

Minutes of the 132nd Annual Ministry Celebration of the Midwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church

Grace Place
375 Meadowlark Dr
Berthoud, CO 80513
April 20-21, 2017

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

OPENING PLENARY SESSION

Friday, April 20, 2018

1:00 p.m. Mountain Time

1. Welcome

Pastor Clay Peck of Grace Place welcomed attendees to the 132nd Annual Ministry Celebration of the Midwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Opening worship was led by the worship team from Pan Y Vino Covenant Church of Prairie Village, KS.

Moderator Kristin King, Chair of the Midwest Conference Executive Board, and Jon Black, Vice-chair of the Midwest Conference Executive Board and Pastor at Countryside Covenant Church in McPherson, KS, also welcomed attendees to the Annual Ministry Celebration.

2. Action on the Proposed Agenda and Standing Rules

The Moderator moved the adoption of the following proposed agenda and standing rules:

AGENDA

Session 1:

1. Welcome
2. Action on the Proposed Agenda and Standing Rules
3. Approval of Minutes of the 132nd Annual Ministry Celebration
4. Introduction of Executive Board, Parliamentarian, Tellers
5. Recognition of Special Guests
6. Report of Credentials
7. Our Shared Mission and Vision

Session 2:

8. Introduction and Prayer for New Churches Joining
9. Second Report of Credentials
10. Ballot Presentation, Elections for Administrative and Institutional Boards
11. Denominational Ministry Update from Rebecca Gonzalez, Executive Director of Operations, The Evangelical Covenant Church, Chicago, IL
12. Recognition of Ordinands
13. Honoring the Memory and Legacy of Covenant Heights
14. Stories of Renewal and Hope

15. Funding Our Mission
16. Panel Discussion
17. Consecration of 2018 Board Members
18. Vote on Church to be Removed from the Roster
19. Announcements and Appreciation
20. Slide Show

STANDING RULES

2018 MIDWEST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MINISTRY CELEBRATION

The written authorities that govern the Annual Ministry Celebration of the Midwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church are the Constitution and Bylaws of the Midwest Conference and Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised. Robert's provides, however, that a given meeting may establish its own standing rules in order to meet its specific needs. These standing rules require the consent of two-thirds of those voting and, when approved, supplement the written authorities. The general provisions of the Bylaws and Robert's apply in every situation not specifically addressed by the standing rules. The following standing rules are recommended for the 2018 Midwest Conference Annual Ministry Celebration:

1. Consideration of any main motion, including its subsidiary motions, will be limited to fifteen (15) minutes.
2. No speech in debate may exceed three (3) minutes, though a delegate desiring to extend his or her remarks may seek the permission of the Meeting to do so.
3. All main motions and amendments shall be submitted in writing to the secretary. Motions arising from the floor during the course of the approved agenda are in order as long as they pertain directly to the business at hand. All other items must be prepared in writing and submitted in advance to the moderator who at his or her discretion will ask permission of the Meeting to add them to the agenda in the order to be received. Motions to amend the Constitution or Bylaws must have been previously reviewed by the Executive Board in order to be received by the Meeting.
4. The Moderator is authorized to modify the order of the agenda to accommodate certain time requirements.
5. Adjournment of the 2018 Annual Ministry Celebration shall be no later than 12:00 p.m., Saturday, April 21, 2018.

The motion carried.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 132nd Annual Ministry Celebration

A motion was made that the minutes of the 132nd Annual Ministry Celebration of the Midwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church be reviewed and corrected by the officers of the Midwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church and approved by the Executive Board.

There was a second. The motion carried.

4. Introduction of Executive Board, Parliamentarian and Tellers



Moderator Kristin King introduced the members of the Midwest Conference Executive Board, the parliamentarian, and tellers:

Parliamentarian – Jan Williams

Tellers – Betsy Parker, Matt Anderson, Kyle Grafel, Chris McIvor

5. Recognition of Special Guests

The Moderator recognized special guests:

Rebecca Gonzalez – ECC Executive Director of Operations

Marti Burger – Director of Covenant Events

Dominique Gilliard – ECC Director of Racial Righteousness

David Swanson – Pastor of New Community Covenant Church of Bronzeville, IL, and our guest speaker

Amy Oxendale – NPTS Director of Seminary Recruitment and Admission

Johnna Muniz – Covenant Missionary

6. Report of the Credentials

Vice-chair Jon Black gave the report of delegates. Jon reported that registration included 92 delegates representing 38 churches and 4 fellowship groups. There are 5 delegates representing conference institutions and organizations, 13 delegates representing the executive board, 24 delegates from Colorado, 9 from Iowa, 25 from Kansas, 2 from Missouri and 14 from Nebraska, for a total of 92 voting delegates. There are also 7 non-voting advisory members.

7. Our Shared Mission and Vision

A video was shown from host church, Grace Place, welcoming the delegates to the Annual Ministry Celebration.

