

GLOSSARY OF COVENANT ACRONYMS / TERMS

The following glossary is an attempt to bring brief definition to some of the many acronyms and terms in our Covenant vocabulary. Where applicable, links to appropriate web sites have been made. Do you have additional questions? Contact the Covenant Resource Center for further assistance.

AAMA – African American Ministers’ Association – The mission of the AAMA is to support and encourage African-American pastors, ministers, and lay persons through fellowship, reconciliation, networking, resourcing, consulting, and church planting.

ABET – An email listing used to enhance the effectiveness of the mission of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Subscribers are invited to contribute ideas, resources, and relevant articles that raise issues related to Covenant Church mission, health, and leadership.

ACCCC – Association of Covenant Camps and Conference Centers – There are 22 regionally owned camps within the Covenant church. The Association is a voluntary organization that links camping leaders for professional development and personal support. www.covenantcamps.org

ACCW – Association for Covenant Clergy Women - An organization formed to support and advocate for clergy women in the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Annual Meeting – The highest constituted authority of the Evangelical Covenant Church is the general assembly known as the Annual Meeting of the Covenant. The Annual Meeting is generally held in June of each year. www.covchurch.org

Board of Nominations – Provides qualified candidates for Covenant committees and Annual Meeting offices; prepares the ballot for the Annual Meeting; and builds a reservoir of qualified candidates for future use.

BMWTC – Bringing My World to Christ is an evangelism strategy developed by the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism. It is about people practicing “prayer evangelism,” inviting God to not only take hold of the hearts of people they know, but to use them in any way he chooses in the process. This is a yearly campaign.

CAC – The Commission on Christian Action’s primary responsibility is to prepare statements concerning ethical or political attitudes or actions. Normally these statements take the form of resolutions, which are reviewed by the Covenant Executive Board and may be recommended to an Annual Meeting. Resolutions are benchmarks of our thoughts as reflected by the vote of an Annual Meeting and are not binding on either an individual or the church.

CAPS: Mission Possible – A Covenant Mission resource manual for grades K through 6.

CBC – Covenant Bible College is a one-year experience in discipleship. CBC currently has three campuses in Canada, Colorado, and Ecuador.

CBCIPE (say-bay-SEE-pay) – CIPE Bible School, a six-week program that rotates from country to country.

CDC – Covenant Development Corporation exists to assist Covenant congregations when the location for a church site ends up being too large of a site. CDC acquires the larger site, subdivides it, sells to the local congregation what it needs and then disposes of the balance.

CDIPE (se-DEE-pay) – Women’s branch of CIPE, which is the confraternity of Hispanic Covenant churches.

CECIPE (se-SEE-pay) – Christian education consultation of CIPE, the confraternity of Hispanic Covenant churches.

CEFI – Covenant Educators Fellowship International was established to assist educational ministry on our Covenant mission fields. It is one of the organizations established through the Department of World Mission to sponsor extra budgetary projects. Membership is open.

CELL – Covenant Education Learning Lab - Since 1984, the Department of Christian Formation has designed seminars for co-sponsorship with regional conferences and regions. The purpose of these seminars (originally known as CELL) is to introduce a basic framework for enhancing effectiveness in a particular ministry area.

CEPS – Covenant Estate Planning Services - Serving both individuals and Covenant ministries to provide information, resources and assistance with practical financial and estate planning as it relates to total stewardship. Services include educational seminars for churches, adult Sunday School classes, and other interested groups; also one-on-one assistance for individuals or couples seeking to identify and implement their lifetime financial goals and objectives.

CER – Covenant Enabling Residences are homes for developmentally disabled adults. Currently in Oak Forest, IL (Bjorklund House, Independence Place); Duluth, MN (Our Place); and Muskegon, MI (Mary's House and Joseph's House).

CEOP - Covenant External Orientation Program, was developed for those persons who are called to serve in the Covenant but because of life circumstances, are unable to attend a residential year of orientation studies at North Park Theological Seminary.

CETIPE (se-TEE-pay) – Theological consultation of CIPE, the confraternity of Hispanic Covenant churches.

CF – The Department of Christian Formation (previously the Department of Christian Education and Discipleship) provides direction for Christian formation ministries in Covenant churches. (See “GROW.”)

CG & E – The Department of Church Growth and Evangelism exists to increase the numerical and spiritual strength of the Evangelical Covenant Church through the ministries of church growth, prayer and evangelism.

