against: 2 (.60%) Abstain: 4

VOTE: AGENDA APPROVED

6e Good Standing Review

The Good Standing review was offered by President Harvey. He gave special thanks to Danielle Ng, Bethany Saldana, and all regional conference staff teams for the significant work involved in getting everyone in Good Standing in order to participate in this meeting! He noted that Good Standing matters a great deal, as we hold each other to common standards for maintaining professional, personal and communal health. Members who are in Good Standing enjoy the benefits of being able to vote at regional and denominational Annual Meetings; receive scholarships and grants as needed; have opportunity to receive gifts from the Crisis Care Fund and other forms of support available through our denomination. Finally, he listed the four components for Good Standing:

1. Paying Annual Dues to the Regional Conference in which each person serves
2. Completing the Minister's Profile Form - updating every three years
3. Yearly Completion of the Vocational Growth Tool each
4. Maintaining regular healthy connections with ECC colleagues: attending Midwinter, Ministerium Annual Meetings, Conference Ministerial Association meetings and retreats, regional cohorts or mentoring groups, Continuing Education opportunities, or through other personal relational commitments, such as Spiritual Direction.

6f Greetings from Colleagues

The names of those colleagues sending greetings to the 2024 Annual Meeting were read by Secretary Bensink Lewis. She spoke of the long-standing relational commitment in the Ministerium of sending written greetings to the gathered Annual Meeting community, by any member who is not able to participate. This is not a rule, but an optional courtesy. Those who sent greetings for this year:

Dan Palomino, Chaplain

Vicki H. Marxen, M. Div. OWS, BCC (retired)

Rob Jacobson, Restoration Covenant Church

Mark Westlind
George R. Goodman, LPCC-S
Dr. Keith J. Hamilton, President - Alaska Christian College
Roberto Reed, Director - Libertad de Cristo Internacional

7. Resolution of Sympathy

Vice Secretary Ruby Varghese introduced and read the Resolution of Sympathy. A video was also presented.

Resolution of Sympathy

We are grateful to God for the following pastors, missionaries, and pastor's spouses whose deaths have been reported to us since we last met in 2023. We will remember these partners in ministry with gratitude at the Ordination and Commissioning Service

RESOLVED, that the 138th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church expresses its sympathy to the families of the Covenant pastors, missionaries, 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

Chun Sam Yi, June 11, 2019, Las Vegas, Nevada
Thorstein Burtness, September 24, 2021, Aurora, Colorado
Jea Tae Kim, December 31, 2022, San Francisco, California
James H. Stone, February 24, 2023, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
Fredrick Holmgren, May 24, 2023, Chicago, Illinois
John K. Larson, June 14, 2023, Batavia, Illinois
Herbert M. Freedholm, July 21, 2023, Palatine, Illinois
George B. Elia, October 2, 2023, Raleigh, North Carolina
Paul A. Johnson, November 7, 2023, Minneapolis, Minnesota
George A. Scranton, November 28, 2023, Seattle, Washington
Philip M. Axelson, December 27, 2023, Warren Rhode Island
David S. Noreen, December 27, 2023, Westminster, Colorado
Wesley R. Olson, December 31, 2023, Turlock, California
James R. Lundell, January 18, 2024, Davenport, Iowa
Walter D. Berg, January 19, 2024, Marion, South Dakota
David S. Dahlberg, March 11, 2024, Grand Rapids, Michigan
Norman G. Bagaas, March 26, 2024, Tucson, Arizona
Randall J. Klassen, April 6, 2024, Walla Walla, Washington
Marla A. Parker, April 7, 2024, Chicago, Illinois
David W. Johnson, April 13, 2024, Port Orange, Florida
David E. Carlson, April 14, 2024, Red Oak, Iowa

Kari B. Lindholm-Johnson, April 20, 2024, Chicago, Illinois
Robert C. Larson, May 18, 2024, Northbrook, Illinois
Jerome O. Nelson, May 19, 2024, Gary, Indiana
Edward F. Delgado, June 10, 2024, Spring Valley, California

