

Constitution of the Covenant Ministerium

Approved at the 2002 Annual Meeting

ARTICLE I

Name

Section 1.1. The name of this organization shall be The Covenant Ministerium.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

Section 2.1. The purpose of this organization shall be:

- a) to consider and act upon the licensure, ordination, commissioning, consecration, and discipline of ministers and missionaries in accordance with the Rules for the Ordered Ministry and the Constitution and Bylaws of the Evangelical Covenant Church;
- b) to seek to raise the spiritual, ethical, and professional standards of the Covenant Ministerium;
- c) to strengthen the bonds of Christian fellowship among the members of the Covenant Ministerium;
- d) to render help to members of the Covenant Ministerium in times of special physical, personal, or spiritual need;
- e) to assist in the recruiting and selection of candidates for the Christian ministry and to work with North Park Theological Seminary in the matriculation of students.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 3.1. Membership in the Covenant Ministerium is defined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Evangelical Covenant Church. All members shall maintain good standing in a regional ministerial association. Licensed theological students and licensed lay ministers shall be associate members, without vote in business sessions of the annual meeting of the Covenant Ministerium.

ARTICLE IV

Officers

Section 4.1. The officers of this organization shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a vice-secretary, and a treasurer. The president and vice-president shall be ordained ministers in good standing of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Section 4.2. These officers, together with the president of the Evangelical Covenant Church, the executive minister of the ordered ministry, the chairperson of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the dean of North Park Theological Seminary, the chairpersons of the regional ministerial associations, *and a clergy representative from each of the ethnic associations (as defined by*

Article XV of the bylaws of the Evangelical Covenant Church) shall constitute the executive committee of the Covenant Ministerium. The immediate past president of the Covenant Ministerium shall be an advisor to the executive committee for one year following the completion of that person's term of office.

ARTICLE V **Meetings**

Section 5.1. The annual meeting of the Covenant Ministerium shall be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Section 5.2. Business sessions shall be conducted according to the most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*, except as otherwise provided in this constitution and bylaws.

Section 5.3. One-half of those members of the Covenant Ministerium who are registered at an annual meeting of the Covenant Ministerium shall constitute a quorum for business sessions at that annual meeting.

ARTICLE VI **Relationship to the Board of the Ordered Ministry**

Section 6.1. Any matters arising in the Covenant Ministerium relating to the ordination, licensure, commissioning, consecration, and discipline of ministers and missionaries, and matters of policy or principle regarding the Rules of the Ordered Ministry or the work of the Board of the Ordered Ministry shall be referred to the Board of the Ordered Ministry for consideration and recommendation before action by the Covenant Ministerium.

Section 6.2. As provided in the constitution and bylaws of the Evangelical Covenant Church, all decisions of the Board of the Ordered Ministry requiring action by the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church shall be submitted to the Covenant Ministerium at its annual meeting for approval before being submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Evangelical Covenant Church. Matters not approved by the Covenant Ministerium shall be recommitted to the Board of the Ordered Ministry for further consideration.

ARTICLE VII **Amendments**

Section 7.1. This constitution may be amended by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting at any annual meeting, provided that the amendment has been proposed at the previous annual meeting.

BYLAWS

ARTICLE I **Election**

Section 1.1. The chairpersons of the regional ministerial associations shall constitute the nominating committee of the Covenant Ministerium. The president of the Covenant Ministerium shall designate the chairperson of this committee. They shall convene annually at the Midwinter Conference and shall present to the annual meeting of the Covenant Ministerium a ballot in printed form, with two candidates for each office to be elected. Additional nominations may be made from the floor. When there are more than two nominees for any position and no candidate receives a majority vote on the first ballot, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall stand as candidates on the subsequent ballot.

Section 1.2. The officers shall be elected for a term of three years, and shall not succeed themselves in the same office.

Section 1.3. If an office shall become vacant by death, incapacity, or resignation, the nominating committee shall confer to determine how to deal with the situation. If, in the judgment of the nominating committee, it is necessary to fill that office prior to the expiration of the current term, the nominating committee shall follow one or both of the following procedures:

a) Recommend a candidate or candidates to the executive committee which at a regular meeting or by mail ballot shall appoint a person to serve until the conclusion of the next annual meeting of the Covenant Ministerium.

b) Nominate candidates for election by the annual meeting to serve out the unexpired portion of the current term.

Notwithstanding the provision of Section 1.2, a person serving out the unexpired portion of a term to which another was originally elected shall be eligible for re-election to a full term in that office.

ARTICLE II **Committees and Associations**

Section 2.1. Members of the Covenant Ministerium serving in areas of specialized ministry may organize themselves into associations for purposes such as mutual support and professional enrichment. Upon approval of the executive committee such associations shall be granted recognition as specialized ministry associations of the Covenant Ministerium.

Section 2.2. The officers shall constitute the program committee.

Section 2.3. Other committees may be appointed or elected as required.

ARTICLE III **Dues**

Section 3.1. Yearly dues shall be established by the Covenant Ministerium at its annual meeting. Unless excused from payment, members shall pay dues annually in order to maintain their good standing. Members who have reached the age of retirement and associate members are excepted from paying dues. The executive committee shall have the authority to develop a policy for excusing members from the payment of dues under appropriate circumstances. The executive committee shall report to the Board of the Ordered Ministry the names of those who are seriously in arrears in the payment of dues.

ARTICLE IV
Amendments

Section 4.1. These bylaws may be amended at any annual meeting by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting.