



Churches Applying for Membership

Based upon the recommendation of the respective conferences, the Executive Board recommends to the 135th Annual Meeting that the following churches be accepted into membership in the Evangelical Covenant Church.

CHURCH NAME	APPROXIMATE MEMBERSHIP	APPROXIMATE ATTENDANCE
Canada Conference		
Evangelical Fellowship Church Edmonton, Alberta CA	107	80
Central Conference		
Kingdom Covenant Church Chicago, IL	67	75
REAL Community Covenant Marion, IN	46	130
East Coast Conference		
East End Covenant Church Richmond, VA	120	160
Table Covenant Church Fairfax, VA	50	60
The Commons Evangelical Church Rochester, NH	60	60
Great Lakes Conference		
Kingdom Embassy Covenant Church Muskegon, MI	185	207

Midwest Conference

Imani Restoration Covenant Church Denver, CO	45	65
New Life Covenant Church Wichita Wichita, KS	35	80
Renovate Evangelical Covenant Church Centennial, CO	12	7

Pacific Northwest Conference

Bread & Wine Covenant Church Portland, OR	44	100
St. Thomas Covenant Church Salem, OR	35	45

Pacific Southwest Conference

All Things New Covenant Church Monterey, CA	65	75
Iglesia Evangélica Ebenezer South Gate, CA	65	60
The Garden Chatsworth, CA	156	450

REPORT ON CHURCHES JOINING THE COVENANT

The mission of the Covenant is stronger, richer, and more diverse because of the 15 churches joining this year. Each of these churches brings with them a ministry that will broaden and deepen the kingdom contribution of the whole Covenant denomination, and each church will be enriched by its connection with the Covenant.

Following is a synopsis of each congregation. The stories testify to both the handiwork of God in raising up a ministry and the faithfulness of committed people in carrying out that ministry. What is less visible is the role that every Covenanter has had in these stories. Through making possible the combined denominational and conference resources of church planter assessment and training, financial support and strategic services, and discernment of congregations “adopting in”, every Covenanter is a participant in these stories.

Canada Conference

**Evangelical Fellowship Church
Edmonton, Canada
Pastor: Joachim Mueller**

Average Attendance: 80

In their words: On October 17, 1953, what was then a small house church began in the Old Strathcona Neighborhood of Edmonton Alberta. From there Evangelical Fellowship Church (EFC) would continue to grow and become a part of the growing neighborhood. EFC has its origin in the “Fellowship Movement” when a spiritual awakening was spreading through various parts of Central and Northern Europe. On November 1, 1957, two adjacent lots on 105 Street and 79 Avenue were purchased. The two old houses, which stood on the lots, were torn down and on March 17, 1958, construction of the new church began. EFC has continued to be a part of the Old Strathcona Neighborhood providing assistance and help to various groups in the neighborhood such as the Neighbor Center. At Evangelical Fellowship Church we have a several Bible studies groups that meet during the week, for learning and fellowship, as well as two different Young Adults groups and youth groups that meet weekly. We have a Women’s fellowship that plans events for both the church and our women. The events include a yearly women’s retreat at camp Evansburg, an annual Christmas banquets well as numerous potlucks and special services.

Recently we have been blessed to share our church building with another congregation, the Spanish Church of God of Prophecy, who were looking for a new space to gather. We hope this will continue to be fruitful for both of our congregations. We are hoping that all the formalities of our application will be finalized soon, and we are looking forward to many years of worshipping and serving together in the ECCC, our newly adopted family of churches where many individuals already have become close and treasured friends! Evangelical Fellowship Church is a small congregation, but lives are enriched and changed because of the Lord’s mercy and blessing.

May He continue to uphold and use us for the expansion of His kingdom and glory. His name be honored and praised!

Central Conference

Kingdom Covenant Church
Chicago, IL
Pastor: David Washington

Average attendance: 75

In their words: Kingdom Covenant Church is a church plant located in the Roseland/Pullman area on the south side of Chicago. Our work is to gather God's people to build His kingdom. This journey began in the summer of 2014 when we assembled a small group of friends and colleagues to share about God's call to start a church. After prayer, counsel, and a discernment process with the Covenant, our call was affirmed and supported by the denomination. We officially signed a Covenant Agreement in July of 2015.

Kingdom was launched on Sunday September 11, 2016, in partnership with the Glyn Ellyn Covenant Church, Evangelical Covenant Church of Princeton, IL and Winnetka Covenant Church in Wilmette, IL. For the next four years together, we would serve the Roseland/Pullman community by meeting needs and sharing the love and message of the gospel. Kingdom Covenant Church offers discipleship, worship services, Bible study, community outreach, children's ministry, ministry to women and men as well as a vibrant prison outreach ministry. We are committed to going deeper in Christ and even further in mission.

REAL Community Covenant Church
Marion, IN
Pastor: Andrew Morrell

Average Attendance: 46

In their words: In 2016 we started REAL Community Church in the center of Marion, Indiana. We are a multiethnic, multi-class church seeking to bear witness to the kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven.

In 2012 Andrew had a vision to plant a church in the city of Marion that would intentionally reconcile people to God and others beyond the barriers of race and class.

Today we are a church of 130 attenders. We currently have 46 members. Our ministries include life groups, jail/prison ministry, community development, and neighborhood partnerships, and evangelism. We are currently planning a Capital Campaign to convert and empty 7,000 sf space into a multi-purpose sanctuary that can also host community events. May the peace of Christ continue to rest upon the Central Conference and ECC! We are grateful to be part of the ECC family!

East Coast Conference

East End Fellowship

Average Attendance: 160

Richmond, Virginia

Pastor: Don Coleman, Doug Paul

In their words: East End Fellowship began as a community mission of 3rd Presbyterian Church in Richmond, VA, founded by Pastor Don Coleman and other leaders in the faith community. The church has a rich history of evangelism, discipleship, and community development. The congregation is organized into missional communities that gather for prayer, mutual care, discipleship, and neighborhood mission. Currently the church meets in a local theater (The Robinson) as well as a leased office space in the neighborhood.

The church says: We want to see more of God's Kingdom come here in the east end, as it is in heaven. We believe that *discipleship* (the process of someone becoming like Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit) is the key to everything we are about as a church, and so much of our time, energy and resources is poured into discipleship. **There is no Plan B for Jesus.**

We want every man, woman, and child to know the Father, to be part of his spiritual family as a disciple of Jesus, and to join in his mission through the Holy Spirit in this city he so loves. Another way of saying this is we want to make disciples of Jesus who then go and do the same in the east end of Richmond and beyond.

In April of 2016, we began a journey, exploring the 5-year vision we believed God gave our church as we walked through the teaching series *The God Who Builds*. That summer, following this teaching series, an All-Church vision retreat, a 33 day fast and a month dedicated to prayer and listening to God, we gathered and committed ourselves to God and his Kingdom coming in our neighborhood, responding in loving, faithful obedience to the God who builds: Whole Neighborhood; Holistic Discipleship; Artistic Movement; Holy Spirit Power; Sending Diverse Leaders; Evangelism.

Over the last several years the pastors and leaders of the church have been preparing for a generational transition of pastoral leadership and have discerned that they desire mission partnership and support to grow and deepen their ministry for the next generation. They have been attracted to the ECC because of our dual emphasis on evangelism and justice within the multiethnic mosaic of cultures and peoples of the world.

Table Covenant Church
Fairfax, Virginia
Pastor: Michael Han

Average Attendance: 60

In their words: Table Covenant Church is a church planted in 2014 by and within the East Coast Conference, parented and sent out by Community Covenant Church, Springfield, Virginia. The church has met in several different locations since first planting including a local theater and a neighborhood church building. They are presently meeting both outdoors at a neighborhood park, and online during the pandemic. Table was born out of a desire to see Asian-Americans who did not feel at home in their immigrant churches find a place to be disciplined and to exercise leadership, as well as welcome people who feel disillusioned by the polarized ends of many churches (mainline vs. evangelical, liberal vs. conservative, etc.). The ongoing ministry includes weekly worship and table fellowship, including a time for Q&A and shared meals each week. The church is multi-generational and supports a college ministry at nearby George Mason University with Intervarsity.

The Commons Evangelical Covenant Church
Rochester, NH
Pastor: Christopher Bannon

Average Attendance: 60

In their own words: An adventure born in the Spring of 2013, with our first "Gathering" finally and formally launched in the Fall of 2015, The Commons is a church plant of the Evangelical Covenant Church based in Rochester, NH.

