

## Four Distinctives of the Covenant Church:

- *We are evangelical, but not exclusive.*
- *We are biblical, but not doctrinaire.*
- *We are congregational, but not independent.*
- *We are traditional, but not rigid.*

## *We are 3 strands stronger*

A cord of three strands is not quickly broken (Ecclesiastes 4:12). We covenant together to do things together that none of us could do alone.

### The Local Covenant Church

Your church is the source of hope and mission in your community.

### The Great Lakes Conference

Our Great Lakes Conference staff members provide a range of behind-the-scenes support services for our churches.

### The Evangelical Covenant Church

Our 850+ churches in North America combine resources to advance the Mission of God in the world through local churches, agencies and missionaries.

## The Great Lakes Conference

Our conference is a compilation of city, urban, suburban, small town and rural churches made up of people with diverse spiritual backgrounds, ethnicity, and age. We are spread out through eight states (Kentucky, Ohio, Tennessee, West Virginia, the lower peninsula of Michigan, western New York, western Pennsylvania, & western corner of Virginia). We also work with 3 camps: Camp Mission Meadows in New York, Portage Lake Covenant Bible Camp in Michigan and Covenant Mountain Mission Camp in Virginia.



## What is an Evangelical Covenant Church?



21840 W. Nine Mile Rd. Southfield, MI 48075  
248-595-8098  
[www.greatlakes.cc](http://www.greatlakes.cc)

*An in-depth look  
at who we are....*

## An Evangelical Covenant Church is:

- a community that is deeply committed to Jesus Christ and passionately engaged in Christ's mission in the world.
- an apostolic church - we know, we believe, and live the faith delivered to us by the apostles and prophets.
- part of the church universal - all who confess faith in Christ.
- a reformation church - we place an emphasis on salvation by grace alone through faith alone - apart from the works of the law.

*We Join God in His mission to see more disciples among more populations in a more caring and just world.*



**Multi-ethnic,  
Intergenerational,  
Missional**

## A little historical background:

In the mid-1800s people began immigrating to the United States from Sweden where some had experienced intense spiritual renewal. Seeking vital faith and church reform, they called themselves Mission Friends, and they focused less on the doctrinal arguments of the day and more on personal faith in Christ and Scripture as the center of their life together. They gathered in small groups to read the Bible, sing songs, and encourage one another in faith.

The Covenant was founded by some of these adventurous Swedish immigrants in 1885 and has become one of North America's most racially and ethnically diverse denominations.



## Our core beliefs can be summed up in six affirmations:

- The centrality of the word of God
- The necessity of the new birth
- A commitment to the WHOLE mission of the church
- The church as a fellowship of believers
- A conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit
- The reality of freedom in Christ

## The mission of the Covenant:

### *Start and Strengthen Churches*

We start healthy new churches and we support, strengthen, and resource existing churches for their best long-term missional health.

### *Make and Deepen Disciples*

We work to foster a multi-age, multi-ethnic movement of disciples making disciples that follow Jesus, are transformed by Jesus, and are on mission with Jesus.

### *Develop Leaders*

We are committed to strengthen our pastors through credentialing, formation, advocacy, and care; and committed to the formation of healthy clergy/lay leader community.

### *Love Mercy and Do Justice*

We join God in His work of making things right and new in our broken world, working alongside marginalized people for transformation through Christ.

### *Serve Globally*

We partner in the whole mission of God, so that together we are extending the whole gospel to the whole world by sending global personnel, offering theological education, equipping local congregations, and cultivating global partnerships.

*To learn more about  
our shared ministry...*

[WWW.COVCHURCH.ORG](http://WWW.COVCHURCH.ORG)