

Celebration

Highlights

At the **Central Conference (CCECC) Celebration 2022**, we rejoiced in the many ways God is moving among local Covenant churches and ministries in our conference. We also rejoiced that we could again meet in-person after almost three years without a Central Conference Celebration due to the pandemic.

We praise God for the hospitality shown to us by the members of Lakeview Covenant Church in Northbrook, IL! They opened their doors and facilities to us for this three-day event. Here are some highlights from Celebration 2022, held on April 21-23, 2022.

We had over **200 registered attendees** participate in this in-person event. This included 90 Covenant ministers who attended the Central Conference Ministerial Association (CCMA) meeting (April 21-22), and 76 delegates from 40 churches who attended the CCECC Annual Meeting and Harbor Point Ministries Annual Meeting (April 22-23).

In addition to delegates and pastors we had several **guests who are exploring a relationship with the ECC.**

Central Conference delegates overwhelmingly ratified the nomination for a **second term as superintendent of Rev. Dr. Danny Martinez.**

CCECC Treasurer Ken Oliver, presented the 2023 revised Central Conference budget, as well as the proposed 2024 budget. These budgets were approved by delegates.

Core Community Covenant Church in Chicago, IL, was approved by Central Conference delegates to move forward in the process of being adopted by the ECC. Max and Trishia Kholodenko are the pastors of this church, which we hope will be approved to join the ECC at Gather 2022.

The CCECC has one church **being removed from the roster of churches** of the ECC: **Immanuel Evangelical Covenant Church (ECC), Chicago, IL. Immanuel ECC held its final worship service in January 2022.** The Immanuel leadership and family made the difficult decision to become a Living Legacy church. As such, all proceeds from the sale of the facility will be used for church planting and vitality efforts in the Central Conference. We praise God for this church's 99 years of ministry, the impact members of this church had on so many lives, and the impact they will continue to have by blessing CCECC church planting and vitality efforts.

There are **seven candidates for ECC Ordination** from the Central Conference this year:

- **Josiah Cheng (OWSa)**
Naperville Evangelical Covenant Church, Naperville, IL
- **Tanya Constanza (OWSe)**
Central Conference of the ECC, Chicago, IL
- **Nicole McClurg (OWSa)**
Abundant Life Ministry: "Serving Christ, Leading Together", Hammond, IN
- **Christine Olfelt (OWSe)**
North Park Covenant Church, Chicago, IL
- **Ken Oliver (OWSa)**
Chicago Bible Society, Chicago, IL
- **Chuck Potts (OWSa)**
Valley Covenant Church, Stillman Valley, IL
- **Theo Williams, Jr. (OWSa)**
Covenant Community Church, South Bend, IN

*OWSa—Ordination to Word and Sacrament
OWSe—Ordination to Word and Service*

The current Central Conference **church planters** are:

- **Jay Catanus**, Garden City, Chicago, IL
- **Rafael and Drina Lizama**, Iglesia del Pacto Luz de Esperanza (Light of Hope Covenant Church), Campton Hills, IL
- **Amos Shakya**, Rupantaran Nepali Church, Batavia, IL
- **Mario Torres**, Iglesia del Pacto Vida Eterna (Eternal Life Covenant Church), Rockford, IL

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HIGHLIGHTS (con.)

Central Conference delegates also approved the **proposed bylaw amendment**, which removes the word “physically” from Article VIII 7.4.m. to read: *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.*

The following people were elected to serve on the **Central Conference Executive Board:**

- **Susan Kauffman** (Treasurer)
Hillcrest Covenant Church, DeKalb, IL
- **Alicia Sturdy** (Secretary)
United Evangelical Covenant Church, Gladstone, MI
- **Rev. Simon Guevara**
Hinsdale Covenant Church, Hinsdale, IL
- **Karen Palmberg**
Batavia Covenant Church, Batavia, IL
- **Rev. David Washington**
Kingdom Covenant Church, Chicago, IL

The following people were elected to serve on the **Harbor Point Ministries Board:**

- **Rev. Linnea Ek**
Community Covenant Church, Menominee, MI
- **Anna Lund**
Winnetka Covenant Church, Wilmette, IL
- **Kimberly Steiner**
Winnetka Covenant Church, Wilmette, IL
- **Fredrik Wall**
Anchor Covenant Church, Lake Geneva, WI

We also give thanks for the following **Central Conference Executive Board members, who have concluded their time of service:**

- **Ken Oliver** (Treasurer)
Edgebrook Covenant Church, Chicago, IL
- **Rev. Andrew Stonina** (Secretary)
In transition at this time
- **Rev. Steve Larson**
Libertyville Covenant Church, Libertyville, IL
- **Laurie Schwalm**
First Covenant Church, Rockford, IL



Celebration 2023

April 27-29, 2023

Location: *To be determined*

We hope to see you there!