MISSIONARIES

Ruth A. M. Widman, July 26, 2023, Batavia, Illinois

PASTOR'S SPOUSES

Sally A. Leigh (Merton), September 2, 2016, Tulsa, Oklahoma
Leola Simmons (R. Dan), May 11, 2020,
Alice J. Nelson (J. Robert), October 12, 2020, Skandia, Michigan
Marilyn Noreen (David), January 15, 2023, Westminster, Colorado
Jane Wiberg (Glen), June 19, 2023, Golden Valley, Minnesota
Linda K. Anderson (Timothy), August 6, 2023, Rochester, Minnesota
Nancy J. Sassaman (Marcus), October 10, 2023, Elkhorn, Nebraska
H. Lorraine Holmen (Gorden), October 20, 2023, Plantation Florida
Noris C. Maldonado (Jorge), October 21, 2023, Hacienda Heights, California
Gudrun Adell (Morland), November 16, 2023, Hayward, Wisconsin
Lois I. Baker (Dwight), December 21, 2023, Eagan, Minnesota
Judith A. Kaufmann (Austin), December 30, Eagan, Minnesota
Sharon Olson (Dennis), January 9, 2024, Stockton, California
Beverly A. Kraft (Vernon), January 11, 2024, Lodi, California
Glen Perkins (Heather), April 13, 2024, Wichita, Kansas
Verna Johnson (Jerome), April 15, 2024, Mercer Island, Washington
Eloise Nelson (LeRoy), May 1, 2024, Northbrook, Illinois
Patricia L. Hallsten (Edwin), May 24, 2024, Naples, Florida

8. Recognition of outgoing Exec. Committee Members:

Secretary Bensink Lewis named the members of the Ministerium Executive Committee who completed their terms of service, and then offered prayer for them.

Lance Davis - President, African American Ministerial Association

Steve Peterson - Chair, Central Conference

Julie Chamberlain - Chair, Midwest Conference

Tom Greentree - Chair, Canada Conference

Ted Law - Chair, Mid South Conference

Carmen Bensink Lewis - Chair, Pacific Northwest Conference

9. Reports from Educational Institutions

a. Centro Hispano Estudios Teológicos (CHET)

Dr. Magdalena Sanchez, Interim President

Dr. Sanchez began expressing it was both a pleasure and a privilege to be with us at the annual meeting. What has happened since last June? The board of directors are grateful for the gifts received from the Evangelical covenant church. CHET is posed to address needs advancement retention and curriculum development. CHET received a Grant which has provided a new teaching platform, as well as, donor management software system for a seamless giving experience. One hundred fifteen students will graduate in 2023. Six of these graduates will receive ministerial credentials at Gather 2024. Dr. Sanchez expressed her thanks to Alma for helping this graduating class. A picture was shown of the gradating class. Statistics: 50% belong to the ECC / 66% are female

With great sadness we announced the passing of our former president and director Dr. Ed Delgado. Dr. Delgado served as Dean and VP of Finance from 2000-2003. He served as president of CHET from 2006-2019, furthering the mission, strengthening community and expanding our offerings. For now we say farewell to our loved brother in Christ. But God has said well done good and faithful servant.

Dr. Sanchez said CHET is honored to be part of the ECC, the unwavering support and love for our institution are invaluable. CHET remains faithful to our mission. CHET would like to continue to serve all pastors with the educational needs of ECC ministry and ECC congregations. Dr. Sanchez concluded by sharing that it has been a privilege to serve as the interim president of CHET. In due time the new president of CHET will be announced. God has provided a well educated and connected individual for a time such as this; raising up home grown Latinos and Latinas

b. North Park Theological Seminary
Rev. Dr. Dennis Edwards, Dean

Dr. Edwards began his report with a video of NPTS. He the expressed his desire to give a brief update with the highlights over the last year. He began with the acknowledging faculty, specifically three installed into endowed positions:

Max Lee. - Profession of New Testament

Michelle Dodson - Asst Professor M B Engebretson Chair in Evangelism & Justice

Hauna Ondrey - Associate Professor of Church History

In the fall and spring NPTS hosted public lectures centered on the topic of humility. At Mid-winter 2024 Dr. Edwards, Michelle Dodson and David Bjorlin, in addition to leading a morning session, did a presentation on Unite and Equip pathways which allow students, in partnership with their conference to get affordable education. Dr. Edwards also acknowledged an initiative called Next, which is an opportunity for churches to invite faculty at NPTS for congregational education through our contextual lifelong learning program.

Dr. Edwards ended by expressing his gratefulness. In his two years as dean several superintendents have invited him to participate and minister in our congregations and conferences. He encouraged us to send NPTS our students. He reminded us that NPTS is our seminary. It should be our first choice. NPTS will contact the students you connect them with. The median number of applications per seminary is one. Dr. Edwards would like that one to be NPTS. He reminded us that serious headwinds are facing us. People are not flocking to seminary. NPTS respects the reality that are in and is learning from the statistics. Dr. Edwards asked us to pray for NPTS and it's overall health.

c. North park University

Mary Surridge, President - moved to later in the day due to a flight cancellation of President Surridge Vocational Service awards were moved up to this space

Vocational Service Awards 2024

Secretary Bensink Lewis

The announcement of Vocational Service Awards 2023-2024, which acknowledges clergy who have reached the age of sixty-five, was led by Secretary Carmen Bensink Lewis. She read these names; invited those who were present to stand; and then offered a prayer over their lives and ministries. Those honored:

Thomas G. Beeghly
Paul H. Betancourt
Scott. A. Burnett
Steve D. Carlson
Peter T Cha
Michael P. Cogan
Edward F. DeForest
Gretchen M. DeNeui
Paul H. DeNeui
Paul R. Duppenhaler
Ruth M. Dutton
Mark. A. Ellingson
Ross B. Erickson
Herbert H Frost
Judith A. Hamrick
Donna M. Harris
Scott D. Hartley
John D. Hege

Stephen A Houwen
Jonathon D. Ireland
Brian G. Johnson
Carolyn S. Johnson
Darryl R. Johnson
Heidi R. Johnston
Sam S Jung
Paul F. Knight
Brian L. Kyle
Jerold A. Lange
Steven P. Larson
Deborah D. Masten
Kevin S. Melin
Deborah C.M.
Montzingo
Joyce E. Norman
David P. Nystrom
Deb L. O'Neil Lewis

Michael J. Ostermann
Stephen F. Pace
Piedad Pena Restrepo
Karl E. Peterson
Chamron Phal
Daniel R. Pietrzyk
Eugenio Restrepo
Keith G. Robinson
Joel P. Rude
Adrienne Low
Satterberg
Eric P. Sparrman
Julie A. Steel
Daniel B. Thompson
Johan J Tredoux
Gregory M. West
Heidi M. Wiebe

10. Report from Board of Ordered Ministry

Rev. Dennis Carlson

Rev. Carlson. chair of BOOM, began his report by recalling his own call to ministry and those who have mentored him along the way. He reminded us that we are present because we have heard a call on our lives.

The BOOM is tasked to walk along side those who God is calling and has called into ministry in the ECC. It's composed of fourteen elected positions, two of which are lay persons, for a term of five years. There are seven ex-officio members. The work of the board centers around credentialing, caring and affirming our ministerium. We do not work along but serve in partnership with many. The process of caring for pastors is done with the help of conference superintendents, conference staff, spiritual directors and professional counselors.

Rev Carlson extended gratitude to those who work along side the BOOM:

Conference staff and COMS

Professors at NPTS & CHET

Covenant Orientation teachers

Pastor Mentors

Covenant Executive Committee

Covenant Board of Nominations

Serve Clergy

Families and Friends of Ordinands

11. Develop Leaders/Serve Clergy

Rev. Herb Frost

Rev. Herb began by giving thanks for the many in his family who also serve as ministers and the privilege it is to lead the Serve Clergy team. The team embraces the name change to "Serve Clergy" as their fundamental role is to serve covenant pastors. He gave thanks for the work of Terry Mark's and the addition of Dr. Jim Lee to their staff.

Serve clergy exists to serve pastors from the beginning to the end of our professional pastoral call. The credentialing process is overseen by Danielle Ng who embodies institutional knowledge and the foresight to see change needed for the future. A majority of our ordinands this year will be female (10%/ 28%). Yet we continue to have sisters who need our affirmation and advocacy because of an unformed theological foundation that has yet to embrace the Imago Dei of us all, male and female.

The Lily endowment continues to be a gift to the Covenant. Marti Burger oversees the stewardship of these funds for our clergy. Karen Ingebretson oversees the pastoral crisis fund. Rev. Frost gave a few examples of current initiatives and asked for our partnership with ideas. It's more effective for pastors who are in the field to bring Serve Clergy ideas for the use of these funds. He announced a new 1.25 million dollar grant for compelling preaching which will be rolled out soon.

Serve Clergy is involved in the care of pastors, foundational is Mathew 9:36-38 reminding us of the importance of the shepherd(s). Strike the shepherd and the sheep will be shattered. Rev. Frost reminded us that we have an enemy who knows that the best way to hurt the sheep is to strike the shepherd. He implored us to do the following:

Take time to be Holy

Receive the Holy Spirit

Take care of yourself

12. Nominating Committee for Ministerium Officers

Rev. Steve Peterson

12 a. presentation of candidates

Steve noted that 17 members make up the Nominating Committee. In their work, they were very intentional in seeking a balance of men and women, and in ethnic representation. They also gave attention to representation from various regions across the denomination, with special focus on candidates from regions not represented in the most recent ministerium officers leadership cycle. In the process of finding two candidates for each open position, they contacted a number of individuals. They were pleased to offer this ballot for the new year of service. .

Candidates for offices were presented. Pictures and bio's were put on the screen for viewing and reading.

12 b. Vote for President (3 year term)

Vote: Drake: 232(%) Lindholtz : 111 (%)

ELECTED: Harvey Drake as President

12 c. Vote for Vice-Secretary (3 year term)

Vote: Yee: 196(%) Peterson: 160 (%)

ELECTED: Angela Yee as Vice Secretary

12d. Announcement of the results (listed above)

13. ECC President's Report

Rev. Tammy Swanson-Draheim

President Swanson-Draheim expressed her gratefulness for those recently elected officers who will be serving and for those present at this Annual Meeting. President Swanson-Draheim began with a photo of her grandchildren, noting when she's not traveling or in Chicago she's in Phoenix or Omaha.

President Swanson-Draheim has been living in three calls from I Thessalonians 5: rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is Christ will. There are many reasons to experience joy and we are called to give thanks in all circumstances not for. As a huge advocate for prayer, she expressed her gratefulness for our prayers noting that the denominational team is praying for the flourishing of pastors, churches and conferences.

She gave an update of the re-organization, stating that more detail will be given at the ECC Annual Meeting. A re-evaluation of working remotely was done, the future will consist of a hybrid model, being in person on certain days. As we are committed to staying in Chicago and many meetings take place in the building, the building is no longer for sale.

President Swanson-Draheim expressed her gratefulness for the extraordinary leadership of Dr. Magdalena Sanchez. She's also deeply grateful for Steve Dawson as they searched for the VP of Finance, Cindy Hoffman. She also expressed her gratefulness for Paul Lessard who stepped into the role of VP for Mission Priorities while also serving as the interim minister of Serve Globally. At the annual meeting we will officially vote for Paul Robinson to have this position. Dierdra Clark has stepped into the role of Corporate secretary for which President Swanson-Draheim is grateful. She asked for prayer as they are still seeking a VP of Missions Services. She stated that the re-organization taking place at Covenant offices will be implemented by July 1, 2024.

President Swanson-Draheim ended by briefly addressing the bylaw proposal that will be voted on. She noted we are in days where trust in institutions and leaders is very low. She'd like to think that the ECC is better but guessed some present have experienced this phenomena in their churches. The working group has been as transparent as possible seeking to foster communication and receive feedback. An FAQ sheet was published and distributed, literally 100 of hours have been invested in the process. She stressed that regardless of what participants think of the proposal we are her friends, we can have a different opinions and still be in relationship with her. President Swanson-Draheim's hope and prayer is that some trust has been earned during this process.

President Swanson-Draheim made a commitment when she drew up the proposal for an integrated proposal. If the proposal passes she will initiate a presidential task force to continue the work. She mentions this because she wants us to hear the purpose is not to change our mission but to consider different pathways of accountability for pastors who have contested credentials. This will most likely take two years. The communication and feedback takes time and has been very useful. If this task force comes together nothing will be created in vacuum. A vote on this will be needed.

The task force will be convened only if the bylaw change is approved. Why?

1. This proposal was brought a 100 leaders who unanimously approved of it. It will feel like a bait and switch to President Swanson-Draheim if it falls and we move forward anyway.
2. Not positive vote will demonstrate we are not in a space that will be needed for the task force. Without the readiness we can't give focus to this work when there are so many things that need attention around us.

