

Minutes of the 130th Annual Ministry Celebration of the Midwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church

Crossroads Covenant Church
5420 N Taft Ave
Loveland, CO 80538
April 22-23, 2016

FIRST BUSINESS SESSION

Friday, April 22, 2016

2:30 p.m. mountain time

1. Welcome

The Crossroads Covenant Church worship team led a time of worship. Moderator Matt Norlen, chair of the Midwest Conference Executive Board and pastor of Wausa Covenant Church, greeted the attendees to the 130th Annual Ministry Celebration of the Midwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

2. Action on the 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 130th Annual Meeting
4. Introduction of Executive Board, Parliamentarian, Tellers
5. Recognition of Special Guests
6. Report of Credentials
7. Our Shared Mission: Transformed Lives and Communities
8. Introduction and Prayer and New Church Joining

Session 2:

9. Second Report of Credentials
10. Denominational Ministry Update
11. Ballot Presentation, Elections for Administrative and Institutional Boards
12. Recognition of Ordinands
13. Transformed Lives and Communities Testimony
14. Focused Feedback
15. Installation of 2016 Board Members
16. Vote on Church Closing
17. Funding our Mission – Approval of Budget
18. Announcements and Appreciation

STANDING RULES
2016 MIDWEST CONFERENCE ANNUAL MINISTRY CELEBRATION

The written authorities that govern the 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 2016 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 Annual Meeting.
4. The Moderator is authorized to modify the order of the agenda to accommodate certain time requirements.
5. Adjournment of the 2016 Annual Meeting shall be no later than 12 p.m., Saturday, April 13, 2016.

The motion to adopt the proposed agenda and standing rules passed.

3. Approval of Minutes of the 130th Annual Ministry Celebration

A motion was made that the minutes of the 130th 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.

The motion passed.

4. Introduction of Executive Board, Parliamentarian, Tellers

Moderator Matt Norlen introduced the members of the executive board, the parliamentarian Michael Orcutt, and tellers Chris Nelson, Chairperson – Oberlin Covenant Church, Oberlin, KS

Betty Banks – Evangelical Covenant Church, Wausa, NE, Rick Boyer – Evangelical Covenant Church, Stanton, IA, Larry Clemons – Evangelical Covenant Church, Clay Center, KS

5. Recognition of Special Guests

Moderator Matt Norlen recognized special guests Cecilia Williams, Executive Minister of Love Mercy Do Justice of the Evangelical Covenant Church; Stephen Dawson, President of National Covenant Properties; Meagan Gillan, Director of Women Ministries of the Evangelical Covenant Church; Rich Blanco, Area Executive Director, North America, for Biblica; and Heidi Peterson of Covenant World Mission.

6. Report of the Credentials and Motion

Co-moderator Dave Scherrer gave the report of delegates. Moderator Scherrer reported that registration thus far included 85 delegates representing 44 churches, 4 delegates representing conference institutions and organizations, and 12 delegates representing the executive board, for a total of 101 credentialed voting delegates.

7. Our Shared Mission: Transformed Lives and Communities

A video was shown welcoming the attendees to Colorado. Superintendent Tammy Swanson-Draheim recognized Midwest Conference staff members Brent Thompson, Director of Church Health; Brian Johnson, Director of Church Planting; Dan Pietrzyk, Director of Missional Leadership Development; Allan Serrano, Director of Hispanic Church Ministry; Lori Anderson, Business Manager, and Brandi Kejr, Manager of Ministry Promotion and Support.

The Superintendent thanked Crossroads Covenant Church for hosting the 130th Annual Ministry Celebration.

A slide show was shown highlighting 130 years of shared ministry in the Midwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

The Superintendent announced Triennial.

The Superintendent invited Dan Pietrzyk to come forward and thanked him for his service to the Midwest Conference. Dan thanked conference staff for their friendship. Tammy presented Dan with a gift to celebrate his leadership and mark his transition from the Midwest Conference to the ECC.

