



Covenant Orientation

APPLICATION PACKET

8303 W. Higgins Road Chicago, IL 60631

Covenant.orientation@covchurch.org

p. 773-442-6581 f. 773-583-3292

www.covchurch.org

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Appendix: Application for Covenant Orientation

Mission Statement

The Covenant Orientation Program seeks to enhance the unity of the Evangelical Covenant Church. By providing common educational experiences in the Covenant's heritage, distinctives, and mission by immersing students in life experiences of the Covenant, and by developing a close advising relationship with an established Covenant colleague.

General Information

Covenant Orientation:

- Fulfills the orientation requirement for credentialing set by the Board of the Ordered Ministry
- Seeks to increase pastors' knowledge and appreciation of Covenant distinctives and heritage
- Designed to connect pastors more fully to the Covenant fellowship
- Offers practical tools for fruitful ministry in the Covenant context
- Designed to be completed in 2 years, although more time can be taken
- Consists of three components:

Component 1: Orientation Studies (4 courses)

Component 2: Covenant Life Experiences (6 experiences)

Component 3: Advising Relationship (1 year)

- Full Program fee of \$4750 USD
- Canadian Pastors – Please contact Evangelical Covenant Church of Canada
- Missionaries – Please contact Serving Globally

Program Length

The program is designed for completion in two years, although up to six may be used if needed.

Covenant Orientation and Covenant Credentials

Orientation is a requirement for commissioning, ordination, transfer of ordination and most ministerial licenses in the Evangelical Covenant Church. To receive a license application or more information regarding credentialing, contact your conference office where you serve.

Pastors can be credentialed and fully functional while in Covenant Orientation.

Let's get started

Enrolling in Covenant Orientation consists of submitting a completed application and the application fee. This also includes having a current background check on file. A program fee payment of \$1162.50 or remaining balances must be made before a pastor takes each Covenant Orientation class. **If you are serving under a church-planter's agreement, SG Missionary, Canadian pastor or are an Alaska Bush Pastor, please note that on your application.**

Program Fee

Covenant Orientation (4 classes)

The program fee of \$4750 covers:

- The cost of the course itself.
- Vocational Assessment tools.
- Midwinter conference registration (you must be registered for a CO class)
- Serving Globally Missionaries are required to take Theology and History only.

Bi-vocational License holders or Over 60 years of age (1 class)

Fee for students with a BVL, total cost \$600

- Students are required to take the Vocational Excellence class.

Exclusions

- Transportation
- Lodging and meals
- Registration for Covenant Life Experiences other than the Midwinter conference

Components

Component 1 - Studies

Covenant Orientation includes four orientation courses. These courses are designed to provide a common educational experience focusing on the Covenant's heritage, distinctives and mission.

All four courses can be taken for credit (granted by North Park Theological Seminary and transferable to any ATS accredited school).

A transcript of credits can be requested from North Park Theological Seminary at any time. Courses adhere to North Park's Academic Policies.

All courses require preparation in the form of pre-reading and possible time online to maximize the time spent in the actual classroom setting.

Each course is offered at least twice a year. Courses are normally offered in conjunction with the Midwinter conference, during a summer intensive and in the spring and fall at conference sites.

Coursework needs to be completed by or during the Midwinter conference before ordination or commissioning takes place to give time to grade papers.

Course Registration

Once a pastor is enrolled in Covenant Orientation he/she will receive course registration information as they become available. They will be sent by email and posted at www.covchurch.org.

Syllabus

Access to course syllabus is given with the confirmation of registration. Syllabus describes work which must be done and materials which must be purchased before class attendance.

Reading Materials

Found on Syllabus or <http://covbooks.com/collections/orientation>

Assignments

Students are given six weeks from the last day of class to turn in coursework. Assignments should be posted to online learning platform (i.e. Moodle or Haiku) on the due dates indicated in the syllabus. Students should use their name as part of the title when they save their paper for ease in identification. (Example: save as "PolitypaperKim.doc") Extensions are granted in case of emergency situations. All submissions must be a word document – PDF's will not be accepted.

Grades

Instructors have six weeks to grade and return papers. Graded papers are returned to students. Credits are "stored" by North Park Theological Seminary. Transcripts can be requested from North Park.

