



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

## 133<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Immanuel Church and Online

### PACNWC VISION:

To be a mosaic of churches working interdependently together to transform lives and communities.

### PACNWC MISSION PRIORITIES:

- 1) Start New Churches
- 2) Strengthen Churches
- 3) Support Pastors

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATION MEETING

Our **Ministerial Association** met at The Gathering House on April 27<sup>th</sup> for continuing education with Lenore Three Stars and on April 28<sup>th</sup> to cover business in supporting our pastors, staff and their families. Six candidates for ordination and 42 licenses were approved for recommendation at the ECC Annual Meeting in June.

Scott Burnett – Newport  
Rachel Gough – Monroe

Shaun Higgins – Midway  
Leslie McAuley – Immanuel

Kristi Smith – Milwaukie  
Sharad Yadav

### HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The 133<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting was attended by 145 delegates and general conferees for our second hybrid meeting. Immanuel Church showed incredible hospitality to those in person. Online delegates participated through Zoom. We were also generously hosted by City Covenant for Friday's activities.

Encounter Church, Bellevue, WA and Evergreen Covenant Church, Mercer Island, WA as well as First Covenant Church, Portland, OR and Bread and Wine Covenant Church, Portland, OR were recommended for merger in the ECC roster of member churches.

Bridge Covenant Church, Salem, OR, Disciple Community Church, Bellevue, WA, and Hope Covenant Church, Everett, WA concluded ministry and were recommended for removal from the ECC roster of member churches.

We thanked and celebrated Director of Ministries, **Cris Back**, for her faithful and fruitful 20 years of ministry among us. Thank you, Cris!

**Superintendent Greg Yee** reflected on some of the challenges last year including finances, missional momentum, and the pending vote for Quest Church to be removed. He also shared his excitement for our current season of opportunities and fruitfulness as he highlighted our three mission priorities: Start Churches, Strengthen Churches and Support Pastors.

The challenge to reignite a focus on churches planting churches was made through the testimony of **Rob Fairbanks** at Immanuel Church incubating and planting The Garden Covenant with **Pastor Phil**

**Moore.** Seattle Chinese Covenant is partnering with the Covenant Church of Taiwan to host their Fire Conference in Seattle 9/29-10/1.

Many resources were made available to strengthen churches through workshops, coaching, specific assistance for church chair-people, growing our mosaic, and several next gen ministries. Churches were also encouraged to determine if they qualify for the Employee Retention Credit. Reports from **Nancy de Jong**, chair of the Children and Family Ministries Commission and **Kristi Smith**, Chair of the Youth Commission shared including announcing the next Unite, July 15-19, 2024.

There were many ways we supported our 170 pastors last year: several retreats were hosted, coaching was offered and assistance given through the ECC's credentialing process. We have over 25 spiritual directors that were accessed. Over \$17,500 was shared for crisis care. Associate Superintendent **Dawn Taloyo** and **Amy Muia**, Associate Pastor of Congregational Care at Bethany Covenant, shared highlights of the Exploring Call Retreat.

**Brian Whitaker**, PacNWC Executive Board Chair, proposed a revised budget for 2023 of \$1,164,681 and \$998,612 for 2024 that were both unanimously approved.

Elections for new and continuing board and commission members were all passed with unanimous approval. **Laurie Roberts** of First Covenant Portland, **Richard Wootton** of Headwaters Covenant, and **Tim Davis** of Encounter were elected to the Executive Board. **Katie Hutchison** of Selah Covenant, **Tim Anderson** of Creekside Covenant, **Brianne Fenton** of Shoreline Covenant and **Matt Knapp** of Harbor Covenant were elected to the Youth Commission. **Florence Gustafson** of Shoreline Covenant, and **Becky Mohrweis** of Crossroads Community Covenant were elected to the Nominating Commission.

**Mark Carlson** shared a report from Cascades Camp & Conference Center expressing their gratitude for the support the camp has received from PacNWC congregations. There is growing excitement for this year's camping season which will be the first full offering of programs since 2019.

Greetings and updates were brought by **Ramelia Williams**, Director of Ministry Initiatives, Love Mercy Do Justice, Evangelical Covenant Church, **Peter Hedstrom**, President, National Covenant Properties, **Tim Hedberg**, Financial Services Representative, Covenant Trust Company, **Rick Mylander**, ECC Nomination Board, and Keith Carpenter, Director of Church Engagement, Mission Advancement, ECC.

**Pastor Bruce Bruns** extended an invitation to the 134<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting April 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 at Milwaukie Covenant Church, OR.

Please help connect people in your church to the Pacific Northwest Conference website, our monthly e-newsletter called The Catch, and our social media accounts on Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Twitter. The full Annual Report, Ministry Fair link and all media links (including Greg Yee's report slides and all ECC promotional videos) are available in English, Spanish, Korean and Chinese at [pacnwc.org/annualcelebration](https://pacnwc.org/annualcelebration).

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