



# PACIFIC NORTHWEST C O N F E R E N C E

## 2024 Ministerial Association Annual Meeting Notebook

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## Meeting Information & Instructions

### Zoom Meeting Link

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84307712961?pwd=Y2grREFTaDhScE9LbDY5Y1JQcmxNZz09>

Password: PacNWC2024

### Online Instructions

1. As a safety measure, [please REGISTER for the business meeting in advance](#) so we can verify who to allow to enter the meeting.

**REGISTRATION: Open registration closes on April 5, 2024. Email Cris Back for later registration - [cris@pacnwc.org](mailto:cris@pacnwc.org)**

2. Change your Zoom name to “Your Name - Your Church” **BEFORE** joining the meeting.
3. To join the meeting, follow the meeting link to enter the “waiting room.”
4. Login by 8:50 AM. The online moderator will verify your registration and enter you into the meeting. Be patient while we check each name with our approved registration List.
5. Admission will close at 9:10 AM

### Participation

All online participants will have their microphones muted. [There will be no option to participate verbally](#), unless within a prearranged breakout room time. As an official business meeting, those who wish to speak (or “have the floor”) [must request permission from the moderator, through the online “Chat” function](#), and type their question or comments into the chat in order to be officially recognized by the chairperson. When recognized, the online moderator will read your question or comments into the meeting.

### Advanced Preparation

Please review in advance the [2024 Standing Rules](#), [2024 Meeting Agenda](#), and the [2023 Meeting Minutes](#) as we will vote to approve these at the very beginning of the business meeting (*all documents are included in this handbook below*).

### Rationale For Governing Rules

As we will be hosting an official business meeting in hybrid fashion (in-person and online), we need to address some of the governing rules that we follow. Should any sensitive or controversial business arise, which cannot be addressed in our limited time together, a separate meeting will be called specifically for this purpose. Attendance in the Zoom meeting is open to **everyone**, so voting by ministerial association members online may need to be tracked by voting specifically through the chat function.

The two primary areas of governing concern are [identification of members](#) and [verification of votes](#). [Should there be any confusion or controversy regarding any particular issue or vote, the Moderator may choose to adjust the voting to be in person by written ballot and online through the recorded “chat” feature.](#)



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**2024 “Necessary Business” requiring official approval of the MA:**

- 2024 Standing Rules  
*(to govern this meeting)*
- 2024 Meeting Agenda
- 2023 Meeting Minutes
- 2024-2025 MA Budget Approval
- Election of Ministerial Association Chair
- Election of COMS members
- Ordination Candidate Approval
- Licensing Application Approval
- Ministerial Association Bylaw Change Approval

## **Thursday & Friday Schedule**

### **Thursday April 18**

**1:30-2:00**

**MINISTERIUM CONTINUING EDUCATION REGISTRATION**

Location: First Covenant Church 107 NE 45th Ave, Portland, OR 07206

**2:00-5:00**

**MINISTERIUM CONTINUING EDUCATION (in person only)**

**TOPIC: FINDING OUR RHYTHM**

Guiding scripture is Matthew 11:28-30 (MSG)

“Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”

Our time together will focus on “finding our rhythm” with three main areas of focus.

- Friendship
- Margin
- Anxiety

We’ve asked a few of our colleagues to share both their failures and successes in these three areas. In addition there will be time to find our rhythm through table dialogue and individual reflection.

**6:00-8:00**

**CELEBRATION DINNER & FELLOWSHIP**

Join us for an evening of celebration & laughter. We’ll start our evening with some local comedy, as we gather around the table to celebrate different milestones with those in our ministerium. Don’t miss this opportunity to gather to break bread together.

### **Friday April 19**

**8:30-9:00**

**MINISTERIUM ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING REGISTRATION**

Location: First Covenant Church 107 NE 45th Ave, Portland, OR 07206

**9:00-11:45**

**MINISTERIUM ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (hybrid meeting)**

**12:00**

**MINISTERIUM LUNCH & FELLOWSHIP**



## 2024 Standing Rules

### PACIFIC NORTHWEST CONFERENCE MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING GOVERNING DOCUMENTS & STANDING RULES

April 19, 2024

***“It is moved by the Pacific Northwest Conference Ministerial Association Executive Team that the following Governing Documents and Standing Rules be adopted for the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Conference Ministerial Association.”***

#### A. Governing Documents & Standing Rules

##### Governing Documents

The Ministerial Association written authorities that govern the 2024 Annual Meeting of the Pacific Northwest Conference Ministerial Association are the Ministerial Association Constitution and Bylaws (Revised 2022) and the current edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised*, currently the 11<sup>th</sup> Edition (2011) as required by the Ministerial Association Constitution Article VI, Section 3, which states, “*Business sessions shall be conducted according to Robert’s Rules of Order unless otherwise stated in this constitution.*” The Ministerial Association Annual Meeting is additionally governed by applicable rules of the Pacific Northwest Conference and the Evangelical Covenant Church and RCW 24.03, the Washington Nonprofit Corporation Act.

##### Standing Rules

*Robert’s* provides, however, that at a given meeting, ***the membership may establish its own standing rules of order to meet its specific needs.*** These standing rules supplement the written authorities. The general provisions of *Robert’s* apply in every situation not specifically addressed by or superseded by the standing rules or other governing documents.

Because of the continuing need we will again offer a ***hybrid*** meeting with delegates in person and online. As we gather at First Covenant Church Portland in person, we will also gather via ZOOM ([www.zoom.com](http://www.zoom.com)). These Standing Rules will guide us through how to proceed in a hybrid environment for our assembly.

To manage this, the Moderator (MA Chairperson) will employ a Meeting Management Team (MMT) that will include the in-person MA Executive team members, and any designated tellers and sergeants at arms.

#### 1. Obtaining the Floor

Only registered delegates, advisory delegates, or resource persons may notify the Chair by approaching the microphone or via the ZOOM chat function to request speaking privileges. Points of order, points of personal privilege, and other such items, will be handled the same way. The MMT will assist the Moderator in monitoring notifications.

#### 2. Voting

Agenda items requiring a vote will occur in person by voice vote or by paper ballot and through the ZOOM platform as announced by the Moderator. The Moderator may use any of the functionality that is available to delegates through the platform, but default voting will happen via the “poll” function of ZOOM. MMT members managing the online delegate votes will report vote outcomes to the moderator. Likewise, the MMT members managing the in-person delegates will report vote outcomes to the moderator. The





moderator will announce final votes. The Moderator may choose, at any time, to call for a paper ballot in person in order to clarify a close or sensitive vote. In this case, online voting through the “polling” or “chat” functions will fulfill this requirement.

Voting on a motion brought by a delegate will also be conducted in like manner. Any delegate may request disclosed voting. This request, when supported by ten percent of the delegates present and voting, will be implemented by the process declared by the Moderator. The MMT will assist accordingly.

3. Time Limits

3.1 Reports that contain no proposal for action by the meeting **shall be limited to five (5) minutes**, including the questions period, with the exception of reports from the Pacific Northwest Conference Superintendent, Ministerial Association Executive Team, ECC representatives, the ECC president, conference staff, and the Ministerial Association treasurer.

3.2 Debate of any main motion, including its subsidiary motions, will be **limited to ten (10) minutes** except as otherwise specified in the agenda. No amendment or other subsidiary motion to a main motion shall be allowed until after the 10 minutes of debate of the main motion.

3.3 No speech in debate, per person, **may exceed two (2) minutes**, unless this period is extended by a majority vote at the request of the speaker.

3.4 Time limits may be extended for a specific period by a two-thirds majority vote.

4. Debate

Members may speak once to an issue, and not again on the same issue as long as someone else, who has not yet had a turn, is seeking the floor. Once a delegate has spoken a second time the delegate has used up rights of debate on that issue.

5. Submission of Motions

All main motions and complex subsidiary motions shall be submitted in writing to the Ministerial Association Executive Team in advance of the meeting.

6. Agenda

6.1 The agenda is prepared in advance by the Ministerial Association Executive Team and is adopted by a motion at the beginning of the Ministerial Association Annual Meeting.