Course Descriptions

History of ECC

(3 credits) (39 hours) graduate credit optional

This intensive course is specifically designed for those persons who are in various stages of the orientation process to satisfy credentialing requirements for ordination or commissioning. It is structured to provide students a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the history of the Evangelical Covenant Church, from its roots in Sweden to its current multiethnic reality. Students will apply skills of historical research and analysis to their own denominational history and explore the significance of this history to the present mission and identity of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Theology of ECC

(3 credits) (39 hours) graduate credit optional

Demonstrate by explanation and especially modeling how the ECC does theology. Show how the theology of the ECC helps form its identity and life. Communicate and explain the key theological affirmations and commitments of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

Mission & Ministry of ECC

(3 credits) (39 hours) graduate credit optional – requires extra assignment

Explore how the Evangelical Covenant Church pursues Christ's priorities in the world by covenanting together congregationally, regionally, denominationally and globally. Anticipate making new friendships with colleagues in ministry from around the ECC locally and globally. The course is offered in two-tracks, one for those seeking credentials in the ECC only and second for those seeking both ECC credentials and 3 graduate level seminary credits. See assignments section below for details.

Vocational Excellence

(1 field Ed credit)

This course is designed to explore the meaning of credentialed and endorsed ministry in The Evangelical Covenant Church and the responsibilities and competencies of those called to these positions. Attention will be given to enhancing self-awareness as well as ways to assist participants to become healthier in ministry. The course centers around the themes of character, constancy and competency for those called to ministry.

Component 2 – Covenant Life Experiences (required for full CO program)

Covenant Life Experiences are designed to immerse the student in the life of the greater Evangelical Covenant Church. These are opportunities for the student to learn about the greater Covenant church, to worship with and develop relationships with Covenant pastors from the greater Covenant church, and to contribute to the life of the greater Covenant church.

Requirements

Covenant Orientation pastors (except those who are over-60 years of age or enrolled for a bi-vocational license) need to participate in at least six Covenant Life Experiences. Credit may be given for experiences within three years prior to enrollment or any time during the program. Three experiences are required. The other three may be chosen from elective experiences listed below.

Required Experiences

- The denominational Covenant Annual Meeting including the annual meeting of the Ministerium. (attending business sessions as a delegate or general conferee)
- The Midwinter Conference; this may include years when Covenant Orientation classes are taken
- Fall Conference Ministerium Retreat (called by different names in each conference i.e. Pastor/Spouse retreats, Ashram)

Elective Experiences

- Service on a Conference or Denominational board, commission, or approved committee
- Conference Annual Meeting, including the Conference Ministerium Annual Meeting
- Mission/service project on a Covenant mission field
- Service on staff of the denominational youth event, CHIC
- Involvement in a course taught by North Park Theological Seminary faculty (only non-orientation classes; Internet courses do not qualify)
- Conference retreat designed by conference staff for purpose of Covenant orientation
- Youth Workers Connection, Worship Connection, Children and Family Ministry Connection
- Pastor-in-residence program at North Park Theological Seminary
- Women Ministries Triennial
- Camp pastor at a Covenant Bible camp
- Church planter training (may be used once)
- Credit may be given for other Covenant Life Experiences not specifically mentioned.

After completing a Covenant Life Experience, students should notify the Covenant Orientation office to receive credit.

Component 3 – Advising Relationship (required for BVL and full CO program)

The third component of Covenant Orientation is an advising relationship with an established Covenant colleague. This advising relationship is designed to connect you with a veteran pastor from your area willing to listen to your experiences, answer your questions, lend advice, and help you become more firmly rooted in your local Covenant context.

Choosing an Advisor

Each Covenant Orientation student is required to choose an advisor as a part of the application process. Advisors must be ordained or commissioned Covenant ministers with at least five years of service in a local Covenant Church. Active and retired pastors are suitable advisors. Once an advisor is approved by the Ordered Ministry, Covenant Orientation will send him/her an explanation of Covenant Orientation, guidelines for the relationship, and a form to complete and return signifying the fulfillment of the requirement.

Length of Relationship

This relationship should last at least one year and include at least three evenly spaced meetings, i.e., one meeting every three or four months. Ideally, the advisor would attend local ministerium meetings and conference meetings with the student and introduce him or her to peers in ministry.

Relationship Content

The guidelines sent to advisors by Covenant Orientation will include a brief suggestion for each meeting. These suggestions provide a starting point for discussion.

