



**Grace**  
 Grace Evangelical  
 Covenant Church

# 126<sup>th</sup> Covenant Annual Meeting

Estes Park, CO  
 JUNE 28-30, 2011



The Annual Meeting is the highest legislative body of the Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), made up of representatives from Covenant churches throughout the United States and Canada. Delegates gather together for worship and fellowship, and to ordain ministers, consecrate missionaries, elect leaders, review finances, adopt a budget, and address the business of the church. As your pastor, I had the privilege of representing Grace at this year's meeting. Here are some highlights...

## IN THE NUMBERS...

- There was a total registered conference attendance of 621 people, representing 224 churches.
  - Average weekend worship attendance in 2010 increased to 178,074, marking 19 consecutive years of growth.
  - During the past decade, the Covenant has grown in size by 32%.
  - From 1996 to 2010, the number of ethnic churches grew from 81 to 215, representing 25% of congregations and making the Covenant one of the most diverse denominations.
- Eighteen percent of **our local church budget** goes to support the Mission and Ministry of the ECC.
  - The Covenant Annual Meeting approved a 2012 Mission and Ministry Budget, which will support the following ministries:
    - World Mission: . . . . . \$ 9,582,000
    - Compassion, Mercy & Justice: . . . . . \$ 4,087,000
    - Church Growth and Evangelism: . . . . . \$ 3,554,000
    - Ordered Ministry: . . . . . \$ 1,719,000
    - Christian Formation: . . . . . \$ 1,274,000
    - North Park University & Seminary: . . . . \$ 1,140,000
  - Undesignated donations to Covenant World Relief totaled \$981,000, for a total of \$7.4 million over the last six years. Grace's **David Husby** is the Director of CWR.
  - Of all Covenant churches that have loans, 85% have them with National Covenant Properties. In 2010, National Covenant Properties disbursed \$37.5 million to fund 47 projects. National Covenant Properties recently exceeded \$341 million in assets. Grace's **Steve Dawson** is president of NCP.
- A total of 3,254 individuals were enrolled at North Park University last fall in undergraduate, graduate, seminary and exchange programs. **So many people from Grace work/teach/lead/serve/attend NPU/NPTS, there are too many to list!**
- The Covenant website currently averages more than 75,000 unique visitors each month, with more than 2.7 million pages of news, information and resources accessed during the year. Check it out at **[www.covchurch.org](http://www.covchurch.org)**

MEETING LOCATION:  
 4201 N. Monticello Ave.  
 Chicago, IL 60618

MAILING ADDRESS:  
 4159 N. Monticello Ave.  
 Chicago, IL 60618

773.478.0208

[www.gracechurchchicago.org](http://www.gracechurchchicago.org)

## DID YOU KNOW?...

- New Leaders
  - During the ordination service, 42 individuals were ordained to Word and Sacrament; seven individuals were ordained to Specialized Ministry; seven individuals transferred their ordinations; and two individuals were commissioned for staff ministry.
  - During Tuesday's opening service, eight short-term missionaries and two project missionaries were commissioned, including **Grace Missionaries** Sue Peterson and Jared Baker.
  - Meagan Gillan (**Kelly Johnston's** mom) was elected as executive minister of the Department of Women Ministries; former Grace attendee **Tammy Swanson-Draheim** was elected superintendent of the Midwest Conference.
  - Thirty-six individuals received Clergy Lifetime Service recognitions, including **Pastor Luis Retamal**.
- Delegates approved a new Covenant Resource Paper: *The Evangelical Covenant Church and the Ministry of Compassion, Mercy, and Justice*. Grace's **Mark Olson** wrote this paper and will be leading a discussion at our church on Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> after worship.
- A resolution of sympathy was adopted praising God for the lives and ministries of dedicated Covenanters who have gone to be with the Lord, including 19 pastors, 14 spouses, and 5 missionaries, including **Jerry Reed**.
- *The Covenant Companion*, our denomination's magazine, received seven top awards during this year's Associated Church Press conference, including a first-place recognition of an article in the personal experience category. **Want a copy?** Our church provides one to every member's household. Contact [office@gracechurchchicago.org](mailto:office@gracechurchchicago.org) to be added to the mailing list.
- Delegates participated in a Covenant Life Roundtable, discussing the Organizing for Mission initiative that is evaluating the best alignment of personnel, structure and resources to advance the mission of the Covenant while bridging to the future.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION...

- Complete news coverage of the 2011 Annual Meeting will be found on the Covenant website at [CovChurch.org](http://CovChurch.org). Stories will remain archived on the site, suitable for downloading.
- The Report of the President will be found on the Covenant website, as will a video of the presentation for streaming or download. All videos will be found at [CovChurch.tv](http://CovChurch.tv).
- You can contact Pastor Mandy directly at church or at [pastormandy@gracechurchchicago.org](mailto:pastormandy@gracechurchchicago.org).

Many thanks to the *countless* Grace members and attendees who work for the denomination and made the Annual Meeting possible. It was a privilege to represent our congregation. In the words of departed Covenant pastor and leader Dr. Willie Jemison of Oakdale Covenant Church, **"We're doing good, but we can do better!"**

May we embrace that affirmation and challenge.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Mandy