

REPORT ON CHURCHES TO BE REMOVED FROM THE ROSTER OF THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH

Churches to be removed from roster

Central Conference

Our Savior's Evangelical Covenant Church, Oak Forest, Illinois
Tomahawk Evangelical Covenant Church, Tomahawk, Wisconsin

Great Lakes Conference

Designer's Covenant Church, Nashville, Tennessee
Trinity Covenant Church, Rochester, New York

Midsouth Conference

One Covenant Church, Midwest City, Oklahoma
Brazos Community Evangelical Covenant Church, College Station, Texas
Evangelica Cristiana, Freeport, Texas

Midwest Conference

Covenant Church, Scranton, Kansas

North Pacific Conference

Covenant Fellowship, Port Orchard, Washington

Northwest Conference

Evangelical Mission Covenant Church, Salem, South Dakota

Pacific Southwest Conference

River's Edge Covenant Church, Brentwood, California
Sunago Grace Covenant Church, Compton, California
Crown Valley Covenant Church, Laguna Niguel, California
Esperanza Covenant Church, Sacramento, California
New Covenant Christian Ministries, Sacramento, California

Central Conference – Jerome O. Nelson, Superintendent

Name: Our Savior's Evangelical Covenant Church

Place: Oak Forest, Illinois

Reason for deletion from the roster: Closed

Number of members: 14

Year joined the Covenant: 1961

Peak membership (approximately): 90

Reasons leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Four years ago the church had contemplated closing but decided to try and continue ministry. The membership continued to decrease to the point that they could no longer afford the expenses of remaining open. The church voted to close and one of our church plants was given the opportunity to rent the facility. Ministry is still going on at the building.

Name: Tomahawk Evangelical Covenant Church

Place: Tomahawk, Wisconsin

Reason for deletion from the roster: Closed

Number of members: 12

Year joined the Covenant: 1922

Peak membership (approximately): 100

Reasons leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Membership had dwindled to the point where they were unable to maintain the property and expenses.

Great Lakes Conference – Richard Lucco, Superintendent

Name of the Church: Designer's Covenant Church

Place: Nashville, Tennessee

Reason for deletion from the roster: Closed

Number of members: 30

Year joined the Covenant: 2004

Peak membership (approximately): 50

Reasons leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Designer's Covenant Church of Nashville, Tennessee began in 2004 and grew to 100 attenders. However, there was a slow decline in attendance; and, when the church lost their lease, they were unable to sustain ministry. We celebrate the lives that have been changed at Designer's, are grateful for the ministry that they had in Nashville, and are thankful that Pastor Stull has been able to find a call to a new ministry in the area.

Name of the Church: Trinity Covenant Church

Place: Rochester, New York

Reason for deletion from the roster: Closed

Number of members: 39

Year joined the Covenant: 1979

Peak membership (approximately): 85

Reasons leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Trinity Covenant Church of Rochester, New York was organized in 1979 with some members from the former Immanuel Covenant Church, and others from the community. In 2007, the church had a part-time pastor and an attendance of 20. After trying various outreach ministries into the community, they voted to close. In the 1980s, Trinity built a building on the southside of the city. This building is now being leased by Artisan Covenant Church, a church plant that continues the Covenant presence and the Gospel outreach in the Rochester area.

MidSouth Conference – Garth T. Bolinder, Superintendent

Name: One Covenant Church

Place: Midwest City, Oklahoma

Reason for deletion from the roster: Closed, August of 2006.

Number of members: 20

Year joined the Covenant: 1998

Peak membership (approximately): 60

Reasons leading to removal from the roster and comments:

This Covenant church had a difficult time getting traction as a church plant. The founding church planter pastor left the church in early 2005. Attendance at the church continued to dwindle. They eventually called another pastor, but came to the place where they could not support a full-time pastor, nor pay their mortgage. After several months of prayerful evaluation, the church leaders, in conjunction with the leadership of the Midsouth Conference, decided to conclude their ministry.

Name: Brazos Community Evangelical Covenant Church

Place: College Station, Texas

Reason for deletion from the roster: Withdrawn

Number of members: 20

Year joined the Covenant: 1994

Peak membership (approximately): Unknown

Reasons leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Brazos Community Evangelical Covenant Church left its affiliation with the ECC in 2000. It is now an independent church in College Station, Texas.

Name: Evangelica Cristiana

Place: Freeport, Texas

Reason for deletion from the roster: Withdrawn

Number of members: Unknown

Year joined the Covenant: 1998

Peak membership (approximately): 62

Reasons leading to removal from the roster and comments:

This church had a loose affiliation with the Midsouth Region of the Evangelical Covenant Church before the Midsouth became a conference. The founding pastor left the church several years ago. The church has since affiliated with a Baptist church in Freeport, Texas and has dropped its Covenant affiliation.

