

## A REPORT FROM THE 2023 MINISTERIUM NOMINATING COMMITTEE

I bring you greetings on behalf of the Ministerium Nominating Committee. My name is Rev. Mary Chung March and I serve as the Chair of this committee. According to Ministerium bylaws in Article 1, Section 1.1, "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 Nominating Committee of the Covenant Ministerium."

The Ministerium Nominating Committee has appreciated the prayers and many names people have put forward. After many meetings, times of prayer, and much discernment on the part of many candidates, the Ministerium Nominating Committee is happy to present two candidates for the Ministerium Secretary position and two candidates for the Ministerium President position.

The nominating committee met six times between November 2022 and May 2023 to engage in the nominating committee discernment process intentionally striving for a balance of men and women as well as a balance of ethnic and regional representation.

### MINISTERIUM NOMINATING COMMITTEE WORKING RULES

- We will strive for an even number of men and women officers.
- We will not have more than two officers from the same conference.
- We will have at least one ministerium officer who is a member in good standing of an ethnic association and be mindful of diverse ethnic representation.
- We will give special consideration to nominees from conferences that have not had an officer in the last cycle.

We are grateful for this final candidate list and we believe these candidates are the right candidates for this time in our denomination. What this final candidate list does not show is our intentionality in considering and asking women as nominees for the President position and men for the Secretary position. It also does not show our intentionality in considering and asking leaders of color to consider both positions. Our Nominating Committee did a thorough job approaching and discerning a diverse group of leaders across all eleven conferences prayerfully seeking the right person for the right job at the right time. Candidates from all eleven conferences were recommended and considered. We also received feedback from the Ministerium officers who currently serve or served in these two positions and asked for insight on what specific characteristics, traits, and gifting would be best for these positions. All these factors

were considered in determining the nominees. In each case, two people rose to the top and accepted the invitation.

### **MINISTERIUM PRESIDENT POSITION**

In total, we had 60 separate recommendations for the Ministerium President position. All 60 were considered and the pool was narrowed to a smaller group to be invited to consider the nomination.

Of the 60 recommendations	#	%
women	17	28%
men	43	72%
POC	24	40%

*Job Description: The Ministerium President shall be an ordained minister in good standing of the ECC. The President leads the Ministerium Officers in their meetings and business throughout the year. The President prepares the agendas and convenes the meeting of the Ministerium Exec Committee each November and the ECC Ministerium Annual Meeting each June. The President is also a voting member of the Board of Ordered Ministry and serves on the Executive Committee of the Board of Ordered Ministry serving as the Ministerium's representative on this Board. The President grants/denies access to the email roster of credentialed clergy in the ECC for communication throughout the year. The President grants/denies the exemption from payment of Ministerium dues because of hardship. The President represents the Ministerium in requested duties at the Midwinter Conference and the ECC Annual Meeting. The President represents the Ministerium in other areas throughout the ECC as requested. The President is among those who lay hands on the ordinands at the ECC Ordination Service.*

**The two candidates for Ministerium President are:**

**Rev. Harvey Drake**

**Rev. Tom Ek**

### **MINISTERIUM SECRETARY POSITION**

In total, we had 30 separate recommendations for the Ministerium Secretary position. All 30 were considered and the pool was narrowed to a smaller group to be invited to consider the nomination.

Of the 30 recommendations	#	%
women	25	83%
men	5	17%
POC	20	67%

*Job Description: The Ministerium Secretary shall be a minister in good standing of the ECC. The Secretary shall take minutes at each business meeting, including the Ministerium Executive Committee held each November, and the Annual Meeting of the Ministerium held each June; the Secretary shall submit minutes from the Annual Meeting in a timely manner to the Ministerium Exec Board and the Office of Ordered Ministry. Under the direction of the Ministerium President, the Secretary shall send out correspondence throughout the year as it pertains to the Executive Committee of the Ministerium or the entire Ministerium. She/He will be responsible for coordinating housing information for each Executive Committee meeting in collaboration with the Events Office of the ECC. He/She will be responsible for requesting and receiving and sharing annual reports from each regional conference and Ministerium Association. In partnership with the Office of Ordered Ministry and the Vice-Secretary, the Secretary will also track updates needed to the Ministerium and CovChurch websites regarding current reports, minutes, and resources. The Secretary shall also maintain/access an accurate list of the current members of the Executive Committee of the Ministerium in partnership with the Ordered Ministry Office.*

**The two candidates for Ministerium Secretary are:**

**Rev. Carmen Lewis Bensink**

**Rev. Nicole McClurg**

The votes will take place during the Ministerium Annual Meeting on June 28, 2023, in Garden Grove, CA. To vote, you must be a Ministerium member in good standing and register for the meeting. Please register before Monday, June 5th.