6.2 The Ministerial Association Executive Team has adopted a provision similar to The Pacific Northwest Conference Bylaws, Article VII, Section 7.5, iv, which provide that, ***“Items of business that are not on the proposed agenda may be submitted in writing by a delegate, to the moderator. If the item submitted is in order, a majority vote of the delegates present and voting shall be required to place that item on the agenda.”***

6.3 Additional items submitted before the meeting are considered to be motions for amending the agenda and require a second. Such amendments to the agenda will be voted on before the motion to adopt the agenda is considered. ***Amendments to the agenda require a majority vote as stated in the by-laws.***

6.4 Robert’s Rules require that items submitted after the agenda is adopted need a 2/3 majority in order to be added to the agenda.



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7. Nominations from the Floor

Persons placing names in nomination from the floor shall obtain the prior permission of the nominee and shall so state at the time of nomination. The nomination shall be submitted in writing to the Ministerial Association Executive Team prior to the approval of the agenda. If participating via zoom submit nomination in writing to the Moderator or through the online “chat” forum prior to the approval of the agenda.

8. Honorary, Advisory and Guests

Honorary, Advisory and Guests, shall have the privilege of voice but not vote in the assembly. The Chair may recognize resource persons designated by the Executive Team to make reports or address Ministerial Association members’ questions.

9. Modification of Agenda Items

With respect to the adopted agenda, the Chair has discretion to revise the order of agenda items at appropriate times to accommodate scheduling needs and the inclusion of non-business good news updates.



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## 2024 Meeting Agenda

### **Pacific Northwest Conference Ministerial Association 2024 ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA**

*9:00am, Friday, April 19, 2024*

*Hybrid Conference Meeting*

#### **MEETING WILL BE RECORDED FOR MINUTES**

1. *Please mute your mic online during the meeting.*
2. *For online discussion, request to “speak” in the Chat forum and type your question or comment.*

#### **Unforced Rhythms of Grace**

- I. Call to Order**  
Carmen Bensink Lewis, PacNWC MA Chair
- II. Prayer for Ministry Colleagues**  
Katy Andlovec, First Covenant Church Portland
- III. Adoption of Standing Rules**  
Kurt Notehelfer, PacNWC MA Pastor Connection & Growth Coordinator
- IV. Adoption of Meeting Agenda**  
Carmen Bensink Lewis, PacNWC MA Chair
- V. Approval of 2023 Meeting Minutes**  
Carmen Bensink Lewis, PacNWC MA Chair
- VI. Witness from ECC Denomination**  
Tammy Swanson-Draheim, ECC President
- VII. Ordinand Candidate: Kyle Harmon - Pine Lake Covenant Church, Sammamish, WA**
- VIII. Witness from PacNWC Staff**  
Greg Yee, PacNWC Superintendent
- IX. Ordinand Candidate: Lynette Sanchez - Countryside Community Church, Sherwood, OR**
- X. Treasurer’s Report**  
Dave Sim, PacNWC MA Treasurer
- XI. Action on the 2024-25 Budget**  
Dave Sim, PacNWC MA Treasurer



**XII. Ordinand Candidate: Becca Worl - Pine Lake Covenant Church, Sammamish, WA**

**XIII. Recommendations from Committee on Ministerial Standing**

Kurt Notehelfer, PacNWC COMS chair - Ordination & Licensing Approval

- *Kyle Harmon - Pine Lake Covenant Church, Sammamish, WA (OWSa)*
- *Lynette Sanchez - Countryside Community Church, Sherwood, OR (OWSa)*
- *Becca Worl - Pine Lake Covenant Church, Sammamish, WA (OWSa)*

**XIV. Action on Licensures/Ordinations**

Carmen Bensink Lewis, PacNWC MA Chair

**XV. Prayer for Ordinands**

Sarah Hammersborg, PacNWC COMS member

**XVI. Covenant Trust**

Tim Hedberg, Financial Services Representative

**XVII. Election of Positions for MA executive board**

Sally Carlson, PacNWC MA Secretary

*Chair:(2024-2025) ending a vacant three year term*

- Corey Johnsrud
- David Johnson

**XVIII. Election of Positions for Committee on Ministerial Standing COMS**

- Kurt Notehelfer (2024-2027)
- Mark Mathis (2023-2026)
- Doreen Olson (2024-2027)
- Britta Berger (2024-2027)

**XIX. Cascades Camp Greeting & Update**

Mark Carlson, Cascades Camp & Conference Center, Associate Director

**XX. Ministerial Association Bylaw Change Approval**

See page seventeen for details

**XXI. ECC Ministerium Update**

Carmen Bensink Lewis, PacNWC MA Chair

**Good Standing:**

1. *Vocational Growth Tool (annually)*
2. *MA Dues (annually)*
3. *Participate in Covenant Cont.Ed & Experiences (annually)*
4. *CovConnect (update every 3-yrs)*



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Ministerium website: [www.ecclergy.org](http://www.ecclergy.org)

Gather 2024

ECC Website: <https://covchurch.org/who-we-are/leadership/>

**XXII. 2024 Clergy Family Retreat & May Town hall**

Nate Daniels, PacNWC MA Vice Chair

Clergy Family Retreat - September 25-27, 2024

Kurt Notehelfer, PacNWC MA Pastor Connection & Growth Coordinator

May Town Hall - May 30, 2024

**XXIII. Announcements**

Rick Mylander, Covenant Board of Nominations

**XXIV. Motion to Adjourn**

Carmen Bensink Lewis, PacNWC MA Chair



## 2023 MA Mtg. Minutes

### Pacific Northwest Conference Ministerial Association 2023 ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

*9:00am, Friday, April 28, 2023  
Hybrid Conference Meeting*

#### I. **Call to Order**

Carmen Bensink Lewis, PacNWC MA Chair

- Carmen brought greetings from colleagues who weren't able to join us, greeted those online, and called the meeting to order.

#### II. **Prayer for Ministry Colleagues**

Jim Sequeria, COMS member

#### III. **Adoption of Standing Rules - Motion Carried**

Kurt Notehelfer, PacNWC MA Pastor Connection & Growth Coordinator

#### IV. **Adoption of Meeting Agenda - Motion Carried**

Carmen Bensink Lewis, PacNWC MA Chair

- MSC with adjustment that the chair will bring the motion for the ordinands forward rather than the COMS chair.

#### V. **Approval of 2022 Meeting Minutes - Motion Carried**

Carmen Bensink Lewis, PacNWC MA Chair

#### VI. **Witness from ECC Denomination**

Ramelia Williams, Director of Ministry Initiatives, ECC Love Mercy Do Justice

- Ramelia brings greetings from President Swanson-Draheim and our colleagues at the denominational team. 860 local churches, 11 conferences, and our denomination - 3 Strand Strong.
- Ramelia shared ministry highlights from Love Mercy, Do Justice initiatives: 19 flood damaged homes were restored in Mississippi, fresh water restoration projects in Jackson Mississippi. \$74,000 was distributed as Community Development grants. These grants focussed on educational justice, youth development, immigrant shalom, post incarceration re-entry, etc.
- President Tammy Swanson-Draheim wants us to remember our Covenant wide focus on prayer. May we sow unity, peace, respect, and deep listening to God and one another in our united fellowship.
- We watched the latest Covenant Mission and Ministry video  
<https://www.youtube.com/@pacnwc>

#### VII. **Ordinand Candidate: Scott Burnett – New Port Covenant, New Port, WA**

#### VIII. **Witness from PacNWC Staff**



Greg Yee, PacNWC Superintendent

- Superintendent Yee shared about the story of us meeting here in Spokane and the exciting things God is doing in Spokane. 4 churches here in the city when it seemed that our Covenant presence was dwindling. There is an amazing movement of the Holy Spirit!
- Greg has been our leader for 10 years!
- Greg shared that he has been praying for all of our kids by name, as there is so much depression, anxiety, and more happening with our kids and families.
- Greg named that he has been trying to build a culture of honesty, of not making assumptions about one another from afar, staying connected even when we disagree. This is related to what is happening with Quest, the open letter, but also just as we seek to walk together as a PacNWC family.
- 27% of our PacNWC ministerium are women, 11 are lead pastors. PacNWC is seeking to keep growing these numbers and encouraging women in their call to ministry - including inviting women to the Exploring Call retreat.
- Church planting... moving into an exploratory time in which we cultivate incubation centers to cultivate church planters.
- \$17,000 worth of crisis care funds gifted as part of the conference's commitment to take care of our ministry leaders. Working to plan retreats and connectional opportunities for clergy