The Superintendent spoke about the mission of the conference and our shared ministry. Tammy shared a story of how the Holy Spirit was moving through Urban Heights Covenant Church, an established church that was in significant decline, but has seen 15 people come to Christ in the last 3 months.

A video was shown on church planting in Nebraska.

Brian Johnson, Director of Church Planting, spoke about church planting within the conference, and Paul Lessard prayed for pastors serving one- to three-year-old church plants. Andrew Burnett prayed for pastors who are gathering core groups in anticipation of launching a church plant.

A video was shown on church planting in Iowa.

Brian Johnson invited Pastors Clay Peck and Mark Hawke to the stage to talk about the church planting residency program being offered at Grace Place Covenant Church.

A video was shown on Covenant Cedars Camp. Brent Thompson, Director of Church Health, introduced Jim Eaton. Jim Eaton announced a new program at Covenant Cedars called Resonate. The Resonate program is similar to the Covenant Bible College model. Brent Thompson prayed for Jim Eaton and the Resonate program.

A video was shown on church planting in the Kansas City area.

Allan Serrano introduced pastors William Lopez and Wuifor Portillo who are serving Latino churches in the Midwest Conference.

A video was shown on church planting in Central Kansas.

The Superintendent introduced Bruce McGregor and Melvin Cole, co-pastors of Freedom Covenant Church in Kansas City, and Lee Jost, pastor of Christ the Servant Covenant Church in Olathe, KS, who spoke about grant writing as a source of sustainable funding for church planting in the context of low-income congregations. A workshop took place in April through a partnership of the MWC and Freedom Fire with support from Start and Strengthen Churches. The Ministry Development Workshop (with an emphasis on grant writing) will be held again in the fall. It is designed for any church who wants to explore alternate funding for ministries in their community. Church plants and established churches are encouraged to attend. The workshop will be co-sponsored by Love Mercy Do Justice.

A video was shown on the Denver Metro church planting group.

8. Introduction and Prayer for New Church Joining

The Superintendent recognized pastors Jim Candy and Bill Stephens of Ascent Community Church. Jim Candy and Bill Stephens spoke on their experiences over the last two years planting Ascent Community Church. A video of Ascent Community Church was shown and co-moderator Dave Scherrer presented the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church expresses thanks to God in joyful anticipation of the welcoming into full Covenant membership Ascent Community Church, an Evangelical Covenant Church, of Louisville, Colorado, due to be acted upon at the June 2016 Covenant Annual Meeting in Phoenix, AZ.

Motion was seconded and passed. Brian Johnson prayed and gave thanks to God for the ministry of Ascent Community Church.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m., to be followed by the Ministry Fair and evening worship service, and to reconvene at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 23, 2016.

SECOND BUSINESS SESSION

Saturday, April 23, 2016

8:00 a.m.

The Aurora Community Covenant Church worship team led a time of worship. Superintendent Tammy dismissed delegates and guests to workshops.

9. Second Report of the Credentials

Moderator Matt Norlen provided the second and final credentialing report. The Moderator reported that registration included 87 delegates representing 46 churches, 6 delegates representing conference institutions and organizations, and 14 delegates representing the executive board, for a total of 107 credentialed voting delegates.

10. Denominational Ministry Update

A video promoting Gather 2016 was shown. Cecilia Williams, Executive Minister of Love Mercy Do Justice, of the Evangelical Covenant Church, spoke about the work of the Evangelical Covenant Church at the denominational level.

11. Ballot Presentation, Elections for Administrative and Institutional Boards

Moderator Matt Norlen 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

Jeff Jones

COVENANT CEDARS BIBLE CAMP

3-year term

Rob Dye

3-year term

Steve Hoden

3-year term

Russ Sizemore

3-year term
Shelly Story

TWIN LAKES BIBLE CAMP

3-year term
Todd Asper

3-year term
Dan Fullerton

3-year term
Shirley Larsen

3-year term
Greg Reiner

1-year term
Dennis Sarenpa

COVENANT HEIGHTS CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

3-year term
Terry Dennett

3-year term
Hannah Elstad

3-year term
Glenn Erickson

3-year term
Greg Anderson

2-year term
Becca Walters

A motion to approve the ballot was made and seconded. Motion passed. The tellers distributed the ballots while a video of Twin Lakes Christian Center was shown. Following the video, the Moderator Matt Norlen moved that the individuals listed on the approved ballot be elected by a voice vote of acclamation. The motion passed with an enthusiastic shout.