CHET – Centro Hispano de Estudios Teologicos (The Hispanic Center for Theological Studies) is a theological and pastoral training center for Hispanic church planters, pastors, and lay leaders. Located in Bell Gardens, CA it has satellites in the Greater Los Angeles Area and several extension campuses in California, Illinois, Chile, and Colombia. It is a subsidiary of North Park University and is accredited by AHET, the Association for Hispanic Theological Education.

CHIC – Covenant High In Christ, a conference for high school students entering grades 10-12, which takes place every three years. The purpose of CHIC is to encourage and equip students to invite Jesus into their lives, allow Him to remake their world, and take Jesus to the rest of the world.

Churches Planting Churches – an initiative of the Department of Church Growth & Evangelism. Churches Planting Churches is our stewardship endeavor to give every Covenant congregation the opportunity to be directly involved in the planting of at least one new church. We exist to assist local congregations in this mission to their “Judea and Samaria.”

CiC – Companions in Christ – a 28-week small group experience in spiritual formation published by Upper Room Ministries, designed to help individuals grow in their relationships with God and in their understanding of Christian community. This resource also helps people of faith explore spiritual practices/disciplines both for personal and congregational spiritual maturity, incorporating weekly gatherings and daily reading/reflection times into the journey.

CIPE (SEE-pay) – The Confederation of Hispanic Covenant Churches was founded in 1988. Presently Chile, Ecuador, Colombia, Mexico, and Hispanic churches in the United States are participating. Argentina and El Salvador are affiliate countries.

CJIPE (se-HEE-pay) – Youth organization of the CIPE, the confraternity of Hispanic Covenant churches.

CMB – Covenant Ministries of Benevolence (formerly Covenant Benevolent Institutions) provides leadership and administration for two hospitals, one health and fitness center, fifteen Covenant retirement communities, a children’s home, three homes for developmentally disabled adults (Covenant Enabling Residences), and a ministry for victims of domestic violence. It also assists and facilitates a wide range of compassion and justice ministries.

CMC – Covenant Mission Connection connects Covenanters with “hands-on” Covenant related projects—particularly for youth, adults, and families.

CMMF – Covenant Medical Missions Fellowship has for many years responded to the overwhelming needs of health providers in Congo. It has provided assistance toward the training of the Congo health care staff, and the procurement and shipment of equipment, etc. It is one of the organizations established through the Department of World Mission to sponsor extra budgetary projects. Membership is open.

Commission on Biblical Gender Equality – its mission statement is to advocate for women as church leaders and pastors. The core strategies that guide its work include: educate Covenant people in Biblical equality regarding gender, advocate for justice in the structures of the church regarding gender, equip the church to articulate the truth about Biblical equality regarding gender, and to advocate for the modeling of women in ministry and leadership in all possible venues within the church.

Commission on Christian Action – The Commission on Christian Action’s primary responsibility is to prepare statements concerning ethical or political attitudes or actions. Normally these statements take the form of resolutions, which are reviewed by the Covenant Executive Board and may be recommended to an Annual Meeting. Resolutions are benchmarks of our thoughts as reflected by the vote of an Annual Meeting and are not binding on either an individual or the church.

Commission on Church Music and Worship – Evaluates current forms and materials relating to church music and worship for use in Covenant churches; may create new materials.

Commission on Covenant History – Gathers, preserves, and makes available historical data pertaining to the Covenant and its institutions. It encourages local histories of churches and laity as well as denominational archives.

Commission on Ethnic Ministries – This commission is composed of the leaders of associations of Covenant churches ministering to various ethnic groups. The groups represented are the African American association, the Hispanic association, the Korean association, and the Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska (including Native Americans). Other areas of ethnic ministry include: Assyrian, Estonian, Haitian, Sudanese, and Vietnamese.

Commission on Response to Sexual Misconduct – Focuses on prevention and appropriate response to sexual misconduct in congregations. Provides guidelines for ministry to victims and perpetrators of sexual misconduct.

Commission on Stewardship – Promotes and coordinates stewardship programs of the Covenant.

Commission on Town and Country Ministries – Gives specific attention to rural and town churches, and deals with present problems encountered in such churches.

Commission on Urban Ministries – Assists in the strengthening of Covenant churches in urban areas.

Commission on World Relief – Plans and supervises promotion of world relief endeavors and keeps the Covenant informed about the needs of the poor and disadvantaged throughout the world.

Communication – The Department of Communication publishes, sells, and distributes Covenant books, periodicals, textbooks, hymnals, and other Christian literature; operates the Covenant Bookstore, Covenant Print Shop, Covenant Design Center, and Covenant Internet Ministries.

Companions in Christ – a 28-week small group experience in spiritual formation published by Upper Room Ministries, designed to help individuals grow in their relationships with God and in their understanding of Christian community. This resource also helps people of faith explore spiritual practices/disciplines both for personal and congregational spiritual maturity, incorporating weekly gatherings and daily reading/reflection times into the journey.

Compassion and Justice Ministries – a department of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, which works with churches to promote Christian commitment to justice and compassion work. Formerly Compassion, Mercy and Justice.

The Connection – an event for Children, Youth and Adult workers, sponsored by the Department of Christian Formation – usually prior to the Midwinter Conference.

Covenant Bookstore – The store sells and distributes books published by Covenant Publications as well as other books, church supplies, audio-tapes and CDs, gifts, university and seminary texts, and North Park University merchandise. www.covenantbookstore.com

The Covenant Companion – The denominational magazine of the Evangelical Covenant Church, published monthly by the Department of Covenant Communications. It is designed to inform, stimulate thought, and encourage dialogue on issues that impact the church and its members, as well as put Covenanters in touch with each other and the wider Christian church. www.covenantbookstore.com

Covenant Design Center – provides graphic design and typesetting services for Covenant departments and institutions, conference/region offices, local churches, and other entities.

Covenant Home Altar – a daily devotional produced quarterly by the Department of Communication and written by fifty-two diverse Covenanters from throughout the denomination. It is designed to focus on Scripture and everyday life, as well as encourage regular readers by introducing them to other members of the Christian family to which they belong. www.covenantbookstore.com

Covenant Internet Services – Manages the Covenant's Internet website.

Covenant Logo – The unique character of the Covenant is expressed in the design of the Covenant logo—people united in Christ, people serving people in God's name, and people bringing people to Christ. The basis of the design is symbolic of four people facing north, south, east, and west. Note that each one's arms are outstretched, indicating the church's outreach in mission and service to the world. The four are part of the whole, yet their hands do not touch, symbolizing their unity in the freedom and evangelical warmth that characterizes the Covenant. The geometric arrangement of the four figures results in a crosslike pattern, representative of the center of our faith. The center circle symbolizes the unity and bond of fellowship, which we call "the Covenant." Downloadable logo: www.covchurch.org/cov/resources/logo.html

Covenant Ministerium – The Covenant Ministerium considers and supervises all matters of ministerial standing, including licensure, ordination, and discipline of ministers; it seeks to raise the spiritual and professional standards of the Covenant ministry; it strengthens the bonds of Christian fellowship among Covenant ministers; it helps in times of special physical or spiritual need; and it assists in the recruiting and selection of proper candidates for the Christian ministry.

Covenant website (www.covchurch.org) – A central source for general information about the denomination, as well as timely news about Covenant ministries and activities. Send news of your own congregation or individuals within your congregation to newsdesk@covchurch.org.

CPN – Covenant Prayer Network – Call the Covenant Prayer Network (1-800-Fon-Pray) each week to hear Covenant prayer concerns.

Covenant Print Shop – provides copy and offset duplication services to denominational departments and institutions.

Covenant Quarterly – Produced four times a year, this theological journal is produced for pastors, missionaries, and interested laypersons. Grounded in the Covenant's Pietist, evangelical roots, and edited under the sponsorship of North Park Theological Seminary, it seeks on a more scholarly level to resource and challenge all God's servants to fulfill their ministry. www.covenantbookstore.com

Covenant Resource Center – Where do you call, when you don't know where to call? The Covenant Resource Center serves as a *bridge* to more effective ministry, linking individuals and churches with information, departmental publications, other print resources, and individuals/services that can be of help. It is a cooperative service of the Departments of Christian Formation, Church Growth and Evangelism, Communication, Covenant Women Ministries, World Mission, and the Commissions on Stewardship and World Relief.

Covnet – An email discussion group that anyone can receive free of charge. To subscribe send an email message to majordomo@covnet.org leaving the subject line blank. In the body of the message simple write: **subscribe covnet1** (or **subscribe covnet1 –digest**). After subscribing you may send messages to the whole group at covnet1@covnet.org.

CPM - Churches Planting Ministries – an interdepartmental Covenant initiative to assist and facilitate a wide range of compassion and justice ministries through regional conferences and local churches.