**IX. Ordinand Candidate: Rachel Gough - Monroe Covenant - Monroe, WA**

**X. Introduction of Church Planters**

Peter Sung, PacNWC Conference Coach

Bob Do - The Table Covenant, Seattle, WA

George Bedlion - Garden City Covenant, Puyallup, WA

**XI. Ordinand Candidate: Shaun Higgins - Midway Covenant - DesMoines, WA**

**XII. Treasurer's Report**

Dave Sim, PacNWC MA Treasurer

**XIII. Action on the 2021-2022 Budget - **Motion Carried****

Dave Sim, PacNWC MA Treasurer

**XIV. Ordinand Candidate: Leslie McAuley – Emmanuel Church, Spokane, WA**

**XV. Cascades Camp Greeting & Update**

Anna Carlson, Cascades Camp Registration and Covenant Relations Coordinator

- Cascades has it's camp programming that is predominantly summer programming (non-stop until Labor day!), and then conference center side that is guest group rentals. Covenant churches receive special discounts if you would like to host a church retreat, staff retreats, and special rates for pastoral retreats.
- Things are feeling better/normal post-pandemic. Completed 2 fundraising campaigns in 2022. Mission Cascades - an operational fund that kept them going in the pandemic. Fundraised for an



adventure course that is partially constructed. They received a legacy gift from Sunset Covenant Church, as well as donor giving.

- Thanks to a grant from the Murdock Trust, they were able to hire two new full-time staff members.
- We know that affording camp is a challenge. Cascades has a sponsorship program that people are continually giving to, so please know that there are funds accessible so that everyone can go to camp. They have already given out \$16,000!
- Anna is the Covenant Relations Coordinator - she would love to come and visit your church and tell people more about Cascades. And they pray for you regularly! Please let them know how they can be praying for you!

**XVI. Ordinand Candidate: Kristi Smith - Milwaukie Covenant - Milwaukie, OR**

**XVII. Election of Positions for MA executive board**

Sally Carlson, PacNWC MA Secretary

- *Vice Chair: Nathan Daniels (2023-2026) - Affirmed*
- *Treasurer: Dave Sim (2023-2026) serving second term - Affirmed*
- *There were no nominations from the floor*

**XVIII. Ordinand Candidate: Sharad Yadav – First Covenant, Portland, OR**

**MOTION: To adjust the agenda, bump the necessary items for vote to the top of the agenda and address the other items over lunch. - Motion Carried**

**XIX. ECC Ministerium Update**

Carmen Bensink Lewis, PacNWC MA Chair

**Good Standing:**

1. *Vocational Growth Tool (annually)*
2. *Participate in Covenant Cont.Ed & Experiences (annually)*
3. *MA Dues (annually)*
4. *CovConnect (update every 3-yrs)*

**For the June 2023 Ministerium Annual Meeting**

*to register & vote, ministers must be considered "In Good Standing."*

1. *They must be up to date on their dues (for **2021-2022 AND 2022-2023**)*
2. *The must have an up-to-date Vocational Growth Tool*
3. *They must have an updated CovConnect profile (every three years).*

***Financial Hardship?*** *There is a simple process for asking for a dues exemption, but exemptions must be requested prior to June 1 in order to maintain their Good Standing by the MA Annual Meeting.*

**President's Governance Proposal**

**Ministerium Website: [www.ecclergy.org](http://www.ecclergy.org)**





**XX. Recommendations from Committee on Ministerial Standing (COMS)**

Mark Mathis, PacNWC COMS member - Ordination & Licensing Approval

- *Scott Burnett – Newport Covenant, Bellevue, WA (OWSa)*
- *Rachel Gough – Monroe Covenant, Monroe, WA (OWSa)*
- *Shaun Higgins- Midway Covenant - DesMoines, WA (OWSa)*
- *Leslie McAuley – Emmanuel Church, Spokane, WA (OWSa)*
- *Kristi Smith – Milwaukie Covenant, Milwaukie, OR (OWSe)*
- *Sharad Yadav – First Covenant, Portland, OR (OWSa)*

**XXi. Action on Licensures/Ordinations - Motion Carried**

Mark Mathis, PacNWC COMS member

**XXii. Prayer for Ordinands**

Mark Mathis, PacNWC COMS member

**XXiii. Honoring Pastors Who Passed Away**

Kurt Notehelfer, PacNWC MA Pastor Connection & Growth Coordinator

- *Dick Lucco - Trinity Covenant, Salem, OR*
- *Bill Goodwin - First Covenant, Everett, WA*

**XXIV. Honoring Pastors Who Are Retiring**

Dave Sim, PacNWC MA Treasurer

- *Harvey Drake - Emerald City Bible Fellowship, Seattle, WA*
- *Paul Hicks - Grace Community Covenant, Olympia, WA*
- *Doug Humphreys - ReWire, Seattle, WA*
- *Dwain Tissell- Eastridge, Clackamas, OR*
- *Greg Asimakoupoulos - Covenant Shores, Mercer Island, WA*

**XXV. Welcome to new pastors in the conference**

Sally Carlson, PacNWC MA Secretary

- *Katy Andlovec - First Covenant, Portland, OR*
- *Brad Bergfalk - Bethany Covenant, Mount Vernon, WA*
- *Jeannette Conver - Clear Lake Covenant, Clear Lake, WA*
- *leisha Hawley - Arlington United Church, Arlington, WA*

**XXVI. Covenant Trust**

Tim Hedberg, Financial Services Representative

**XXVII. 2023 Clergy Family Retreat & May Town hall**

Carmen Bensink Lewis, PacNWC MA Chair

Kurt Notehelfer, PacNWC MA Pastor Connection & Growth Coordinator



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**XXVIII. January Town Hall Debrief and Conversation**

Carmen Bensink Lewis, PacNWC MA Chair

- The MA would like to continue to create space for conversation and connection as an MA.
- There will be an additional town hall (via Zoom) on May 11 - with more opportunities to follow.

**XXIX. Motion to Adjourn - Motion Carried**

Carmen Bensink Lewis, PacNWC MA Chair



**2024 PacNWC MA Budget**  
*Ministerium Finance Report 2024*

Incoming		Outgoing	
Dues (budget:24,300)	15,800	National Dues	7,480
Retreats/Events	11,595	Crisis Fund	3,428
		Pastoral Care	0
		Spiritual Direction	3,172
		COMS	2,350
		Retreat Outgoing	24,700
		Operating	<u>748</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$27,395</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>41,878</b>

**Net = - \$14,488**

**Assets as of 03/23/2024**

**US BANK**

Operating Cash	\$1,773
Clergy Connection and Growth	\$5,290
COMS Bucket	\$ 344
Ministers Crisis Bucket	\$702
Pastoral Care Bucket	\$2,140
Retreat Bucket	\$ 0
Spiritual Direction Bucket	<u>\$307</u>
Total US Bank	\$10,566
<i>National Covenant Properties</i>	<u>\$19,810</u>
<b>Total Accounts</b>	<b>\$30,366</b>

**Simple Budget Proposal 24-25**

**Income**

Dues (\$135 x 171 ministers)	\$23,085
Retreats/Events	<u>\$12,000</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$35,085</b>

**Expense**

National Dues (\$85/member)	\$14,535
Pastoral Care (\$10/member)	\$1710
Crisis Fund (\$5/member)	\$885
Fall Retreat (\$5/member)	\$885
Spiritual Dir. (\$10/member)	\$1710
COMS (\$10/member)	\$1710
Operating (\$10/member)	\$1710
Retreat/Events	<u>\$12,000</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$35,085</b>



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## ECC Governance Proposal

Dear Covenant Ministerium,

We are writing to you today in partnership with President Tammy Swanson-Draheim with a proposal for the Covenant Ministerium regarding how we might together navigate future instances where a credentialed Covenant Minister wishes to contest the removal of their credentials. As part of President Swanson-Draheim's charge from the Covenant Annual Meeting in June of 2022 to "*address the divide regarding human sexuality*" she shared with the Ministerium Executive Committee a potential path forward that might help us navigate the current moment in healthier and more constructive ways.

We are happy to share that after much conversation, listening, and refinement, this proposal has been unanimously recommended both by the Ministerium Executive Committee, as well as the Board of the Ordered Ministry (BoOM). Both groups were provided opportunities to vote on this proposal in recent months.