- Meeting one: get acquainted; share why each has chosen the Covenant.
- Meeting two: debrief a specific Covenant Life Experience and discuss your life in the Covenant.
- Meeting three: review an orientation class and discuss how it relates to your Covenant ministry.

Contact us

We place a high value on having pastors well-oriented at the very beginning of their time as a credentialed Covenant minister. Making satisfactory progress in the program is seen by the Board of the Ordered Ministry as a prerequisite for continued credentialing.

Our Phone: 773-442-6581 or email: covenant.orientation@covchurch.org

or visit us at: <http://www.covchurch.org/vocational-ministry/orientation/>

or write us at: 8303 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, IL 60631

Our goal is to make it work for each pastor. If you have questions, please contact us.



Covenant Orientation

Full CO Program Application

Applicant Information

Full Name: _____ Date: _____
Last First M.I.

Address: _____
Street Address Apartment/Unit #

City State ZIP Code

Phone: _____ Email _____

Church/ Institution Presently Serving: _____

Gender F M

Education

List all schools attended since your high school graduation in _____
Year

Institution	Location	Dates attended	Degree/ Year Received

Undergraduate Major: _____

Graduate Major: _____

Full Covenant Orientation Program Fees

Program fee is \$4750 for all four courses. This covers courses and the cost of Midwinter registration fees if a course is taken during Midwinter. Each class costs \$1162.50 (plus a non-refundable \$100 application fee.) An invoice will be sent to you as a part of the confirmation of registration for each class.

PLEASE READ CAREFULLY: It is your responsibility to give it to the party who will pay the invoice. If you are serving under a church-planter's agreement, SG Missionary, Canadian pastor or are an Alaska Bush Pastor, please note that on your application.

Person/Organization responsible for payment :



Covenant Orientation

CO Application - BVL or Over 60 years age

Applicant Information

Full Name: _____ Date: _____
Last First M.I.

Address: _____
Street Address Apartment/Unit #

City State ZIP Code

Phone: _____ Email _____

Church/ Institution
Presently Serving: _____

Gender F M

Education

List all schools attended since your high school graduation in _____
Year

Institution	Location	Dates attended	Degree/ Year Received

Undergraduate Major: _____

Graduate Major: _____

Covenant Orientation Bi Vocational or Over 60

Those applying for the Bi-Vocational license or those entering credentialed ministry who are over 60 years of age only complete the advising relationship and take the Vocational Excellence class. You have two years from the date of your first-time license to complete this class. The fee is \$600: \$350 due now (non-refundable) and the remaining \$250 before you take the class.

Please check all that apply:

- I am applying for the Bi-Vocational License: enclosed is my initial payment of \$350.
- I am over 60 years of age: enclosed is my initial payment of \$350.
- I understand that I have two years from my first license to complete the Vocational Excellence class.

** Failure to do so will result in my license not being renewed.*

Criminal Record Screening

- I've completed the screening as part of my application process for a ministerial license.

Advising Relationship

Choosing an Advisor

Each student is required to choose an advisor. A relationship with a seasoned Covenant pastor is a highly valuable part of your orientation to the Covenant Church. Choose someone who has been ordained for five or more years (or commissioned if that is your credentialing track.) Retired clergy are a fine choice. Your regional conference office can help with a list of likely advisors. Current enrollees in Covenant Orientation do not qualify. Once an advisor is approved, the office will send him/her an explanation of Covenant Orientation, guidelines for the relationship, and a form to complete and return signifying the fulfillment of the requirement.

Length of Relationship

This relationship, as an orientation requirement, should last one year and include at least three evenly spaced meetings, i.e., one meeting every three or four months. Three meetings held during a two-week period would NOT fulfill completion of this requirement. Ideally, the advisor would attend local ministerium meetings and conference meetings with the student and introduce him or her to their peers in ministry.

Advisor's Name *(Please note: Advisor and enrollee are full agreement with the criteria of the Advising relationship as defined by Covenant Orientation.)*

Advisor's email :

Covenant Life Experiences

Covenant Life Experiences are designed to immerse the student in the life of the greater Evangelical Covenant Church. *Covenant Orientation will grant credit for up to three "Covenant Life Experiences" attended within the last three years. Please see <http://www.covchurch.org/vocational-ministry/orientation/> for a complete list. Students are required to communicate all Life Experiences to Covenant Orientation.*

Signatures

Please submit this application to your conference office

Signature: _____

Signature of
conference
representative: _____