



121<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting  
The Central Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church  
April 27—28, 2007 Glen Ellyn, IL

#### DELEGATE SUMMARY

Mission: In response to the Great Commission, the Central Conference, empowered by God's Spirit, through shared ministries plants, strengthens and unites churches to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Opening worship featured The House Covenant Church, Glen Ellyn Covenant Church, and the conference staff celebrating our faith, bringing forth the Bringing Our World to Christ prayer cards, and gathering for communion.
- 125 attendees included 86 delegates representing 47 of 110 churches in the region
- Reports highlighted ministries that make our region “stronger together” in areas of planting churches, revitalizing congregations, and connecting Covenanters.
- Elected to the Executive Board: Marilee Backstrand (Arbor Covenant Church, Madison WI), John Bethancourt (Libertyville Covenant Church, Libertyville IL), Russ Knight (Calvary Covenant Church, Chicago IL), Elise Murchison (Community Covenant Church, St. Louis MO), Jennifer Zerby (Evangelical Covenant Church, Batavia IL), Genoa Giles (New Jerusalem Life Covenant Church, Worth IL)
- Elected to the Harbor-Point Ministries Board: Katie Hampton (Winnetka Covenant Church, Wilmette IL), Willa Simmons (Church of Gary Covenant Church, Gary IN), Ray Erickson (Ravenswood Covenant Church, Chicago IL), Susan Dawson (North Park Covenant Church, Chicago IL)
- Elected as District Supervisor: Aaron Johnson and Adam Phillips (co-supervisors of Chicago North District)
- Vote approved a new District plan of 11 area clusters (from 9 clusters) to accommodate growth in the region and acknowledge natural affiliations among churches and pastors
- Vote welcomed a new church into the conference: Zion Evangelical Covenant Church, Sheboygan WI who presented gifts to the conference including a handmade chalice and communion plate, an assortment of Wisconsin cheese, and a Badger cap
- Covenant Children's Family Services (Princeton IL) is serving over thousands of individuals with counseling, team-building, health and wellness services
- Conference staff presented reports “on the road” with new church plants, conference training and youth events, churches engaged in Natural Church Development, enhanced communications, stewardship tools, and pastoral care of churches in crisis or transition
- Motion from the floor passed to celebrate the Pacific Southwest Conference's creation of a Mosaic Center and exhort our congregations to further commit to multicultural relationships and ministries

- Financial summary for 2006: \$996,109 budgeted, \$905,280 expensed for ministry and revenues of \$773,563 from churches and other sources. Assets of investments, various funds, and physical property total \$2,036,465
- Vote approved a 2007 budget of \$911,534 in revenue with \$1,008,249 in expenses, and a 2008 budget of \$1,186,737 in revenue with \$1,194,573 in expenses
- Camp pastor Bill Fish led attendees in a “Rocking Around the Clock” camp grace preceding lunch (with s’mores dessert) and the Harbor-Point Ministries business session
- Vote welcomed new executive director Ray Warren to Covenant Harbor Bible Camp & Geneva Bay Center (Lake Geneva WI) during the Harbor-Point Ministries Annual Meeting
- The Kingdom Growth campaign reported updates on conference fundraising efforts, new tools for local stewardship development, and opportunities for complimentary estate planning.
- Town & Country Award recognizes Rhianna and Jeff Adkins (Paxton IL) for their dedicated work in rural and small town ministry
- Covenanter newsletter editor Beth Fredrickson recognized for 10 years of service
- Recognitions of retiring clergy: Charles A. Johnson, Mark A. Johnson and Rodney M. Johnson
- Recognition of board member completing terms of service: Byron Miller (Glen Ellyn IL), and Sandi VanderKooi (Wheaton IL)
- Approve candidates for ordination, commissioning and pastoral license
- Motion passed with amendments regarding resolution on examination of connections with and divestment from companies contributing to conflict in Sudan, Africa
- 122<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Central Conference is scheduled for April 25—26, 2008 in Iron River MI and hosted by Grace Covenant Church and the Great Lakes district churches