As followers of Jesus taking cues from the global and historic Church as well as our New England context, The Commons blends the core values of a micro/house church movement with the most fruitful elements of a more "traditional" church model, with the aim of seeing a church planting and discipleship movement birthed here, in the northeastern U.S.

Great Lakes Conference
Kingdom Embassy Covenant
Muskegon, MI
Pastor: Arthur Duren

Average Attendance: 207

In their words: Kingdom Embassy's story began in the Spring of 2015. We, Arthur and Ardena Duren, along with ten individuals who were passionate about learning about God and building his Kingdom, met weekly at Moon Elementary School for bible study in the art classroom. After changes in meeting places, God led us to what was called "Heaven's Gate Church", with Pastors James and Tina Harmon, who offered us the opportunity to

meet at their church. While attending a conference we asked each other, " Was this a sign from God that it was time for us to plant a church?" On January 3, 2016, what was a dream became a reality. The first Sunday worship service was held at Victory Inn in Muskegon, Michigan in the hotel's conference room. We are averaging close to 200 people each Sunday and anywhere from 35-50 on Wednesday for bible study.

Midwest Conference

Imani Restoration Covenant Church
Denver, CO
Pastor: Mwangi Ndegwa

Average Attendance: 70

In their words: Imani Restoration Centre Church was founded back in 2012 by myself, with wife Nancy, daughter Anne and son Evans. We have seen God do wonderful works with other families who are predominantly from Kenya. We have seen ministry grow from a small hotel space to where we currently meet. We have witnessed transformative work with lives changed and have seen God do wonderful works in our ministry.

We have established benevolence work in Kenya for orphans, widows and started a woman's ministry. We also help meet needs in poverty with economic development initiatives. With ministry work both here in Denver and Kenya we look forward to walking with the Evangelical Covenant Church.

New Life Covenant Church, Wichita
Wichita, KS
Pastor: Chad Pickering

Average Attendance: 80

In their words: The vision for New Life Wichita was birthed in the Spring of 2016. A group of young adults gathered on the back deck of Chad & Shauna Pickering's house to discuss and dream about a new church that the unchurched would love to attend and engage, and the following January 2017, New Life launched. This was made possible through partnership with the Midwest Conference and several MWC churches that got behind New Life with prayer and finances.

New Life meets as a semi-portable church inside a large facility owned by Wichita State University called The Hughes Metroplex in North Wichita, KS. In these first years, we have been deeply invested in organizations such as ICT SOS, an incredible organization working to end sex-trafficking in Wichita. New Life has also led a monthly ministry to the poor and under-resourced called Project Laundry in which anyone can come to a

specific laundromat and get up to 3 loads of laundry done for free and a free meal for their family. During COVID, we were actively involved in COVID relief for college students, single parent homes and families, as well as helping support an ECC church in one of the hardest hit boroughs of New York. Following the death of George Floyd, we sent financial resources to two ECC churches serving in the area hardest hit by the subsequent riots and destruction. We are only just beginning and are thrilled to be part of what God plans to do in our city and beyond!

Renovate Evangelical Covenant Church
Centennial, CO
Pastor: Greg & Susan Russell

Average Attendance: 70

In their words: Renovate Church was first founded in 2016, after significant amounts of prayer and deliberation, and started by meeting in the house of different members of its small launch team. Later that year, we connected with a lovely couple that was leading a small church, and we began to rent space from them so that we could meet on Saturday nights and Sunday mornings. We had an official launch as a church plant in September 2016. During this time, our congregation began to grow steadily. In November of 2018, Renovate purchased its first building and by September 2019, after significant renovations, many of which were performed by volunteer members of the congregation, we had our grand opening in our new location. Today, Renovate continues to thrive, and while COVID has limited some of our growth for the time being, we have a large group of online attendees, and a considerable number of in person gatherers which make up an incredible body of believers who are motivated toward the discipleship and the community.

Pacific Northwest Conference

Bread & Wine Covenant Church
Portland, OR
Pastor: Sharad Yadav

Average Attendance: 100

In their words: Bread & Wine began as a non-denominational church plant consisting of autonomous missional community meetings throughout Portland. In just over 10 years it has met in 5 different locations, including church buildings, a rave club and a local college. Sharad came to fill the lead pastor position in the wake of the planting pastor's departure in 2013. Seeing the ministry as a replant, Pastor Sharad weathered several changes in the leadership before beginning the process of seeking a denominational home in 2019, finding the Covenant through friendship with the newly installed pastor of Salem's Trinity Covenant Church. Ministering primarily to recovering evangelicals in the wake of racial and political challenges to their faith's credibility,

Bread & Wine continues to focus on missional communities. Each provides an environment to walk with people through the process of deconstruction in order to reconstruct a more pace-making and authentic faith in Christ with an emphasis on justice for the least of these.

