

**2018 Annual Ministry Highlights**

The 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual Ministry Celebration was truly a celebration of the amazing work God is doing through MWC churches and ministries as we strive to live into our shared vision! It was encouraging to witness the many ways leaders throughout the conference are taking intentional steps towards realizing this vision in their congregations and communities.

**8000 DISCIPLES**  
**140 CHURCHES**  
**30/15% FEMALE LEADERSHIP**  
**25% ETHNIC/MULTI-ETHNIC**



*Gloria and Alex Lopez*

Each session kicked off with phenomenal worship in a variety of styles and languages. Participants were introduced to church planters Gloria and Alex Lopez (Aurora, CO); Mark and Elise Hawke (Erie, CO); Josh and Karrie Ferris (Loveland-Fort Collins, CO); and David and Lisa Barton (Longmont, CO). It was exciting to celebrate the signing of Covenant Agreements with these pastors in real time! Please pray for these leaders as they develop strong launch teams in the coming months.

Delegates had the joy and privilege of voting two new churches into full membership! Shalom Covenant, a Congolese congregation led by Pastor Eugene Kiruhura, is located in Urbandale, IA. Faith Connection Covenant, a

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**From the Superintendent**

Friends,

It was great to gather with many of you at the Annual Ministry Celebration (AMC) in Berthoud! I was greatly encouraged by the enthusiasm around our shared 10-year vision and the commitments made by leaders to live into this vision in their individual contexts. Participants engaged in additional conversation around our shared vision as they attended workshops on racial reconciliation, women in ministry, church planting, and prayer. I am so grateful for your partnership as we pursue this God-sized vision together!

The AMC is an excellent opportunity to highlight the incredible work God is doing through MWC churches and to dialogue around our shared priorities. Many have already expressed the great encouragement experienced through this time of fellowship, worship, and learning from one another. Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2019 AMC in Omaha, NE, April 26-27!

Tammy



town and country church led by Pastor Rustin McClure, is in Washington, KS. Thank you for your ongoing support of these churches as they continue to grow in their ministries!

David Swanson, pastor of New Community Covenant Church in Bronzeville, IL, served as guest speaker for the Friday evening worship service and moderator for the panel discussion with MWC staff around our shared 10-year vision. David preached from Romans 12:1-2 on the call to non-conformity for the sake of the gospel. David says, "I thoroughly enjoyed my time with the Midwest Conference for their Annual Ministry Celebration. The pastors and leaders were hospitable and gracious, even as we dug into some difficult ground involving racial injustice and the call for all churches - no matter how homogenous - to pursue the ministry of racial reconciliation."



**Mark your calendars!**

133<sup>rd</sup> Annual Ministry Celebration  
 First Covenant Church  
 Omaha, NE  
 April 26-27, 2019

The MWC is actively empowering female leaders and clergy. Mary Peterson, Associate Pastor at First Covenant in Omaha and Vice President of the Association of Covenant Clergy Women says, "At the Annual Ministry Celebration, I was so blown away by the commitment of the MWC to take the initiative to set a goal of 30% of pastoral roles filled by women and 15% in lead or co-pastor roles. The MWC is truly making strides to help the kingdom of God be fully realized with the voices of women in pastoral leadership positions."



If you know women who are in the process of discerning God's call on their lives, we invite you to send them to the Exploring Call Retreat October 10-12. Contact [office@midwestconference.org](mailto:office@midwestconference.org) for more information.

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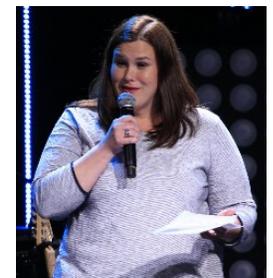
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