



Resolution of Gratitude

RESOLVED, that the 135th Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church express its gratitude to those who labored sacrificially to make this historical, virtual annual Covenant connection possible and afford us the opportunity to witness God's work throughout our denomination and in the communities, it faithfully serves:

- To Covenant churches throughout North America and to the Council of Superintendents for their prayers, support, generosity, and engagement as we continue to build, expand, elaborate, and grow the Covenant story through this annual gathering;
- To our moderator, Jonathan Wilson; vice-moderator, Weston Gibson; parliamentarian, Eric Filkin; and secretary, Nilwona Nowlin, whose grace, wisdom, and patience brought us through the past two years of deliberations and preparations to ensure the deliberations of this highest constituted authority of the Covenant denomination would continue with the utmost integrity while we continue to navigate through the uncertainties of the pandemic; and whose pastoral gifts helped shepherd us through this sacred convergence that will lead to the future development and growth of our mission;
- To Crossroads Covenant Church, Pastor Phil Print, and Pastor Erik Anderson for opening their hearts and the doors of the Woodbury campus for this 135th Annual Meeting and so Covenant leaders could have a production home. Your hospitality and generosity have blessed the present and future generations of the Covenant;
- To the Council of Administrators for their support and partnership in contributing to this meeting's agenda, agenda items, delegate resources, and programming. You made this event meaningful and informative for all participants. Your servant leadership and generosity ensured the sanctity of this year's convening;
- To the Credentials Committee, Julie Persson, chair, and Rita Sheppard, operations specialist, and Sylvia Olivo, manager of ministry services, who together verified the certified delegates and tallied registrations for general conferees, honorary delegates, and resource personnel;

- To Ryan Thompson, virtual learning specialist, LaNiece Thomas-Flagg, manager of ministry services, and Tina Johnson, manager of administrative services, for their arduous work in facilitating that all delegates and general conferees could engage in the business of this meeting through our AGM Convene portal, which made it possible for this to truly be “a deliberative body”;
- To all the volunteers at our Annual Meeting production hub in Woodbury, Minnesota, who welcomed us with enthusiasm, guided us to our meeting places, and provided exceptional hospitality;
- To our worship leaders and guest artists who united us in worship;
- To the preachers who led our devotions and worship segments. They were anointed living epistles, who raised awareness of the challenges and pains in our Body, and also reminded us of the resilience, promise, and hope we have in Christ Jesus. They reminded us that by God’s grace we are three strands stronger;
- To the recipients of the Irving J. Lambert Award (Greg Yee and Michelle Clifton-Soderstrom) and the T.W. Anderson Award (Nancy Karlson and Romeo Gonzalez) for exemplifying the call to love God, neighbor, and stranger alike;
- To Pastor Erik Anderson and Pastor James Brown, who shepherded the production elements over the past six months to make this first virtual Annual Meeting honoring to God and to our entire Covenant family;
- To Jacqueline Sugihara, director of ministry operations, for going above and beyond to resource individuals and manage the logistical complexity of Gather 2021; she cared for us with a high level of professionalism, grace, restraint, and distinction;
- To Covenant ministries who were generous in their support of various dimensions of our Gather 2021 experience, including:
 - T.W. Anderson sponsored by the Pacific Northwest Conference
 - North Park University and North Park Theological Seminary for sponsoring the production of the first virtual Ordination Service;
 - Paul Carlson Partnership who continued our coffee tradition by ensuring all delegates received Karawa Coffee in their homes;
 - National Covenant Properties for helping us stay true to our tradition of providing a coffee cup to our delegates, even in a virtual setting;
 - And, to all who made our Delegate Resource Box available and made it easier for all

delegates to be informed and participate in our meeting:

- Bethany Benefit Service
 - National Covenant Properties
 - Covenant Living Communities and Services
 - Covenant Trust Company
 - Covenant Pension
 - Love Mercy and Do Justice, Serve Globally, and the FREE Initiative
 - Make and Deepen Disciples
- To Pia Restrepo, Karen Figueroa, Sue Peterson, Erika Clauson, and Nils Clauson, who translated key documents for the business meeting into Spanish and served as translators at our orientation, briefing, business, and worship sessions;
 - To Covenant Operations and President's Office teams, specifically Governance, Marketing and Communications, Information Technology Services, and Facilities, who over the past eight months and through the aftermath of our gathering, have worked diligently, with servants' hearts and, with excellence, grew our capacity to engage effectively in this 135th Annual Meeting;
 - To Covenant leaders (staff and volunteer Board, Commission, and Committee members) who provided input and overall guidance in preparation for Gather 2021 and served in various roles throughout our time together; and
 - To all of the Covenant Church delegates, general conferees, and guests who gave of their time, energy, and devotion to deliberate our future mission and celebrate our commitment to seeing more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world.

RESOLVED, that the Covenant Annual Meeting express its appreciation to those who offered Christian witness, service, skill, organizational excellence, hospitality, and good humor to this 135th Covenant Annual Meeting.