

**Recommendation from the Executive Board
Regarding Five-Year Term for the
Commission on Worship**

Basic Recommendation

The Covenant Executive Board recommends to the delegates of the 134th Annual Meeting of the Covenant Church that the term of service for the Commission on Worship be extended for an additional five years.

Rationale

Worship is both essential and central to our life together in the Evangelical Covenant Church. The Commission on Worship is an important avenue through which our church supports this vital area of ministry. The Commission's stated mission is to provide leadership for the life of worship within the ECC through:

- Connecting worship leaders
- Developing and distributing resources
- Giving input/feedback to those who plan worship for ECC events
- Training/Educating leaders and teams in congregations
- Supporting and resourcing the Covenant Affirmation of "Conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit"

Goals of the Commission

Ongoing goals for the next five years include:

- Develop formal and informal training opportunities and learning pathways through ECC educational institutions, conferences, and local churches
- Encourage creativity and writing of original works by Covenant worship artists
- Develop Covenant-specific worship resources and establish the most useful ways to publish and distribute them, including print, audio-visual, and internet options
- Assist the Board of the Ordered Ministry in identifying viable candidates for positions as worship leaders in our denomination
- Continue to connect Covenant pastors, worship leaders, and worshipping artists through:
 - Interactive web space
 - Blogs
 - The Facebook group
 - Regional gatherings and training opportunities
- Explore new avenues of service to local churches
- Listen to local church worship leaders to determine current challenges and needs

Agenda Item 39.a.

Accomplishments of the Commission

- Provided affinity groups, workshops, and discussion opportunities at the Midwinter Conference and Gather.
- In response to requests of local Covenant churches, collaborated with the Board of the Ordered Ministry to identify candidates for positions as worship leaders.
- Developed web and print resources for those leading worship in the denomination and in local churches.
- Continued the major online network of worship leaders to share a wide range of ideas, resources, and worship planning.

Composition

6-8 appointed members (voting)

2 ex-officio liaisons (voting)

A pool of administrative advisors and consultants (non-voting)

The Commission on Worship draws members from all conferences with diverse background and experience. The membership has included a balance of male and female members, including African Americans, Asian Americans, retired Covenant pastors, and emerging young worship leaders. The Commission has also drawn on the expertise of the North Park University and Seminary communities.

Sponsoring Mission Priority

Make and Deepen Disciples

Frequency of Meeting

One formal face-to-face gathering per year

Regular check-ins via Zoom video conference calls

Submitted June 2019