President Swanson-Draheim went on to say that she's not sure what kind of ideas will come to fruition in this process. But, She thinks something happens when we gather people, pray and talk that doesn't happen when it's just one person by themselves. She hopes ideas emerge together and then the process will receive feed back. She is committed to transparency similar to this bylaw proposal.

14. Prayer

President Harvey Drake

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Lunch break

15. Prayer & Worship

Rev. Dominique Gilliard lead us in prayer for the next session. Prior to prayer he shared resources the ECC has developed, in response to the request of pastors and leaders, to disciple church members to see politics through the lens of Christ and not the reverse. A suite of materials and immersive discipleship experiences are available to help address theological issues as the body of Christ.

Rev. Josef Rasheed, Rev. Brandi Sanders led us in worship through music

16. Case Study Response

Executive Board Officers

A representative from each case study shared the highlights of their group discussion. The officers expressed their hope and prayer for these case studies to be used in conference clusters and cohorts.

Nominating Committee for Ministerium Officers

Rev. Steve Peterson

This part of the meeting was done again due to a glitch in the voting system when the nominees were presented. The point of orders we are revisiting at this time:

1. Language specific to Roberts rules. There was no call for a specific nomination from the floor. This could have been done during discussion.
2. When we vote there needs to be both candidates names and an option to abstain.

We have a nominate from the floor for Corey Johnsrud from Dan Shuttler.

The nominating committee and the ministerium move to vote for the nominations - Harvey Drake, Steve Lindholtz, Corey Johnsrud

12 b. Vote for President (3 year term)

Vote: Drake: 250(68.12%) Lindholtz : 52 (14.17%) Johnsrud: 65 (17.71%) abstain 15

ELECTED: Harvey Drake as President

The nominating committee recommends Angela Yee and Mary Peterson for Vice Secretary. No nominations from the floor.

12 c. Vote for Vice-Secretary (3 year term)

Vote: Yee: 210(%) Peterson: 160(%) abstain #(%)

ELECTED: Angela Yee as Vice Secretary

12d. Announcement of the results (listed above)

17. Governance Change Proposal

a. Presentation of Proposal

President Tammy Swanson -Draheim Governance Working Group

President Swanson-Draheim gave the background to the formation of the governance change proposal. She explained the process of sharing the proposal with the following: Executive Board of Ministry, Board of Ministry, Council of Superintendents, Covenant Offices. All of these groups affirmed this proposal. Upon their affirmation a governance working group was formed consisting of; President Swanson-Draheim, Dierdra Clark, Susan Cosio, TJ Smith and Anne Jorgensen (serving as parliamentarian).

b. Proposed Constitutional amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Covenant Ministerium

i. Motion

Dierdra Clark read the proposal, explaining the proposal itself and the process. Members of the governance working group shared why they are in favor of the proposal.

There was continued debate for thirty minutes. Question was called to end debate, which was seconded. This needs a two thirds vote to end

Motion to end debate

Vote: For 211(57.49%) 156 #(42.51%) abstain 14

VOTE: MOTION FAILED

Cody Taylor makes motion to extend the dialogue by 20 minutes.

Motion to extend dialogue

Vote: For 152(42.58%) Against 205(57.42%)abstain 10

VOTE: MOTION FAILED

Call to vote on Proposed Constitutional amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Covenant Ministerium

Vote: For 199 (52.51%) 180 (47.49%) abstain 9

VOTE: MOTION FAILED

President Swanson-Draheim expressed her thankfulness for our engagement in the process, stating that no matter the outcome we can still love each other and be friends.. She stated the work has been done and the outcome is in God's hands.

c. Proposed Bylaw amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Covenant Ministerium

**Serve Clergy
Rev. Herb Frost**

**d. Proposed language changes to the Rules for the
Ordered Ministry of The Evangelical Covenant Church**

**Serve Clergy
Rev. Herb Frost**

- i. Motion
- ii. Three revisions 1. 2. 3rd advocate is support service. We recommend that the covenant ministerium approve the rules as described.

The recommendation is made by Rev. Frost that we vote on items c and d together since they are only language changes. There was brief dialogue needed for clarification purposes.

Motion to separate the three language changes\ items into 3 individual votes - second received.