The Superintendent presented the Conference's mission to see 8,000 disciples, in 140 churches, with 25% of those churches being ethnic or multi-ethnic, with 30% of credentialed ministers and at least 15% of lead or co-lead pastors being female. The Superintendent read from 2 Corinthians 5 on the ministry of reconciliation. Delegates repeated the mission statement and the Superintendent explained why we are working together to see lives impacted and communities changed. The Superintendent reminded the assembly that this mission and vision is indeed biblical, that we are simply aligning our hearts with God's heart.

The Superintendent invited Brian Johnson, Director of Church Planting, to provide an update on the great work God is doing in our conference through church plants. Brian then invited Fil Nesta, Director of Hispanic Ministries, and David Williams, Director of Connection and Development, to the stage, along with the churches that were being welcomed into full Covenant membership. Fil interviewed church planters Marilyn and Roberto Rojas who are planting a church in Arvada, CO. Brian interviewed Josh and Karrie Ferris who are planting a church in Loveland, CO. Brian invited 4 churches that were signing Covenant Agreements to the stage:

- Erie's Front Porch, Erie, CO – Pastor Mark Hawke
- Restoration Church, Loveland, CO – Pastor Josh Ferris
- Dunamis Covenant Church, Aurora, CO – Pastors Gloria and Alex Lopez
- Trailhead Church, Longmont, CO – Pastor David Barton

Brian prayed for these churches and pastors.

The Superintendent presented the Sankofa journey, a journey of racial reconciliation that the ECC organizes. The Superintendent invited Lori Anderson and her Sankofa partner, Denese Foxx, up to the stage to give a testimony on the impact of going on the Sankofa trip. Lori and Denese both told how meaningful the journey was and highly recommended it to all the delegates in attendance.

The Superintendent then invited David Williams and Dominique Gilliard to discuss how churches can and should engage in discussions and enter into a journey of racial reconciliation. David introduced Dominique, Director of Racial Righteousness for the ECC's Love Mercy Do Justice (LMDJ) initiative. Dominique introduced resources available in the Covenant. *Invitation to Racial Righteousness* is a program currently under development that should be available by the end of 2018. Dominique also discussed his new book, Rethinking Incarceration. He presented statistics showing the unequal and alarming frequency of incarceration for minorities, specifically African Americans.

The Superintendent then invited Patty Thompson, Director of Prayer and Leadership Mobilization, to the stage to discuss women in ministry. Patty spoke about the importance of having women in leadership positions in the church and her personal experience dealing with resistance to women clergy. Patty asked Greg Applequist and Mary Petersen to share their experience at First Covenant Church in Omaha, NE. Mary was recently called to be the Associate Pastor at First Covenant, where Greg also serves as Lead Pastor.

Patty prayed for women currently in ministry and those that are considering a call.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m., to be followed by breakout sessions, the Ministry Fair and an evening worship service, and to reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 21, 2018.

CLOSING PLENARY SESSION

Saturday, April 21, 2018

8:30 a.m. Mountain Time

8. Introduction and Prayer for New Churches Joining

Moderator Kristin King opened the session with prayer after a time of Spirit-filled worship, led by the worship team of Shalom Covenant Church, Urbandale, IA.

The Superintendent invited Brian Johnson to the stage to introduce and welcome the two churches being welcomed into full Covenant membership in the Midwest Conference.

Brian first introduced Shalom Covenant Church and Pastor Eugene Kiruhura. Shalom is a Congolese congregation that has partnered with Urban Heights Covenant and is ministering to refugees in the Des Moines area. Brian welcomed Tyler Johnson from Urban Heights to present them with a certificate of birth.

The Moderator then shared the following motion brought by the Executive Board of the Midwest Conference:

Be it resolved, that the Midwest Conference Executive Board expresses thanks to God in joyful anticipation of the welcoming into full Covenant membership of Shalom Covenant Church of Urbandale, Iowa, due to be acted upon at the June 2018 Covenant Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

There was a second. The motion carried. Brian prayed for Shalom Covenant.

Brian then introduced the delegates to Faith Connection Covenant Church and Pastor Rustin McClure. Faith Connection is a congregation born out of Clay Center Covenant and planted in Washington, KS.

The Moderator then shared the following motion brought by the Executive Board of the Midwest Conference:

Be it resolved, that the Midwest Conference Executive Board expresses thanks to God in joyful anticipation of the welcoming into full Covenant membership of Faith Connection Covenant Church of Washington, Kansas, due to be acted upon at the June 2018 Covenant Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

There was a second. The motion carried. The Superintendent prayed for Faith Connection Covenant.

9. Report of the Credentials

Vice-chair Jon Black gave the report of delegates. Jon reported that registration included 105 delegates representing 39 churches and 5 fellowship groups. There are 6 delegates representing conference institutions and organizations, 17 delegates representing the executive board, 28 delegates from Colorado, 9 from Iowa, 29 from Kansas, 2 from Missouri and 14 from Nebraska, for a total of 105 voting delegates. There are also 8 non-voting advisory members.

