

On the Road to the Next President



AUGUST 1, 2017

Gary Walter announces his retirement as of August 2018.



OCTOBER

The PNC meets for the first time and selects its officers.



DECEMBER

PNC reviews comments.



JANUARY-FEBRUARY

The leading candidates interview.



MARCH

The nominee for president is announced.



JUNE 21-23

The 133rd Annual Meeting is held, and delegates elect the tenth president of the ECC.

SEPTEMBER

The Presidential Nominating Committee (PNC) is formed.

NOVEMBER

The PNC accepts comments and recommendations for nomination.

EARLY JANUARY 2018

PNC reviews recommended names.

FEBRUARY-MARCH

PNC chooses the nominee.

MARCH-JUNE

Churches register their delegates to the Annual Meeting.

SEPTEMBER 1, 2018

The new president takes office.



Last August, Covenant president Gary Walter announced his retirement as of summer 2018, setting in motion the process for electing a new president of the Evangelical Covenant Church.

How does that work?

In good Covenant tradition, we ask, “Where is it written?” In this case, the answer is the Covenant Constitution and Bylaws for most of the questions about the upcoming election.



Who is eligible to be president?

All ordained Covenant ministers in good standing.

What’s the job description?

Provide pastoral leadership to the ECC; be the chief executive officer of the ECC, which includes having general direction of the ministry and business matters of the ECC.



Is the president elected for life?

No, only for a four-year term, but there is no limit to the number of terms a president can serve.

Who gets to be on the Presidential Nominating Committee?

Twelve members of the Executive Board; one member each from the Boards of Ordered Ministry, Pensions and Benefits, North Park University, and Covenant Ministries of Benevolence; the chairs of the eleven regional conferences, for a total of twenty-seven members.



How many candidates does the PNC present?

They present one candidate.

Who elects the president?

Delegates to the Covenant Annual Meeting.

Who gets to be a delegate?

Covenant churches can send from two to seven delegates, depending on membership size. Regional conferences, Serve Globally, the Covenant Ministerium, and various organizations and boards can also send delegates. And all the members of the Council of Administrators and the Executive Board are delegates.



What happens at the Annual Meeting?

The Presidential Nominating Committee presents their nominee for election by ballot. Delegates also have an opportunity to nominate candidates from the floor. If that happens, a nominee has to be present, willing, and eligible. The nominating delegate must provide descriptive information about the candidate. Delegates then have an opportunity to address questions to the nominees. If there is only one candidate, he or she must be elected by a two-thirds majority. If there are two candidates, then a simple majority is required.