



FORWARD
IN MISSION

LOCAL LODGING OPTIONS

HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS

250 - 23rd Street SE
Willmar, MN 56201
320-231-2601

Room Rate - \$149.99
Complimentary Hotel Breakfast

*Group rate is available
through March 30th

BEST WESTERN

2100 Highway 12 East
Willmar, MN 56201
320-235-6060

Room Rate - \$149.99
Complimentary Hotel Breakfast

*Group rate is available
through March 30th



VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR HOTEL REGISTRATION LINKS & DETAILS

LOCATION

FIRST COVENANT CHURCH

801 Willmar Ave SW,
Willmar MN 56201

fccwillmar.org



CELEBRATION '26
FORWARD IN MISSION

ANNUAL MEETING

APRIL 23-25, 2026

NORTHWEST CONFERENCE

FIRST COVENANT CHURCH, WILLMAR, MN

"Forward in Mission" captures a shared conviction that the Church is not called to stand still, but to move faithfully into what God is doing next.

Grounded in the unchanging gospel and attentive to the leading of the Holy Spirit, this theme invites us to look beyond what has been and step courageously into God's purposes for our communities and our world. As we gather as a regional church, we do so with gratitude for the past, clarity in the present and hope for the future—committing ourselves anew to participate in God's mission with faith, unity and expectancy.

Rooted in Jesus, we continue the work of renewing lives and communities by starting and strengthening churches, investing in the next generation and developing missional leaders. This is the Lord's church, and we gather with that same assurance—committed to equipping the saints for ministry, as Ephesians 4:11-12 reminds us, "so that the body of Christ may be built up." Moving forward in mission is not a departure from our story, but its faithful continuation. With gratitude for where God has brought us and confidence in our calling, we ask together: now what? How is God inviting us forward in mission for the sake of the gospel?

Please join us for the 142nd Annual Northwest Conference Celebration, hosted by First Covenant Church in Willmar, MN, April 23-25, 2026.

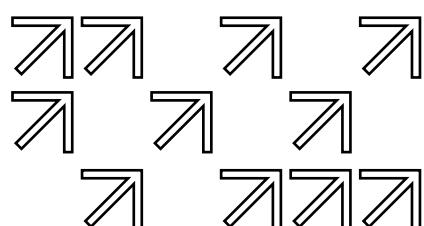
THURSDAY EVENING WORSHIP
Stephanie O'Brien Preaching

FRIDAY EVENING WORSHIP
Julio & Katie Isaza Preaching

HIGHLIGHTS

VOTE TO FUND
the mission budget
and for a second term
for the Superintendent.

BREAKOUT SESSIONS
designed to enrich
and encourage the
local church.



THURSDAY, APRIL 23

1:00 PM Registration and Gatherings
2:00 PM Opening Worship
2:30 PM Ministerial Association Business Session 1
4:00 PM Recess and Gatherings
5:00 PM Dinner
6:30 PM Worship and Communion
8:00 PM After Party in Youth Room

**FRIDAY, APRIL 24**

8:00 AM Registration and Gatherings
9:00 AM Opening Worship
9:15 AM Ministerial Association Business Session 2
(Ordination Testimonies & Credentialing Votes)
10:30 AM Adjournment
10:45 AM Immigration Panel Q&A

STEPHANIE O'BRIEN
LEAD PASTOR, MILL CITY CHURCH, MINNEAPOLIS

Stephanie O'Brien is Church Planter and Lead Pastor of Mill City Church in Northeast Minneapolis. She is an ordained pastor in the Evangelical Covenant Church and a professor of preaching at Bethel University and Seminary in St. Paul, MN. Stephanie has opportunities to coach leaders around the country through speaking, coaching and her podcast Lead Stories with her friend Jo Saxton. She is passionate about communities and individuals participating in the mission of God in the world.

**HIGHLIGHTS**

↗ **LANGUAGE SERVICES**
 Language services will be provided again this year. We're exploring new ways to make full engagement more equitable for all non-English speaking clergy

↗ **GATHERINGS**
 There will be several times in the schedule where you can meet and get to know other Covenant pastors: Thursday at 1 PM, 4 PM, and 8 PM and Friday at 8 AM

↗ **THURSDAY NIGHT AFTER PARTY**
 Join others for a good time at the After Party in the Youth Room. There'll be snacks and beverages, a few stage games, and other activities for you to have fun hanging out with friends, new and old

↗ **THURSDAY NIGHT OFFERING**
 This year's offering will be dedicated to supporting the recently started "Mission Friend Crisis Fund" to support immigrant families and churches who are in need in the Northwest Conference

**FRIDAY, APRIL 24**

NOON Lunch
(Church Planting Lunch & Visit Ministry Partner Displays)
2:00 PM Northwest Conference Business Session 1
4:00 PM Workshops
5:15 PM Dinner
6:30 PM Worship Celebration
8:00 PM Fellowship

**SATURDAY, APRIL 25**

8:30 AM Opening Devotions and Worship
9:00 AM Northwest Conference Business Session 2
NOON Lunch


JULIO & KATIE ISAZA
GLOBAL PERSONNEL
WITH THE ECC

Credentialed ministers with the ECC, Julio and Katie, have been serving as Global Personnel in Colombia since 2012.

They partner with the Evangelical Covenant Church of Colombia (FIEC) in four primary areas: leadership development, Christian formation, theological education, and peace and reconciliation. This includes serving as part-time faculty at the Biblical Seminary of Colombia. Julio has an MDiv from North Park Theological Seminary, a MA in Peace and Conflict from "Universidad de Medellin" and is working towards his PhD through the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies. Katie has a Masters in Christian Formation from North Park Theological Seminary. They are committed to the whole mission of the church, seeking to equip lay leaders and pastors in practical and holistic theology. They are currently on ECC Ministry Assignment and live in the Twin Cities with their teenage sons.

HIGHLIGHTS

↗ **EXERCISE YOUR VOTE**
 Vote for second term for Superintendent

↗ **LEARN FROM OTHERS**
 Enriching and encouraging seminars for church leaders

↗ **SHARED MISSION**
 Build relationships and participate in shared mission of the Church

↗ **EXPAND YOUR NETWORK**
 Learn about Covenant ministries and how they can benefit your ministry

**CHURCH PLANTING LUNCH**

This is open for anyone looking to hear more about starting new churches and developing leaders for the harvest mission all around us. We will connect, pray, and talk about how you and your church can be part of planting new churches.