Motion to separate items

Vote: For 136(46.90%) 154 (53.10%) abstain 26

MOTION FAILED

Vote: For 295 (91.05%) 29 (8.95%) abstain 17

VOTE: MOTION APPROVED

18. Break

19. Financial Report & Budget Presentation for 2024-2025 Treasurer Rev. Norris

The FY 2023-2024 financial report was approved in the consent agenda; Rev. Norris made a couple comments on last fiscal year. Rev. Norris suggested we look at different financial reports with the analogy of different maps. We started May 1 2023 with a pin drop at \$45,744. Then she suggested that the driving directions app is like the budget telling us the financial plan for the next year. A year ago our budget predicted we would end the year with a pin drop balance of \$37,268. We didn't hit that target – we ended the year with \$35,057 in the bank. She stated she wasn't concerned about the deviation because a budget is a guide and not a rule.

If we were to compare the actual route we took on this trip with the route we thought we would take a year ago, two variances stand out: differences between actual and estimated amounts for travel and the Women in Leadership Midwinter event but more significantly and importantly, lagging dues payments. Everyone in this room has paid our dues to participate. Rev. Norris asked us to encourage our friends and colleagues to recognize the value of our shared life and the support given through our dues.

On to the proposed budget for fiscal year 2024-2025. The Executive Committee is proposing an increase of \$10 per member– from \$85 to \$95. Dues have not been increased since 2015 and prior to this in 2005. If you want to gauge this against inflation, if the \$85 from 2015 increased each year to keep pace with inflation, we would be \$115 now. We estimate that 80% of our 1,721 dues eligible members will pay dues next year so our dues income estimate is \$130,796.

On the expense side, we would like to increase our support of the ACCC and CCA. Our associations use the funds received for scholarships to events and conferences. We want to increase Midwinter scholarships by \$2000 specifically focusing on bi-vocational leaders who have to take time off their other job to participate in Midwinter.

This budget proposal suggests a surplus of \$696. To go back to the map and pin drop analogy, if we meet this budget, our location pin will move to \$35,753.

We have a clean audit report which can be found posted on the Covenant Ministerium website.

A motion was made to vote on our 2024-2025 Budget as posted on the ECC ministerium website. No Discussion

Vote: For: 249 (98.42%) Against: 4 (1.58%) Abstain: 3
VOTE: BUDGET APPROVED

20. Vocational Service Awards 2024 this was moved up in the agenda in order to move th North Park University report to later in the day.

North Park University
Mary Surridge, President

President Surridge began with a greeting and expressing her joy in serving. She started with the exciting news that this years class is the third largest class in the history of NPU.

Highlights from the year include the following:

- NPU choir had many opportunities to go out into the community

- NPU invited Covenant pastors to speak at weekly chapel services

- Great year for Viking sports program:

 - women's basketball - undefeated

 - winning baseball program

 - winning football program under christian leader Kyle Rooker

- Priority to introduce faith to students: year of expression of our mission especially in the city - students organized clothing, toy and supply drive for a new migrant shelter housing 300 families.

- Sister campus in Sweden - around Christmas time we honor staff members for milestone years 610 collective years served by 48 individuals

- Students participated in Sankofa

Blue & Gold day to honor our alumni and those that help us raise money
Commencement - NPU offers a tremendous education in christian community, at a price point one can afford, preparing students to graduate and go into the world to serve.

President Surridge ended by sharing her gratefulness for a decision made forty- six years ago, for NPU to remain in the heart of the city at it's current location. The decision to stay in Chicago continues to direct NPU and it's mission. Four students were asked to talk about the importance of being in the city and living out their faith. Video Testimonies of students were shared. President Surridge ended by expressing her gratefulness for the support and endorsement of this important mission mission of NPU.

21. Women in Leadership Awards

Vice-Secretary Varghese

Vice-Secretary Ruby presented the following three awards:

She Advocates: To be awarded to a woman with exceptional gifts of advocating, whose courage, resilience, and faithfulness empowers others and brings liberation and hope to the vulnerable and oppressed.

She Leads: To be awarded to a woman with exceptional leadership capacities - whose authority, wisdom, and creativity builds up ministries and people to be more effective and strong Gospel witnesses.

She Preaches: To be awarded to a woman with exceptional preaching abilities - whose proclamation of the Good News speaks truth and breathes life into those whom she disciples, teaches, and impacts. - gather the information from the website regarding the award and the core values.