We are also glad to share that other Covenant leadership groups were given the opportunity to provide feedback and have extended their enthusiastic support, including: the Covenant Executive Board (CEB), the Council of Superintendents (COS), and Covenant Offices Leadership Team (COLT).

The proposal is built on the shared belief that holding hearings in front of the entire Covenant Ministerium is damaging to the fabric of our unity and is ultimately unhealthy for the Covenant Ministerium and the ECC at large. Not only is it profoundly painful, it harms our witness to the wider world, and hinders our ability to have constructive conversations around important topics in healthy ways.

Our proposal is to move Contested Credentialed Hearings out of the Ministerium Annual Meetings and instead provide a similar and equitable space to be heard and reviewed by the Ministerium Executive Committee.

Additionally a diverse task force with representation from leadership bodies (Ministerium, BoOM, COS, CEB, Mosaic, COLT) will be appointed by the President, in consultation with leaders from respective leadership bodies, for the purpose of considering creative/alternative pathways for pastors who have practiced behaviors out of alignment with our ethical guidelines on human sexuality. Discussion to be held in congruence with the position adopted by the Covenant Annual Meeting (1996, 2004). The work of the Presidential Task Force will be discussed with the Ministerium during and/or before the Annual Meeting in 2025, but not before the June 2024 vote. Any ultimate changes that might be suggested are to be approved by all represented leadership bodies and adopted by two thirds vote at the Annual Meeting of the Ministerium.

For those who may not be familiar with the Ministerium Executive Committee, this body is comprised of each Conference Ministerial Association Chair (11), the Mosaic Commission Presidents (4), the Ministerium Officers (5), the Chair of Advocates for Covenant Clergy Women, the Chair of the Covenant Chaplains Association, the Chair of the Board of the Ordered Ministry, the President of the ECC, and the Executive Minister of Develop Leaders and Ordered Ministry. Each of the 25 members of the Ministerium Executive Committee is elected to their position of service and represents an important part of the Covenant Ministerium.



This proposal, should it be adopted, would require an affirmative vote of the Covenant Ministerium and must reach a two-thirds threshold for adoption. Additionally, this proposal requires a change not only to the bylaws of the Covenant Ministerium but also a change to the Ministerium Constitution. Changes to the Ministerium Constitution must be submitted for review at least one year prior to any action. Therefore this proposal will be shared in greater detail following the Ministerium Annual Meeting in June of 2023, and further discussion and a vote will be held at the June 2024 Ministerium Annual Meeting.

In the meantime, as the Ministerium holds active discussion regarding potentially adjusting our processes, the Board of the Ordered Ministry has agreed not to submit any recommendations for removal of credentials to the Covenant Ministerium which may be contested until after June of 2024 when this proposal has been voted on.

Additionally, in order to facilitate this process and move the proposal forward, ECC President Tammy Swanson-Draheim and Ministerium President Taylor Burgoyne have created the Ministerium Governance Working Group who will be responsible for: communicating updates on this process to the Ministerium, receiving and soliciting feedback from the Ministerium, drafting the specific necessary governance documents, and finally in June of 2024 submitting the finalized proposal to the Covenant Ministerium for debate and a vote.

The members of the Ministerium Governance Working Group are:

Rev. Dierdra Clark, Chair - East Coast Conference Ministerial Association  
Rev. Susan Cosio, President - Covenant Chaplains Association  
Rev. TJ Smith, Vice President - Covenant Ministerium  
Rev. Tammy Swanson-Draheim, President - Evangelical Covenant Church  
Rev. Anne Jorgenson, Parliamentarian - Covenant Ministerium (Advisory Member)

We recognize that there will be many questions that cannot be fully addressed in the scope of this letter. You will be hearing more about the details of this proposal in the near future, and the next year will be dedicated to conversation around this proposal. The Ministerium Governance Working Group will present an outline which will be presented at the Covenant Ministerium Annual Meeting this coming June.