CRC – Covenant Retirement Communities, under the umbrella of Covenant Ministries of Benevolence, currently includes fifteen retirement communities located in eight states.

CTC – Covenant Trust Company serves as trustee for both revocable and irrevocable trusts. Financial management services for both individuals and Covenant ministries are also available through Investment Management Agreements.

CVTA – Covenant Vision to Action – One of the tools available through the Department of Christian Formation for churches who desire a process for long-range (congregational) planning. Contact the Department of Christian Formation for information regarding CVTA and additional congregational planning tools. New congregational planning resources will be available within the year 2002.

CWM – The Department of Covenant Women Ministries gives direction to women ministries in Covenant churches and to related activities of women in the Covenant.

CWM Summit – A six-hour leadership training seminar created to give women ministry leaders tools to design diversified and contextualized ministries.

CWR (WR) – Covenant World Relief is the designated relief and development arm of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Covenant World Relief emphasis is the first Sunday in October to Thanksgiving weekend.

D/C – Discipleship/Confirmation curriculum called “The Journey,” two-year curriculum for confirmation and personal discipleship developed for the Evangelical Covenant Church. New features include a contemporary journal format for the two-volume student material, as well as a parent/mentor guide to broaden family involvement and support. A comprehensive leader’s guide rounds out the package.
www.covenantbookstore

DWM – Department of World Mission coordinates, resources, and enables the world mission work of the Covenant and seeks to facilitate understanding, vision and passion for world mission in local Covenant churches.

ECCAK – The Evangelical Covenant Church of Alaska, a region of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

The Feast – A festival of prayer for the whole Covenant family, sponsored by the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism.

FOWM – Friends of World Mission consists of persons and groups committed to support extra budgetary projects on a regular basis. FOWM Enlistment Sunday is in the spring of each year.

Frontier Friends - Kingdom Builders – an opportunity through the Department of Church Growth and Evangelism for individuals or churches to share their resources with churches that are purchasing land and/or building a facility. Frontier Friends-Kingdom Builders receive up to twelve appeals a year, with information about the church seeking support, an update on a past project, and a prayer card. Members may give through monthly contributions, quarterly contributions, yearly contributions, electronic funds transfer, or memorial gifts.

Frontline – a training/coaching ministry established by the Department of Christian Formation in 1995 to train, develop, and equip Covenant youth workers for maximum effectiveness in the Kingdom of God. This is accomplished through mentoring, which is provided by veteran Covenant youth workers.

GROW – The Department of Christian Formation has a desire to see life-long learners...children, youth, and adults who not only know the truths of Scripture, but also by their actions provide a clear witness to Christ’s grace and truth. The GROW framework articulates this desire:

God’s Word... shaping our actions and our lives

Relationships... nurturing our growth and reflecting the character of God

Obedient living... leading to witness and service

Worship... interacting with and experiencing God.

Habits of the Heart – structured in a retreat-fashion and focuses on the spiritual disciplines. Over the 3 days, participants are provided instruction and opportunity to practice or sample some of the spiritual disciplines with the hope that one or more would become a “habit of the heart,” helping them to grow in their practice of the presence of God. The disciplines explored in the retreat include: Lectio Divina (Praying the Word), Centering/Contemplative Prayer, Liturgical Prayer, Fasting, Journaling, A Rule of Life, and Spiritual Direction.

Helps – a newsletter published winter, spring, and fall by the Department of Covenant World Mission for mission committees. Each church receives one copy. No material is copyrighted (except as noted). Feel free to photocopy.

Impact – an internet newsletter produced by the Department of Christian Formation for those who work with children, youth, adults and families.

inSpirit – a publication of the Department of Covenant Women Ministries, published four times a year.

The Journey - Discipleship/Confirmation curriculum called “The Journey,” a two-year curriculum for confirmation and personal discipleship developed for the Evangelical Covenant Church. New features include a contemporary journal format for the two-volume student material, as well as a parent/mentor guide to broaden family involvement and support. A comprehensive leader’s guide rounds out the package. www.covenantbookstore.com

Merge Ministries – Based in McAllen, Texas, coordinates one and two week mission trips and ministries to Mexico and Guatemala.

Midwinter Conference – Every winter, in late January or early February, over 1500 ministers gather in Chicago for inspiration, learning and relationship building. Top quality speakers are brought in for plenary sessions. A wide variety of workshops are offered throughout the three and a half day event. Stimulating worship takes place on two evenings. One night is reserved for “time off” to allow participants to make their own connections and build relationships. Pre-Midwinter events take place for specific groups such as, children, youth, and family workers. Midwinter continues to be a highlight of the year for the Covenant ministerium.

