



## CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

March 21, 2022

Dear Central Conference Churches,

Greetings in the Name of Christ. It is with great enthusiasm that the Central Conference staff and Executive Board anticipate gathering in person with the delegates from your church at our Conference *Celebration* on April 22 and 23. As you know, we have not been able to hold this Annual Meeting in person since April 2019.

You probably recall that in 2020 and 2021, the pandemic required that the Conference host a “virtual” Annual Meeting, which was purely informational in nature. No binding votes were taken at those virtual meetings because Article VII 7.4.m of our conference bylaws states that *“Delegates to the Annual Meeting of the Central Conference must be physically present at the Annual Meeting of the Central Conference in order to participate”*.

According to our Constitution, the Annual Meeting is “the highest constituted authority in the Central Conference”, but the inability to hold an in-person meeting has required the Conference Executive Board to conduct business on behalf of the Annual Meeting on a pro tem (for the time being) basis. This “business” has included actions such as approving the Conference budget, electing new Executive Board members, and calling Pastor Danny Martinez to a second term as Conference Superintendent.

In order to avoid this circumstance in future years, the Executive Board proposed an amendment to the Central Conference bylaws at its October meeting. Article VIII of the bylaws require that such a proposal take place no less than 90 days prior to the Annual Meeting and that the proposed amendment be made public no less than 30 days prior to the Annual Meeting. This letter is intended to fulfil those requirements.


The proposed bylaw amendment is as follows:

- The original language of Article VIII 7.4.m states: *Delegates to the Annual Meeting of the Central Conference must be physically present at the Annual Meeting of the Central Conference in order to participate.*
- This would be amended to state: *Delegates to the Annual Meeting of the Central Conference must be ~~physically~~ present at the Annual Meeting of the Central Conference in order to participate.*

- In addition, Article VIII 7.4.p will state: *The Annual Meeting of the Central Conference may, upon adoption of the appropriate rules by the Executive Board, conduct voting by electronic or acceptable technological means. Instructions regarding the use of electronic means or acceptable technological means for voting shall be distributed to all registered delegates not less than ten (10) and not more than thirty (30) days before the election meeting. The instruction notice must include the names of all candidates slated by the Nominating Commission and must give the person voting through electronic or accepted technological means the opportunity to cast votes for candidates whose names do not appear on the ballot.*

Of course, the ultimate decision to alter the Constitution or bylaws in any manner resides solely with the delegates representing the 111 churches of the Central Conference at the 2022 Annual Meeting. We ask that the delegates from your church be notified of this proposed amendment and instructed to vote according to the discernment of your church.

Grace and Peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kurt Tillman".

Kurt Tillman  
Chair, Central Conference Executive Board