In Christ,

Rev. Taylor Burgoyne, President - Covenant Ministerium  
TJ Smith, Vice President - Covenant Ministerium  
Rev. Laurie Cornell, Secretary - Covenant Ministerium  
Rev. Ruby Varghese, Vice Secretary - Covenant Ministerium  
Rev. Sandra Norris, Treasurer - Covenant Ministerium  
Rev. Tammy Swanson-Draheim, President - Evangelical Covenant Church

Rev.



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## PacNWC MA Bylaw Change Proposal

### ARTICLE II – COMMITTEES

Section 1. The Committee on Ministerial Standing shall be composed of *a minimum of* six members, no less than four who are Ordained Ministers to Word and Sacrament and no more than two who are either Ordained to Word and Service or are Commissioned for Staff Ministry all in full standing and are seasoned in ministry and mature. The Conference Superintendent and the Chair of this association shall be ex-officio members. Members of the Board of the *Ordered* Ministry shall be advisory members. Credentialed Ministers from the Conference Staff may be appointed by the Chair of the Association as advisory members in consultation with the Superintendent. Members of the committee shall be elected for a term of three years; in such manner that two members shall retire each year. ~~The third year persons on the committee shall be the Chair, and Vice Chair, the second year persons the Secretary, and Vice Secretary and the first year persons shall be responsible for the general concern of the Conference's ordinands, commissionees, and first year applicants for Licensure.~~ *They shall elect amongst themselves a Chair and Vice-Chair.* They shall not succeed themselves more than once. They shall be guided in their duties by the rules and regulations of the Covenant Board of the *Ordered* Ministry and by the Constitution and By-Laws of this association.



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## **List of Current MA Exec & COMS Officers**

### **PacNWC Ministerium Executive Committee (2023-2024)**

**Terms: 3 years; Limit 2 terms**

Chair – Carmen Bensink Lewis (2022-2025) 1<sup>st</sup> term

Vice Chair – Nate Daniels (2023-2026) 1<sup>st</sup> term

Secretary – Sally Carlson (2022-2025) 2<sup>nd</sup> term

Treasurer – David Sim (2023-2026) 2<sup>nd</sup> term

District Coordinator – Kurt Notehelfer (2022-2025) 1<sup>st</sup> term

### **COMS (2023-2024)**

**Terms: 3 years; Limit 2 terms**

Chair - Kurt Notehelfer (2021-2024) 1st term

Mark Mathis (2023-2026) 2<sup>nd</sup> term

Sarah Hammersborg (2022-2025) 2<sup>nd</sup> term

Jim Sequira (2022-2025) 1<sup>st</sup> term

Jon Lemmon (2021-2024) 1<sup>st</sup> term

Greg Yee, ex-officio (PacNW Superintendent)

Carmen Bensink Lewis, ex-officio (chair - PacNW Chair of the Ministerial Association)

Chris Eltrich, advisory (2023-2024)

Ben Zabel, advisory (2023-2024)

Nancy Sugikawa, advisory (2023-2024)





## **Nominations for MA Executive Chair (2024-2025)**



### **David Johson**

David Johnson has been a Covenant pastor for twenty-eight years and is currently serving Wiley Heights Covenant Church in Yakima, Washington. David had been serving as a hospice chaplain for two years when he recently received a call to serve in Yakima. David is a spiritual director, trained in the Franciscan Tradition. In his life prior to vocational ministry he performed and taught as a classical musician. David's heart for ministry has always been motivated by helping people to bask in the amazing love, acceptance, and grace of God and to thrive as the precious person God has called them to be. David enjoys reading theology and a good novel, listening to a broad range of music, from Beethoven to Radiohead, and following the St. Louis Cardinals. David's home is blessed by his wonderful spouse, Cherlyn, who is a professional violinist, his son, Christian, and two lively Shih Tzus, Reuben and Henry.



### **Corey Johnsrud**

Corey W. Johnsrud and his wife Gretchen have been married for 33 years and have three grown children who are all successfully launched! They enjoy building relationships around the table, cycling, hiking, movies and cooking. Corey has served churches in 7 of the ECC's 11 Conferences in nearly 30 years of pastoral ministry. He received his Bachelor of Arts in Biblical and Theological Studies, and a Master of Divinity from North Park University. He was ordained to Word and Sacrament in 1997. In 2013, he received his Doctor of Ministry from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN where his doctoral thesis focused on congregational revitalization.