

Election of President of Evangelical Covenant Church: John Wenrich



The 27-member Presidential Nominating Committee has nominated John Wenrich for the office of president. This nomination comes directly to the Annual Meeting, as provided in the Covenant Constitution and Bylaws.

Wenrich grew up in the Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, area. He earned his bachelor's degree from Villanova University, where he was awarded the Edward R. Murrow award for excellence in communication. After college, he moved to Saudi Arabia, where he worked as a nightly news and sports commentator.

Upon returning to the United States, Wenrich earned his Master of Divinity degree from Denver Seminary, which awarded him the senior preaching award. He had served for seven years as a pastor in Littleton, Colorado, when he was asked by Arvada Covenant Church to plant a new Covenant congregation, Applewood Community Church, in Golden, Colorado. Five years later, Wenrich accepted the call as the revitalization pastor of First Covenant Church in Portland, Oregon. During this time, he received his Doctor of Ministry degree from Fuller Seminary. After completing Covenant Orientation, Wenrich was ordained in the Evangelical Covenant Church in 2002.

Wenrich entered denominational leadership in 2006 when he was called to serve as the first director of congregational vitality, pioneering this new ministry for established churches in the ECC. He served in this position for ten years. During his tenure he led the development of the Congregational Vitality pathway. Its curriculum has been engaged by more than 450 ECC congregations and eleven international denominations through our partnership with the International Federation of Free Evangelical Churches (IFFEC). He also serves as adjunct professor at North Park Theological Seminary in the Certificate of Congregational Vitality program.

In 2016 he was elected to the position of executive minister of Start and Strengthen Churches. He has clarified core values, made key staff appointments, shaped team culture, and led the mission priority in a new wave of impact and service. In this role, he is a member of the ECC Council of Administrators, an ex-officio member of the Council of Superintendents, and an adviser to the Covenant Executive Board.

Wenrich, 57, and his wife, Julie, live in Hoffman Estates, Illinois, and are members of Hope Evangelical Covenant Church in Crystal Lake, Illinois. They have three sons, Jonathan (29) and wife Laura, Joel (24), and Jordan (22), who all live in Portland, Oregon. Laura and Jonathan recently gave birth to a baby girl, and John and Julie are treasuring their role as first-time grandparents.