



## T.W. Anderson Outstanding Layperson Award

### THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH GRANTS THE THEODORE W. ANDERSON AWARD TO NANCY KARLSON



In grateful recognition of her dedicated service to her local congregation and community and her deep commitment to Christ and Christ's church.

Masterful leader and tireless volunteer, Nancy Karlson was instrumental in the founding of Monadnock Covenant Church in Keene, New Hampshire, twenty-six years ago, and has been a key figure at every significant phase in its development and growth.

A lifelong Covenanter, Nancy and her husband, the late Bob Karlson, moved in the early 1990s to Swanzey, New Hampshire, where they joined a small group of people who were interested in starting a Covenant church. Through Nancy's initiative and persistence, a core group met with the conference superintendent in early 1994 in the Karlsons' home to begin the process of planting a church.

As chair of the steering committee, Nancy oversaw the many details of the new venture, including writing a constitution, securing a meeting place, choosing a name, working with the new pastor to file incorporation papers and receive federal tax identification, and meeting with conference and denominational leaders for input and direction. In the years that followed, her leadership continued as she led the church several times as chair, served on pastoral search committees, and gave direction to the stewardship and finance committee. As chair of the committee that oversaw the construction of the church's first ministry facility, Nancy worked behind the scenes to keep the project on a tight

and complicated schedule, ensuring that final zoning was approved by the city—a monumental task, according to one committee member.

For decades Nancy has volunteered at Pilgrim Pines Conference Center, where she has coordinated the staffing at the Snack Shack during the summer, making sure campers and workers alike are well cared for, and has helped out in the office during retreat season.

A gracious and generous leader, Nancy Karlson has given of herself faithfully and sacrificially for the work of the gospel in her church, community, and the East Coast Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

We celebrate Nancy Karlson, recipient of the 2020 T. W. Anderson Award, and give thanks to God for her faithful service. Presented at the 135th Annual Meeting, on the 25th day of June in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-one.

**THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH GRANTS THE  
THEODORE W. ANDERSON AWARD TO  
ROMEO GONZALEZ**



In grateful recognition of his dedicated service to his local congregation and community and his deep commitment to Christ and Christ's church.

Caring mentor and compassionate friend, Romeo Gonzalez has a deep love for his church, its members, and the community it serves. When there is a need at Primera Iglesia del Pacto Evangélico in Bell Gardens, California, Romeo eagerly attends to it. His myriad contributions to the life of the church include serving as deacon, lay preacher, Sunday-school teacher, evangelism director, usher, and participating in a ministry to those who are incarcerated.

Beyond the roles he has held and the services he has provided, Romeo has lived for God's glory and neighbor's good, impacting the lives of others through the ministries that are closest to his heart—those of prayer, evangelism, and visitation.

After a career in accounting, Romeo retired at age sixty-two and dedicated his life to ministry. For twenty-five years, he opened his home for intercessory prayer, touching the lives of many in his community.

Romeo began a ministry in his church to older adults, discipling and offering counsel to them. He has mentored leaders in his congregation, community, and at Centro Hispano de Estudios Teológicos, the Covenant's Hispanic Center for Theological Education.

He has been involved with the Alberto Mottesi Evangelistic Association, whose ministries include proclaiming the gospel, discipleship, equipping Hispanic Christian leaders, and providing ministry resources for the Hispanic church worldwide.

One of Romeo's significant ministries of care is sending birthday and anniversary greetings by mail to

every member of his church. His thoughtfulness and concern for each individual is expressed in both the act of remembering the special day and in the prayer he says for each individual as he sends the greeting.

With a deep heart for people, Romeo has walked alongside those who are in need of support, encouraging them, witnessing the love of Christ, and wholistically caring for body, mind, and soul.

We celebrate Romeo Gonzalez, recipient of the 2021 T. W. Anderson Award, and give thanks to God for his faithful and compassionate service. Presented at the 135th Annual Meeting, on the 25th day of June in the year of our Lord, two thousand twenty-one.