12. Recognition of Ordinands

Moderator Matt Norlen recognized Patty Thompson, who presented the ordinands James Eaton (OWSe), Director of Discipleship – Resonate Discipleship Experience, Covenant Cedars Bible Camp, Hordville, NE; Bradford Frost (OWSa), Interim Co-pastor, The Journey, Wichita, KS; Jenna Frost (OWSa), Interim Co-pastor, The Journey, Wichita, KS; Tom Greenwald (OWSe), Associate Pastor of Student Ministries, Community Covenant Church, Lenexa, KS; Tyler Johnson (OWSa), Pastor, Evangelical Covenant Church, Albert City, IA; Nathan Powell (OWSa), Associate Pastor, Arvada

Covenant Church, Arvada, CO; and A. Evan Westburg (OWSa), Pastor, First Evangelical Covenant Church, Lincoln, NE.

Patty Thompson prayed for the ordinands.

A video of Covenant Heights was then shown.

13. Transformed Lives and Communities Testimony

Marc Jefferson, pastor of Aurora Community Covenant Church, spoke about the ways God is at work at Aurora Community Covenant Church. Members of the Denver Metro church-planting team came forward and prayed for Marc Jefferson.

14. Focused Feedback

The Superintendent recognized Brent Thompson. Brent Thompson spoke on the mission of the Conference, with emphasis on transformed lives and communities. Attendees broke into small groups to discuss and provide focused feedback on various questions presented by Brent Thompson.

Dan Peitzyk spoke on churches working together to develop leaders and the programming offered by the Midwest Conference. A video was shown about Council Tree Covenant Church which highlighted a church member's positive experience participating in the Midwest Conference's leadership program and retreat.

15. Installation of 2016 Board Members.

The Superintendent prayed for the individuals serving on the Midwest Conference Executive Board, Covenant Cedars Board, Twin Lakes Board, Covenant Heights Board, Midwest Covenant Home Board, and Women Ministries Board.

16. Vote on Church Closing

The Superintendent highlighted the legacy of IgniteKC.tv church which closed within the last year. The Superintendent moved that the following resolution be adopted:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Midwest Conference remember with gratitude to God the ministry of IgniteKC.tv of Olathe, Kansas, acknowledging now the completion of its organized work, and commending to God the fruit of its effective spiritual labor over the years 1977-2016 and the "living legacy" funds that will live on in new congregations that will be planted in the future.

Motion was seconded and passed. Moderator Matt Norlen led the attendees in prayer and thanked God for the ministry of IgniteKC.tv.

17. Funding our Mission – Approval of Budget

Moderator Matt Norlen recognized Brenda Sawyer, Treasurer of the Midwest Conference

Executive Board, to present the financial report for the Midwest Conference and review the 2016 (revised) budget and 2017 budget.

Motions to approve the 2016 (revised) budget and the 2017 budget were made and seconded. Both motions passed.

18. Announcements and Appreciation

Moderator Matt Norlen announced the delegates on behalf of the Midwest Conference to the Evangelical Covenant Church Annual Meeting in June 2016 would be the Superintendent and Brian Johnson.

Johan Tredoux, pastor of Community Covenant Church, Lenexa, Kansas, announced the 131st Annual Ministry Celebration of the Midwest Conference will be held at Community Covenant Church, in Lenexa, Kansas, on April 28-29, 2017.

Kristin King, member of the Midwest Conference Executive Board, thanked Crossroads Covenant Church for hosting the 130th Annual Ministry Celebration of the Midwest Conference.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully Submitted,



Ben Moore
Ben Moore, Secretary