She advocates - Rev. Linda Williams

Rev. Williams accepts her award and shares some words of gratitude

Due to time specific agenda items She Leads & She Preaches will be awarded later in the afternoon.

22. Recommendation for Change in Standing

**Ordered Ministry /Serve Clergy
Rev. Herb Frost**

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

BumYoung Kim (OWsa)

Jeffrey Loewen (OWsa)

Tabatha Mason (CSM)

John Teter (OWsa)

Al Tizon (OWse)

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

Vote: For: 248(98.41%) Against: 4(1.59 %) Abstain: 14
VOTE: REPORT APPROVED

b. Inactive to Active

Aune Carlson (OWsa)

Kyle Small (OWsa)

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

Vote: For: 264 (99.62%) Against: 1(.38%) Abstain: 3
VOTE: REPORT APPROVED

c. Transferred Credential

Douglas Bixby (OWsa) to the United Church of Christ

Eva Cudmore (OWsa) to the United Church of Christ

Andrea Marie Johnson (OWsa) to the United methodist Church

Stephen Wiens (OWsa) to the United Church of Christ

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

Vote: For: 253 (96.56%) Against: 9(3.44%) Abstain: 13
VOTE: REPORT APPROVED

d. Resignation of Credential

Nathan Albert (OWsa)

Rebecca Barnett (OWsa)

William Barnett (OWsa)

T. Paul Burdick (OWsa- retired)

Brian Estrella (OWsa)

Ralph Moller (OWsa)

Troy Parson (OWsa)

Bob Shim (CM)

Mary Putera (OWsa)

Julio Sical (OWsa)

Jonathon Woolner (OWsa)

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

Vote: For: 254 (94.78%) Against: 14(5.22%) Abstain: 17
VOTE: REPORT APPROVED

e. **Reinstatement of Credential**

Robin Swieringa (OWsa)

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

Vote: For: 252 (98.82%) Against: 3(1.18%) Abstain: 17

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.

23. Recommendation for Approval of Candidates Ordered Ministry /Serve Clergy
Rev. Herb Frost, Danielle Ng

a. Approval of Licenses

The list of those applying or licenses is located on the ministerium website

Motion is to concur with the recommendation, does not require a second.

Vote: For: 258 (99.61%) Against: 1(.39%) Abstain: 3

VOTE: RECOMMENDATION APPROVED

b. Transfer of Ordination

Henry M. Burbano - Esperanza Covenant Church, Houston, TX

second: Margie Swenson

Georgia A. Hill - Life Church Riverside, Detroit, MI

Jonathon V. Kosec - Evangelical Covenant Church of Bay Indies, Venice, FL

Sung Ryong Kwak - Dodam Covenant Church, Mount Prospect, 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: none requested.

Vote: For: 265 (100%) Against: 0(0%) Abstain: 3

VOTE: RECOMMENDATION APPROVED

c. Ordination to Word and Service

Rachel M. Hart - Linwood Covenant Church, Wyoming, M

Amy E. Long - Minnehaha Academy, Minneapolis, MN

Phyllis K. Myung - Great Road Church, Acton, MA

second: Rev. Diane M. Borden, Cheryl Lynn Cain

Hannah F. Nielsen - The River Church Community, San Jose, CA

Deborah E. Packnick - Covenant Church of Easton, Easton, CT

Andrea J. Spicer - Jesus People USA, Chicago, IL

second: Rev. Diane M. Borden, Cheryl Lynn Cain, Linnea K. Ek

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: none requested.