10. Ballot Presentation and Elections

Moderator Kristin King presented the following ballot:

EXECUTIVE BOARD

2-year term

David Anderson*

2-year term

Luana Garron*

2-year term

Travis Nordstrom*

MIDWEST COVENANT HOME

3-year term

Connie Nuttelman*

3-year term

Jan Randell*

3-year term

Jim Small

COVENANT CEDARS BIBLE CAMP

3-year term

Rob Anderson*

3-year term

Brandon Bush

3-year term

Coby Fisher

3-year term

Sandy Kendrick*

TWIN LAKES BIBLE CAMP

3-year term

Todd Asper*

3-year term

Natalie Hoyos

3-year term

John Leusink*

3-year term

Greg Reiner*

3-year term

Sally Wenell*

(*incumbent)

A motion to approve the ballot as presented was made and seconded. The motion carried.

11. Denomination Ministry Update – Rebecca Gonzalez

Rebeca Gonzalez, Executive Director of Operations for The Evangelical Covenant Church, Chicago, IL, extended greetings from the Covenant President and the Chicago office.

Rebecca reported on the upcoming Annual Meeting of The Evangelical Covenant Church and the important elections that will be taking place this year.

She also spoke of the importance of volunteers at the denomination level and encouraged attendees to nominate someone they feel could be of service to the ECC.

12. Recognizing Ordinands

Moderator Kristin King recognized John Madvig, who introduced the ordinands that will be presented at the Covenant Annual Meeting this June:

- Michael Bingeman (OWSa), Chaplain, Bryan Health, Lincoln, NE
- Daniel Bruggeman (OWSe), Associate Pastor to Youth and Families, Renew Covenant Church, Carroll, IA
- Claire McClun (OWSa), Associate Pastor of Adult Discipleship, Hillcrest Covenant Church, Prairie Village, KS
- Heather Perkins (OWSa), Worship Director, The Journey, Wichita, KS

13. Honoring the Memory and Legacy of Covenant Heights

The Superintendent recognized Paul Lessard to lead a time of honoring the legacy of Covenant Heights Camp and Retreat Center. Paul briefly recounted the events that led to the camp closure and led the assembly in a litany to honor and thank God for the wonderful legacy of Covenant Heights.

14. Stories of Renewal and Hope

Brent Thompson recognized the good work that Renew Covenant Church, Carroll, IA, has been doing for the Kingdom. A video was shown featuring the story of Pastors Amber and John Carroll of Hope Covenant Church, El Dorado, KS, and how God worked in their lives.

15. Funding our Mission

Moderator Kristin King recognized Brenda Sawyer, Treasurer of the Midwest Conference Executive Board, to present the financial report for the Midwest Conference and review the 2018 (revised) budget and 2019 budget.

A motion was made to approve the 2018 (revised) budget and the 2019 budget. The motion was seconded and approved.

16. Panel Discussion: Midwest Conference Staff

David Swanson, Pastor of New Community Covenant Church in Bronzeville, IL, led a panel discussion with Midwest Conference staff around the mission priorities of the conference. Specific emphasis during the discussion was placed on the areas of ethnic diversity and female leadership.

17. Consecration of 2018 Board Members

The Superintendent invited all individuals serving on the Midwest Conference Executive Board, Covenant Cedars Bible Camp Board, Twin Lakes Bible Camp Board, Covenant Heights Camp Board, Midwest Covenant Home Board, and Women Ministries Board to come forward to be consecrated. The Superintendent then prayed for all these board members.

18. Vote on Church to be Removed from the Roster

The Moderator moved that the following motion be adopted:

Be it resolved, that the Midwest Conference remembers with gratitude to God the ministry of Colorado Ridge Church of Westminster, Colorado, acknowledging now the completion of its organized work, and commending to God the fruit of its effective spiritual labor over the years 1998-2017 and the “living legacy” funds that will live on in new congregations that will be planted in the future.

The motion was seconded and approved.

The Moderator then prayed for the good work that God had accomplished through Colorado Ridge.

19. Announcements and Appreciation

Moderator Kristin King announced the delegates on behalf of the Midwest Conference to The Evangelical Covenant Church Annual Meeting in June 2018 would be the Superintendent, Brian Johnson and Patty Thompson.

Members from First Covenant Church in Omaha, NE, performed a skit to invite the assembly to the 133rd Annual Ministry Celebration, to be held at First Covenant Church in Omaha on April 26-27, 2019.

The Moderator formally thanked Grace Place for hosting the 132nd Annual Ministry Celebration of the Midwest Conference.

Pastor Wilford Portillo and Pastor Elyse Thornburg, members of the Midwest Conference Executive Board, closed the formal meeting in prayer.

20. Slide Show

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Travis Nordstrom, Secretary