Sincerely,

The Ministerium Nominating Committee

## CANDIDATE BIOS (also available at [WWW.ECCCLERGY.ORG](http://WWW.ECCCLERGY.ORG))

### Ministerium President Candidate: Rev. Harvey Drake



#### HARVEY DRAKE JR.

Rev. Harvey Drake is pastor of Emerald City Bible Fellowship, a vibrant multi-racial church in Seattle, Washington, committed to making the gospel relevant to every facet of a person's life. He is also the Founder and President of Urban Impact (formerly Emerald City Outreach Ministries), a thriving community-based organization that is proactively addressing the total needs of families in Seattle's Rainier Valley. Ordained in 1979, Rev. Drake has worked extensively with youth serving as Area Director for both Youth for Christ (Oakland, CA) and Young Life (Seattle, WA).

Since 1987 Rev. Drake has been devoted to addressing urban and inner-city issues through Urban Impact. Rev. Drake's activities include participation on a number of national and local boards. He is also involved in various community affairs, believing that effective development necessitates our presence and involvement. He is a popular speaker at conferences, churches, and community events. Rev. Drake's greatest honor comes from being married to Andrea Drake, Ed.D, since 1977. Harvey and Andrea have two adult sons and five grandchildren. He loves to travel, read and cook. He is a singer and inspirational worship leader. He also loves to play football, watch basketball and admire others who jog.

He has also completed the Covenant Orientation Program and the Duke Divinity Institute of Reconciliation. He has been active in a number of Covenant ministries, boards, and commissions including the Urban Commission, Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, Covenant Living (formerly Retirement) Communities, and is a member of the African American Ministers Association (AAMA) as well as the Pacific Northwest Conference's Committee on Ministry Standing (COMS).

**Ministerium President Candidate: Rev. Tom Ek**



Rev. Tom Ek retired in September 2021, after nearly 26 years as pastor of Covenant Church in Galesburg, Illinois, and over forty years in Covenant ministry. He and his wife Cheryl have a daughter and two sons all serving in Covenant ministry. They are also grateful to have two daughters-in-law and are always delighted to talk about their first grandchild, Britta. Over the years, Tom has served on the Board of the Ordered Ministry, as Treasurer of the Covenant Ministerium and of two regional ministerial associations, and on the camp board for the Central Conference. The Eks continue to make their home in Galesburg from whence they have ventured out this year for Tom to serve as Interim Pastor in Paxton, Illinois.

## Ministerium Secretary Candidate: Rev. Carmen Bensink Lewis



Rev. Carmen Bensink Lewis loves the Church and is deeply grateful to call the Covenant home. Her family started attending Trinity Covenant when she was ten. In this church family, her faith was formed, her gifts recognized and her call to ministry confirmed. The support of Trinity allowed her to explore her call both abroad and at home. Her work in Colombia and Central America has deeply formed her theology and equipped her to be a bridge builder. Carmen has served both the denomination and her local conference.

While pursuing her M. Div degree at North Park Theological Seminary Carmen met her husband Scott. Upon graduation, they planted and pastored a multi-cultural church in Salem, Oregon. As an ovarian cancer survivor, one of Carmen's greatest gifts is her son Gideon. Carmen is passionate about creating worship experiences that facilitate participation and creativity. She enjoys coffee with friends, writing, time with family, and creating beauty. Her happy place is the Oregon coast.

## Ministerium Secretary Candidate: Rev. Nicole McClurg



Rev. Nicole McClurg has a passion for creating space for others to grow in living a wholehearted life with God and neighbor while learning the unforced rhythms of God's grace (Matt 11: 28-30).

Nicole is an ordained pastor in the ECC and a certified Spiritual Director. She holds a master's degree in Spiritual Formation and is currently completing a DMIN in Leadership and Spiritual Formation through Portland Seminary. Her research emphasis is developing leaders for sustainable, healthy ministry. Nicole founded Cedar Tree Ministries in 2014 where she offers spiritual direction, retreat leadership, and support to pastors and congregations. Nicole works with the Central Conference to provide clergy care check-ins and is active in her local congregation preaching, teaching, and leading spiritual formation experiences in worship. She has previous experience serving as Vice Secretary of the Central Conference Ministerium Association. Nicole's ministry experience has equipped her to be a competent administrator and honed her gifts in compassionate listening, discernment, disciple-making, and soul care. Nicole lives in Indiana with her husband and youngest son while her oldest son attends music school

in Boston. Some favorite pastimes include hiking, relaxing in nature, traveling, playing board games, and reading good books.