



Recommendations for Continuation of Commissions

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

REGARDING A FIVE-YEAR TERM FOR THE ETHNIC COMMISSION

(Proposed name change from Commission on Ethnic Ministries
or Ethnic Commission to “Mosaic Commission”)

Basic Recommendation

The Council of Administrators and the Covenant Executive Board recommend to the delegates of the 135th Annual Meeting of the Covenant Church that the term of service for the Commission on Ethnic Ministries to be now recognized under the name Mosaic Commission and be extended for an additional five years.

Rationale

The Commission provides an important place for dialogue, strategy, advocacy, fellowship, and resources for the 30% of Covenant congregations that are ethnic and multiethnic in population.

Goals of the Commission

The Commission’s ongoing goals include:

1. Enabling dialogue between and among ethnic constituencies and the Covenant.
2. Providing an ongoing reporting and monitoring venue for advances in the Covenant in multiethnic matters and the Six-Fold Test for Multiethnic Ministry.
3. Providing an on-going place for recommendations for the Covenant in multiethnic matters related to the Six-Fold Test and the advancing of the multiethnic mosaic.
4. Establishing networks for fellowship and training.
5. The Six-Fold Test is a rubric that the Covenant committed to live out missionally as the whole church. The Mosaic Commission seeks to help the Covenant live into the Six-Fold Test.
6. Compile the history and narratives to create a Six-Fold Test history book commissioned by the president of the Covenant Church.

7. Hold a Six-Fold Test Roundtable Reset in August 2020.

Accomplishments of the Commission

1. Ongoing implementation of the 6th “P” of Practicing Solidarity across the ethnic associations.
 - a. The ethnic association presidents have intentionally stood in solidarity with one another in the past year as we have engaged several issues affecting our specific communities and churches.
2. The formalization of IMA (Indigenous Ministers Association) as an official ethnic association in June 2020 when IMA will be considered for a vote before the Covenant annual meeting.
3. Six-fold Test reset and implementation across the denomination level and conference level.
4. The recommendations of the Six-Fold Test Roundtable Reset have become action items and are progressing by:
 - a. Start and Strengthen Churches and individual conferences to initiate new church planting models to reach immigrant/lower-income communities.
 - b. Growing cross-cultural competencies, particularly around power and privilege.
 - c. Creating a curriculum to train pastors/congregations in multiethnic engagement and ministry.
 - d. Fostering greater collaboration among ethnic associations.
 - e. Identifying younger leaders and creating intentional mentoring pathways.
 - f. Better engaging and equipping ethnic association leaders and pastors to serve on Covenant boards, affiliates, and structures.
 - g. Dedicating annual conferences like Midwinter 2021 focused on the Six-Fold Test and advancing multiethnic ministries and the mosaic.
 - h. Increasing the number of multiethnic leaders on boards and senior leadership.
 - i. Revising Covenant Orientation History class to reflect the recent history and multiethnic story.

Composition

The Mosaic Commission is chaired by one of the ethnic associations presidents by mutual discernment and in rotation. From the beginning of the Mosaic Commission until April 2019, the commission was chaired by the president of the Covenant. In April 2019, President Wenrich voluntarily stepped down from this role to empower one of the ethnic association presidents to lead this Mosaic Commission.

Each ethnic association shall have its ethnic association president serve on the Mosaic Commission. Each ethnic association will also have an additional ethnic association board representative present at the spring Mosaic Commission meeting. The executive minister of Love Mercy and Do Justice and the executive minister of Start and Strengthen Churches shall be additional ex-officio members. Other advisors may be invited as well.

Sponsoring Mission Priority/Support Area

Start and Strengthen Churches and Love Mercy and Do Justice

Frequency of Meeting

The commission traditionally meets once per year in the spring, in January for the Council of Superintendents and Council of Administrators/Covenant Offices Leadership Team joint meetings, and on occasional conference call meetings.

RECOMMENDATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD REGARDING FIVE-YEAR TERM FOR THE COMMISSION ON TOWN & COUNTRY MINISTRIES

Basic Recommendation

The Council of Administrators and the Covenant Executive Board recommend to the delegates of the 135th Annual Meeting of the Covenant Church that the term of service for the Commission on Town and Country Ministries be extended for an additional five years.

Rationale

The commission provides an important place for strategy, advocacy, fellowship, and resources for the 25% of Covenant congregations located in town and country settings. Our mission is to promote healthy and missional churches in the town and country setting.

Goals of the Commission

Ongoing goals for the next five years include:

1. Working with the Field Education Office at North Park Theological Seminary to encourage rural ministry as a vocational option for seminary graduates by managing the Dusty Larson Scholarship, which provides funds to churches for an internship where the student has hands-on ministry experience in a Town and Country setting, as well as providing debt relief for rural pastors in their first four years in their call. Advocating for specific seminary training and participating in and supporting the Town and Country element of the Master's Certificate in Congregational Vitality.
2. Sponsoring and helping coordinate training events for Town and Country pastors at the Covenant Midwinter conference and regional events.
3. Developing a Town and Country worship experience for those interested in rural ministry, followed by a luncheon hosted by the Commission.
4. Keeping the needs of Town and Country churches before the larger Covenant family, attending and leading events at the conference and national levels.
5. Contributing Town and Country articles to Covenant publications and updating the Covenant website Town and Country page.
6. Making site visits to clusters of Covenant Town and Country churches to learn first-hand about local ministries, honoring and encouraging those serving in those ministries, and presenting

resources to assist them in becoming healthy, missional churches.

7. Developing a Town and Country mentoring program for rural pastors and churches.
8. Developing a resource for rural church pastoral search committees.
9. Being a support and resource for rural churches who do not have a called pastor.
10. Developing a “Rural Ministry Survival Guide” for rural pastors.
11. Strategizing other means of supporting effective Town and Country ministry.

Accomplishments of the Commission

1. Ongoing placement of North Park interns for summer internships.
2. Rural ministry articles published in *Covenant Companion*.
3. Hosted a North Park Theological Seminary luncheon and panel discussion for seminary students.
4. Provided scholarships to Midwinter for rural pastors.
5. Site visits to Covenant Town and Country churches.
6. Annual Town and Country events at Midwinter Conference for support and encouragement.

Composition

6 appointed members (voting)

2 ex-officio liaisons (voting – President and Executive Minister of Start and Strengthen Churches)

A pool of administrative advisors (non-voting)

Sponsoring Mission Priority/Support Area

Start & Strengthen Churches

Frequency of Meeting

The commission meets at a Town and Country site each spring, while meeting with clusters of Covenant Town and Country churches. An annual business meeting is held in the fall among the members of the commission, and they interact directly with churches and pastors to support and pray for their ministries. This support, affirmation, and counsel the national commission can offer has been highly valued by the local churches and their leaders. Teleconferences are also held for planning and strategizing the work of the commission.

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

Commission Member

A member of the Commission on Town and Country Ministries should:

- Help advance the mission of promoting healthy and missional churches in the town and country setting
- Attend all meetings of the Commission
- Be a regional advocate for the Town and Country Commission and for rural churches/pastors
- Recruit members for the Town and Country Commission
- Advance the specific goals of the Commission

Commission Chair

The chair of the Commission on Town and Country Ministries should:

- Collaborate with the Start and Strengthen Churches representative for rural ministry
- Communicate progress of the Town and Country Commission toward meeting set goals
- Coordinate planning of Town and Country events
- Provide leadership to the Town and Country Commission
- Facilitate communication among Commission members