MIR – Missionary in Residence program places missionaries within a strategic cluster of churches on home assignment for the purpose of developing stronger ties that will result in continued emotional, spiritual, and financial support. Personal missionary factors such home church and historical considerations heavily influence the selection of church clusters.

Mission Festival – When a group of churches (5-34) within a Covenant Conference chooses a time frame (from 2 days to 3 weeks) to host World Mission representatives.

Missionary Prayer Calendar – A booklet that includes maps, photos, ministry descriptions of missionaries, countries where missionaries serve, retired missionaries and staff.

NCP – National Covenant Properties serves local Covenant churches and institutions by making adequate capital available at reasonable cost in the form of long- and short-term financing. National Covenant Properties obtains its funds by the sale of certificates and IRAs to individual Covenanters, churches, and institutions.

NPTS – North Park Theological Seminary, a graduate theological school of the Evangelical Covenant Church, is a fully accredited, graduate level professional school for the preparation of persons for pastoral ministry, the related ministries of education and youth, overseas mission service, and a variety of lay ministries.

NPU – North Park University is a residential Christian higher education institution. The university seeks to challenge its faculty and students to approach every academic field of study within a Christian context and to grow into greater maturity in Jesus Christ.

Ordered Ministry – The Department of the Ordered Ministry recruits, supports, credentials, and cares for Covenant Ministers. Its mission is to advance the good news through maintaining high standards in the credentialing of Covenant Clergy, and in cooperation with the regional conferences, strengthens these persons for their task with support, encouragement and care. The department oversees all credentialing of Covenant ministers, keeps the roster and all records pertaining to ministers, gives leadership to the recruitment, and gives support and care for all Covenant Clergy, including discipline. The Department works with Covenant ministers’ benefits, including Covenant health benefits and pensions.

PRC - Pastoral Relations Commission, which meets monthly, recommends pastoral and staff candidates through superintendents to churches and reviews all open positions.

Pensions – The Covenant Benefits Board administers the Covenant pension program for ministers, missionaries, and surviving spouses. It works in close cooperation with the treasurer of the Covenant. It also supervises the health benefit program for pastors and church workers.

President's Circle – unites Covenanters who recognize the responsibility, privilege, and joy of giving. Through their annual gifts of \$1,000 or more, members of the Circle offer invaluable leadership and help mobilize key ministries of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

S.A.L.T. – Student Action Leadership Training - An event that helps equip senior high youth for leading their peers at the local church level. Events are usually developed by regional conferences.

Sankofa Journey – “Sankofa” is a West African term meaning looking backward to move forward. Sponsored by the Office of Compassion and Justice (Covenant Ministries of Benevolence), a Sankofa Journey is a 62-hour bus trip in which individuals visit places in the south where racial injustices were committed against African Americans in the past. It increases one's awareness, understanding and sensitivity for the past struggles, victories, and continuing racist oppression of our brothers and sisters of Color; how far we have come; how far we have to go.

School of Racial Righteousness – These “schools” will be brought to local Covenant churches at their request, and will be facilitated by trained Covenant leaders. The focus is on learning that leads to personal change in the area of racial reconciliation and justice. Our hope is that the Evangelical Covenant Church would become a truer reflection of the Kingdom of Christ in all its beautiful diversity.

SCUPE – Seminary Consortium Urban Pastoral Education that offers students training and experience in urban ministry.

SIM – Special Interest Missionary (Department of Covenant Women Ministries). All Covenant women missionaries, active and retired, are Special Interest Missionaries. Each Covenant woman missionary is assigned to one of the nine Covenant women conferences for a period of three years. After a three-year period, they are rotated. The purpose of this program is to learn to know our women missionaries and to remember them in prayer, with letters and with gifts.

STM – Short term missionary program.

Triennial – a three-day event for women of the denomination, sponsored by the Department of Covenant Women Ministries.

VBS – Vacation Bible School-- a one- or two-week summer program for children.

Walk On – a retreat experience of prayer and worship for youth. The retreat is focused on classic spiritual disciplines experienced and expressed through our God-given gifts to create. Students will have opportunities to express their faith through visual arts, music and literature. Slow down and listen to the still, small voice of God.

Worship Studio – Worship planning software featuring a variety of worship tools, including the *Covenant Book of Worship*. www.covenantbookstore.com