Vote: For: 274 (100%) Against: 0(0%) Abstain: 2
VOTE: RECOMMENDATION APPROVED

d. Ordination to Word and Sacrament

Benito Amaya - City Gateway Covenant Church, Compton, CA
David M. Barboza - Grace Hills Covenant Church, Angels Camp, CA
Leanne M. Benton - Redeemer Covenant Church, Tulsa, OK
Jessica C. Boggs - Evangelical Covenant Church, Princeton, IL
 second: Rev. Diane M. Borden, Linnea K. Ek
Leonardo E. Carrillo - Comunidad Cristiana, I.P.E., Highland Park, CA
D. Alejandro Carrizo - Las Buenas Nuevas Covenant Church, Houston, TX
 second: Margie Swenson
Adam J. Christian - First Covenant Church, River Falls, WI
Allison E. Corriveau - Newton Covenant Church, Newton, MA
Prajakta S. David-Kelley - The Evangelical Covenant Church, Chicago, IL
 second: Linnea K. Ek, Ruby Varghese
Joy A. Fishler - Life Community Church, Roseville, CA
Rodney M. Gadsden - CrossRoads Covenant Church, DeSoto, TX
 second: Margie Swenson
Kyle J. Harmon - Pine Lake Covenant Church, Sammamish, WA
 second: Rev. Rebecca J. Worl, TJ Smith
Megan R. Herrold Sinchi - Re-entering call process
 second: Linnea K. Ek
Randall J. Hoffbeck - Community Covenant Church, Eagle River, AK
 second: Steve Weihsmann
John S. Kim - New Life Covenant Church, Palatine, IL
 second: Rev. Diane M. Borden
Rebekah J. Lindberg - Community Covenant Church, Peabody, MA
 second: Rev. Diane M. Borden, Steve Johnson, Linnea K. Ek
Daniel E. Parry - New Gottland Evangelical Covenant Church, McPherson, KS
Evans Paul - Serve Globally Personnel: serving Haiti
Carmen R. Quinche - Comunidad Cristiana I.P.E., Highland Park, CA
Lynette E. Sanchez - Countryside Community Church, Sherwood, OR
 second: Katy Andlovec, Carmen Bensink Lewis
Serena A. Sinclair - Covenant Grove Church, Modesto, CA
Edith G. Soto López - Jesus Fiel Amigo Covenant Church, Brooklyn Park, MN
Daniel P. Swartz - Emmanuel Covenant Church, Shoreview, MN
Laura M. Tarro - Bethany Covenant Church, St. Charles, IL
 second: Rev. Bill Orris, Linnea K. Ek
Alexander J. Taylor - Evangelical Covenant Church, Princeton, IL

Anthony R. Thomas - Calvary Covenant Church, Chicago, IL
Rebecca J. Worl - Pine Lake Covenant Church, Sammamish, WA
second; Brad Hill, Carmen Bensink Lewis, Taylor Burgoyne, Katy Andlovec,
TJ Smith

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: none requested.

Vote: For: 282 (100%) Against: 0(%) Abstain: 2
VOTE: REPORT APPROVED

Pastor Ed Crey was invited to pray for the ordinands.

Women in Leadership Awards

Vice-Secretary Varghese

Presentation of the women in leadership awards was continued - moved due to time specific items on the agenda.

She Leads Rev. Ieisha Hawley

Rev. Hawley accepts her award and shares some words of gratitude

She Preaches - Rev. Grisel Medina

Rev. Medina was unable to be present for the presentation of the award. Vice Secretary Varghese reads her acceptance response.

24. Recognition of out-going Ministerium Executive Board Vice President TJ Smith

a. Rev. Ruby Varghese - Vice Secretary

Rev. Smith thanked Ruby for her work behind the scenes and keeping the committee organized, stating her gifts will be missed.

Rev. Varghese said it's been a joy to serve the awesome pastors in our denomination, to see growth and be inspired by her peers. She encouraged the ministerium to live into what it means to be a part of the ministerium; to act justly, to love mercy and to walk humble with one another. Ruby highlighted some of the crises we are facing as a ministerium calling our attention to the youth who are leaving the church. She stated the work is not easy but, God has called us to care for another and those who desperately need Jesus. Rev. Varghese committed to continuing to pray for our denomination. She expressed her gratitude for being able to serve. She ended by encouraging us to let the Spirit lead us into what he's calling us to be.

b. Rev. Harvey Drake - Interim President

Rev. Smith thanked Rev. Drake for his work as interim president and congratulated him on the continuation of serving in this role for the next three years.

25. Worship & Communal Prayer

Rev. Josef Rasheed & Rev. Brandi Sanders lead us in a powerful time of worship in which we praised God for his enduring faithfulness.

26. Closing Prayer -

Rev. Ruby Varghese

Rev. Curtis Ivanhoff Rev. Alma Zamudio Macial

The closing prayer over our meeting was prayed in English, Spanish and Inupiaq. To God be the Glory.P

27. Benediction & Meeting Adjournment

President Drake

Reverend Drake motioned for the meeting to be adjourned at 5:31pm

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Carmen Bensink Lewis
Executive Committee Secretary