



December 2010

Superintendent Search Team Update

We begin by thanking you for your partnership and prayers as we make choices and decisions regarding the next conference superintendent! The search team has appreciated your input on nominees and has narrowed that list of over 30 to a small group that we will now focus on. Our team needs your continued prayer as we work together and make plans for our next meeting, January 7-8, 2011, when we will interview the finalists. An announcement of the final nominee will be made by the Midwinter Conference. A vote at the MWC and ECC annual meetings will happen in April and June. *Brent Thompson, Search Team Chair*

Sankofa Immediately Following Midwinter!

The next Sankofa journey is scheduled for Feb. 4-7, 2011. Join other Covenanters as they journey towards racial righteousness. This interactive journey explores historic sites of importance in the Civil Rights movements and sites of oppression and inequality for people of color, while seeking to move participants toward healing the wounds and racial divide caused by hundreds of years of racial injustice in the U.S.

Contact the Dept. of Compassion, Mercy and Justice in The Evangelical Covenant Church at Chrissy.palmerlee@covchurch.org or 773-907-3301.



Spiritual Rest and Renewal Highlights Pastor's Retreats

Fifty-seven pastors and spouses attended the Eastern Retreat at the beautiful St. Benedict Center in Schuyler, NE. The focus of the retreat was spiritual direction. Dr. John Weborg, a North Park Seminary professor, was the guest speaker.

The Western Retreat held at Glacier View Ranch near Ward, CO, had Rev. Nick Lillo, lead pastor at WaterStone Community Church in Littleton, speak on the theme of the Kingdom of God. Forty-two pastors and spouses attended the event.

Alaska Partnership Month

New event, focusing on the ministry partnership we have with Mountain Village Covenant Church in Alaska, will be highlighted in your church sometime between February 20 and March 20. This next summer, mission teams will go to Mountain Village to remodel the parsonage as the congregation prepares for a new pastor. Rev. Carl and Marcia Elwood will retire in 2011. We thank God for their ministry to the people of Mountain Village.



Three MWC Churches attend NAVIGATE 2010



Pastors Brent, Heidi and Dick

Pastors Brent Thompson (Wichita KS, The Journey), Heidi Wiebe (Topeka KS, Brookwood Covenant) and Dick Skar (McPherson KS, New Gottland ECC) and their Vitality Teams joined teams from every ECC conference for a national vitality event in Kansas City, November 3-7. Watch for a January 2011 special edition of the midWest e-connect highlighting this event.



An American Thanksgiving Dinner

International students from Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge, IA, enjoyed their "first ever" American Thanksgiving dinner on November 19. For those who have been raised on turkey with all the "fixins" every Thanksgiving, this may not seem that remarkable; however, many of

these students have never tasted turkey or have a Christian understanding of this holiday. The dinner was a joint effort between First Covenant in Fort Dodge, Lanyon Covenant in Harcourt, Intervarsity Christian Fellowship and International Students Inc. Some students are now attending church. Says Pastor Marc Murchison of Lanyon Covenant, "It's exciting to see students who are not yet believers attending church and being hungry for truth. I gave away almost all the Bibles I had that night."

April 15-16, 2011, the MWC will hold its annual ministry celebration in Omaha, NE, hosted by First Covenant. Preparations are underway to help delegates and guests celebrate 125 years of ministry along with bidding farewell to Supt. Ken Carlson and his wife Nancy who have served our conference for 24 years, 16 as superintendent. We will also elect a new conference superintendent so plan to attend this important time of decision making in our conference! A schedule of the weekend events will arrive in your churches late February 2011. Visit our website for details: www.midwestcovenant.org

MWC Pastors/Staff new since Oct. issue:

Dan Fullerton, Interim Pastor, ECC, Pomeroy, IA
Jed Hollenbach, Pastor, Harvest Ridge, Shawnee, KS

Christopher Logan, Worship Pastor, Community Covenant, Lenexa, KS
Dick Nystrom, Interim Pastor, Urban Heights ECC, Des Moines, IA

Midwest Conference

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The Midwest Conference is a mission association of Covenant churches in Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, western Missouri, Nebraska, Wyoming