St. Thomas Covenant Church
Salem, OR
Pastor: Matthew Hollen

Average Attendance: 45

In their words: St. Thomas began gathering a launch team in the fall of 2015. We launched on Easter of 2016, and have spent the last 5 years making disciples, helping to heal spiritual wounds, and establishing the kingdom of God in Salem, Oregon. We strive to be a welcoming community that wrestles honestly with how Christian truths and practices can be reflected in a language and style that makes sense today. We signed a lease on our first permanent space in August 2020 and cannot wait to see what Jesus does through us in our new home.

Pacific Southwest Conference

All Things New
Monterey, CA
Pastor: Justin Noseworthy

Average Attendance: 75

In their words: The journey to planting All Things New Covenant Church began with a conversation about planting an ECC church somewhere on the Monterey Bay along California's central coast. Church planting consultant Dave Olson reached out to Justin Noseworthy in order learn more about the area to see if it was reasonable to plant a Covenant Church. As the conversation continued the planting team came into focus and it was decided that the Covenant would plant a church in Monterey. With encouragement from Pastor Jeremiah Fairland and the Community Covenant Church of Scotts Valley along with the support from the ECC and the PSWC, All Things New began to take shape. Justin and his wife Maddie attended the Church Planters Assessment Center all the while praying to God to open and close doors however God saw fit. By the end of the week, the Noseworthys had both fallen more in love with the Covenant community and it was decided that all would move forward together with the Monterey church plant. The very first gathering took place on August 13, 2017, in the home of Ann and Ron Kihara in Monterey. The name of the church comes from Revelation 21:5 which celebrates the promise that one day God will make all things new.

Today, the All Things New family is shaped by the truth that we are renewed by God for the sake of renewing the world with God. Our weekly worship services are held in the cafeteria at Monterey High School in the heart of the city. In a café style setting with nearby classrooms, we have ministries for all ages. To begin serving our

city we launched our Salt & Light ministries to give gift bags to three specific people groups: 1) immigrants, 2) homeless women, and 3) elderly and shut ins. They have begun to pour into the Monterey High School community with campus service projects, renovated landscaping, and there are plans to provide the supplies for a student resource center for homeless students at MHS. They also have some fun ministries that seek to engage people in the city who find themselves outside of traditional church circles. Their Pub & Theology ministry meets twice per month to engage in deep and civil conversation concerning God and spirituality. The Movies that Move Us ministry (inspired by Robert Johnston and Catherine Barsotti) hosts movie screenings at a local independent movie theater followed by curated conversation about the film spirituality, meaning and truth.

Iglesia Evangélica Ebenezer
South Gate, CA
Pastor: Marcelo Bustos

Average Attendance: 65

In their words: At the beginning of 1985, a group of 16 believers, all residing in the area of Inglewood, CA, started Bible study and prayer meetings in their homes. They were all members of the First Covenant Church in Los Angeles, CA. They felt God's direction to start an independent church with a biblical foundation. Several months later, on February 16, 1986, there was an inaugural service of the new church in Inglewood, CA. The church decided to become affiliated to the Southwest Baptist Conference and were officially installed as members on April 25, 1986. With God's blessing, on October 15, 1989, we celebrated our first service in the building that God allowed us to purchase. Since its birth, the Word of God has been preached in every service at the Iglesias Evangelica Ebenezer Inc., personal evangelism has been practiced in the community and many souls have come to Christ. They have now returned to their first home, the Covenant and are excited to join at this time.

The Garden Church
Chatsworth, CA
Pastor: David Kim

Average Attendance: 130

In their words: My wife and I planted The Garden Church 26 years ago. When we began, we were primarily a college ministry located near UCLA. Since then, we have become a multi-generational church that has planted two other churches. My wife and I serve as co-pastors of the church. It has been a blessing seeing the church grow and multiply over the years. Our church is committed to serving our local community and sending out missionaries around the world.