Midwest Conference – Kenneth P. Carlson, Superintendent

Name: Covenant Church

Place: Scranton, Kansas

Reason for deletion from the roster: Withdrawn

Number of members: 59

Year joined the Covenant: 1889

Peak membership (approximately): Unknown

Reasons leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Covenant Church of Scranton, Kansas is a town and country church in a small, farming community in Central Kansas. The connection of the church with the ECC and the Midwest Conference diminished during an approximately 20 year period under the leadership of a pastor from outside the denomination. During that time, it took on the character and culture of a Community Bible Church, independent and theologically conservative. Differences on theological issues, particularly the ordination of women to pastoral ministry, contributed to a spirit critical of the Covenant and a leadership model dependent on one family concentrated the decision-making process. The stated reason for withdrawing is a desire to direct their mission budget toward local concerns. At the Midwest Conference's recent annual meeting, the following resolution was put forward and passed: *Whereas Scranton Covenant Church of Scranton, KS, has chosen to voluntarily withdraw from the Midwest Conference and the Covenant denomination for the stated purpose of using their mission funds more effectively in their local area; be it resolved that the Midwest Conference accept this resignation with regret, but also with thanksgiving for our relationship of many years (1889-2008), and be it further resolved that the Midwest Conference prayerfully commend the church to God for His keeping and blessing.*

North Pacific Conference – Mark A. Novak, Superintendent

Name: Covenant Fellowship

Place: Port Orchard, Washington

Reason for deletion from the roster: Closed

Number of members: 25

Year joined the Covenant: 2000

Peak membership (approximately): 60

Reasons leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Covenant Fellowship began its ministry in Port Orchard, Washington in 1998 and was received into membership in the Covenant in 2000. It was parented by Harbor Covenant Church Gig Harbor, Washington. The church had a good beginning but in recent years sustained significant challenges following the departure of several families and later the resignation of the founding pastor. A lengthy interim ministry concluded in May 2007 with the remaining members voting to disband.

Northwest Conference – James A. Fretheim, Superintendent

Name of the Church: Evangelical Mission Covenant Church

Place: Salem, South Dakota

Reason for deletion from the roster: Closed

Number of members: 15

Year joined the Covenant: 1885

Peak membership (approximately): 125

Reasons leading to removal from the roster and comments:

This has been a faithful ministry for 122 years. Declining attendance and an aging congregation led the members to decide to close in the summer of 2007. They had a final service of praise and thanksgiving to God for all that had been.

Pacific Southwest Conference – Evelyn M. R. Johnson, Superintendent

Name: River’s Edge Covenant Church

Place: Brentwood, California

Reason for deletion from the roster: Closed

Number of members: 47

Year joined the Covenant: 2003

Peak membership (approximately): 47

Reasons leading to removal from the roster and comments:

God used River’s Edge in many life-transforming ways including reaching youth and young adults through music and the arts and starting a non-profit to tutor children. The church experienced significant leadership and financial challenges in the past three years. After the founding pastor resigned this past fall, it was determined that there was not enough ministry momentum or leadership to continue.

Name: Sunago Grace Covenant Church

Place: Compton, California

Reason for deletion from the roster: Closed

Number of members: 49

Year joined the Covenant: 1970

Peak membership (approximately): 91

Reasons leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Sunago Grace Covenant Church of Compton, formed in 1969, was the first church in the PSWC to serve a predominantly African-American constituency. The faithful ministry of many pastoral and lay leaders through the years established 1005 E. Palmer as a “beacon of light” in the Compton community. When the Fragment House charter school closed in 2006, the church became economically unstable. Despite several attempts to “restart,” a sustainable ministry did not result and the congregation voted to close on February 17, 2008.

Name: Crown Valley Covenant Church

Place: Laguna Niguel, California

Reason for deletion from the roster: Closed

Number of members: 135 (2006)

Year joined the Covenant: 1971

Peak membership (approximately): 163

Reasons leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Started in the early 70s, Crown Valley Covenant Church in Laguna Niguel experienced many years of fruitful ministry, particularly through their focus on reaching youth in the community. During a recent pastoral transition time, the congregation discerned it did not have the ministry momentum needed to launch a next phase and voted to close on January 13, 2008.

Name: Esperanza Covenant Church

Place: Sacramento, California

Reason for deletion from the roster: Closed

Number of members: 0 listed in yearbook

Year joined the Covenant: 2003

Peak membership (approximately): 50

Reasons leading to removal from the roster and comments:

Esperanza Covenant Church was planted in south Sacramento in 1998. After three pastoral transitions and multiple re-locations, the church eventually lost traction in attendance and financial sustainability, necessitating its closure in late 2007. Literally dozens of men, women and children became followers of Christ through its nine years of ministry in Sacramento, for which we praise God!

Name: New Covenant Christian Ministries

Place: Sacramento, California

Reason for deletion from the roster: Closed

Number of members: 144

Year joined the Covenant: 2002

Peak membership (approximately): 144

Reasons leading to removal from the roster and comments:

This church, located in south Sacramento became a member church of the ECC through adoption in 2002. The church moved to three different locations since that time and then disbanded within the last year.
