



The Evangelical Covenant Church

November 2016

To All Covenant Churches

Dear Friends in Christ,

As you gather for your congregational Annual Meeting, let me say how deeply grateful I am for the partnership we share in this movement we call the Evangelical Covenant Church.

You are one among 850 congregations within our 11 regional conferences here in Canada and the United States. We are a growing, multiethnic, multi-generational family of churches with lots of heart for making a difference together. And together, we impact millions of real lives here and in dozens of countries around the globe.

But looking beyond our numbers, we share one particular trait, that of our intent to be found faithful. I see this everywhere – in our churches, in our pastors and leaders, on our mission fields, in our institutions, and wherever Covenanters serve. Our hearts' intent is to be faithfully walking *with* God and *for* God.

If we are committed to pursuing Christ, we must be committed to pursuing Christ's priorities in the world. Your congregation, in partnership with all the congregations of the Covenant, works together to achieve the five priorities we have identified: start and strengthen churches, making and deepening disciples, developing leaders, loving mercy and doing justice, and serving globally.

We are humbled by what God is doing in each of these areas. You can learn more on our website at covchurch.org, and in particular, by watching the inspiring video **Three Strand Strong** (www.covchurch.org/ministry-update-2017), which gives a snapshot of the Covenant's ministries at home and around the world.

This is only accomplished because of your support and God's faithfulness. As you reflect on the many ways that God is using your congregation, remember that one way is through this important partnership, and your partnership with your regional conference.

I am grateful to serve with you. Together, may we go deeper in Christ and further in mission.

In Christ,



Gary Walter
President