

New churches to be introduced at MWC annual meeting

The planting of new churches is one of the most effective strategies God is using today to expand His Kingdom! More new churches mean more opportunities to reach more people in more places with the Good News, bringing them into a relationship with Jesus Christ and transforming their communities. New churches are needed to join our existing churches in living out the Gospel through ministries of compassion, mercy and justice. **Church planting is not optional—it is the Biblical pattern for fulfilling the whole mission of God.**

At the upcoming Midwest Conference annual meeting, we are excited to introduce three new churches who plan to join The Evangelical Covenant Church at the Covenant annual meeting in June 2010.

Ecclesia of Denver, Colorado: Ecclesia is a great story of relationships, made rare by the fact that it was started in partnership with a church from another denomination! Led by a youthful staff, it is ancient/future in its philosophy, celebrating liturgy, justice, worship, community and call in the urban core. Co-Pastors Chad Wible and Jodi Adams meet at St. Cajetan's Church located at 900 Auraria Pkwy in Denver.



Crossroads Community Church of Halstead, Kansas: Since it's beginning of serving the city of Halstead, Crossroads leaders often dreamed with inspired imagination. What would it look like if we served cold drinks to city workers on a hot day? What would it look like if we delivered turkey dinners to the less-served the weekend before Thanksgiving? What would it look like if we create a place where the less-served could receive care? Their dreaming provoked action. Their inspired imagination continues to this day spreading the good news in practical ways. Lay leader, Tom Wells, wife Sharon, and congregation meet at 225 Main St in historic downtown Halstead.



La Miel Covenant of Salina, Kansas: La Miel (honey) is another rare story in the Midwest Conference experience, a story of an Hispanic church planted beside the care of a Euro-American congregation. Hispanic churches serve their constituency in ways Anglo churches might never realize, assisting in jobs, legal issues and translation services, among many others, much like ethnic Scandinavian churches did years ago. Pastor Dario Vasquez and his congregation meet at 901 W Cloud in Salina.

Conference Pastor Retires After 22 Years

The Bethlehem Covenant Church of Waverly, Nebraska, bids farewell to **Pastor Mike and Sue Weyeneth** this April 2010. Mike ministered to generations of families during this time, them, blessing them as work, officiating at some of grief with those who lost pastors are able to enjoy. with Mike, supporting his also working behind the scenes with hospital and home visits to the sick and elderly, sharing her musical gifts and serving the women of the church. We wish God's blessing to both Mike and Sue as they move to Florida to begin a new chapter in their lives!



baptizing children, confirming they went off to college or their weddings and sharing loved ones. That is a gift few Sue was a partner in ministry ministry in many ways but

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Full-time Pastors new to MWC since 2-1-10

- Allan Redenius, Interim Pastor, First Covenant, Fort Dodge, IA
- Tom Wells, Lay leader, Crossroads Church, Halstead, KS
- Evan Westburg, Assoc. Pastor, Living Hope Covenant, Colorado Springs, CO
- Chad Wible & Jodi Adams, Co-pastors, Ecclesia, Denver, CO

April 2010

MIDWEST CONFERENCE MINISTRY CELEBRATION, hosted by the ECC of Lindsborg, KS, will be held April 23-24, 2010. Several dates to remember are:

- April 1: Credential Cards due
- April 1: Guaranteed lodging for area motels hosting MWC delegates and guests
- April 15: Registrations due (if attending only the Friday evening dinner prior to worship celebration, you must register and pay fees for dinner) Questions? Call 1-888-871-3020

A schedule has been sent to all conference churches!

"Looking Back, Pressing Forward"

is the theme for the 2010 Midwest Conference. A 3:30 p.m. Friday workshop kicks off conference activities followed by dinner at 5:30. Dinner is open to all, bring your family and friends! The evening worship celebration held at the local high school auditorium is an event you don't want to miss! Well-known performer throughout the Covenant and North America, Bob Stromberg, (www.bobstromberg.com) will share his unique and uplifting style of storytelling. **Our time together on Saturday will be much more about ministry together in our MWC than a business session.** Plan to leave feeling encouraged about ministry and more fully prepared to share with your local congregations how we are **better together!** This is an exciting time to be serving our growing association of churches as we launch into our 125th year of ministry partnership. We are poised as a conference to reflect on **"Looking Back** at the legacy of the preceding 124 years as we **Press Forward** into the future."

Go to the website and read all about the activities associated with this annual gathering or download a registration form: www.midwestcovenant.org

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