

THE EVANGELICAL COVENANT CHURCH
COVENANT MINISTER'S PROFILE FORM
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ORDERED MINISTRY

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Personal History

Last name Mirakian First Michael Middle D Date of Birth 5/17/1973
Address 2413 Beacon Hill Dr.
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Email mirakian@msn.com
Marital Status Single Married Date of Marriage 6-19-1999
Spouse Name (maiden if applicable) Laura
Children's Names and Birth Dates:
David (10-23-2001) Noelle (12-21-2004)

Church History

Denominational Background Evangelical Covenant Church Years in Covenant 9
Baptism a) Date 1973 b) Congregation and Denomination Military Chapel, Leavenworth, KS

Ministerial Credentials

Current Credential: Ordained to Word and Sacrament (OWS)

Credential Date: 2002-07-01

Educational History

College/University/Seminary	Major Field	Degree	Year
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary	pastoral ministry	M.Div.	1999
William Jewell College	international pol.	B.A.	1994
North Park Theological Seminary	Cov. orientation		2000

Continuing Education: *List the three most significant educational experiences in the last five years*

Course of Study	Organization Offering Course	Year
outreach & evangelism	Outreach Marketing	2003
postmodern culture/ministry	Pastors Cluster/Reformed BC	2004-05
Midwinter Conferences	ECC	00-pres

Employment History

List up to the last seven positions of employment held.

Church/Institution/Business, Location	Position Held	From Year	To Year
Bretton Woods Cov Church, Lansing, MI	Pastor	2001	pres
IBS, Inc., Oak Brook, IL	Web Manager	2000	2000
North Park Theological Seminary, Chicago, IL	Online Programs Mgr	1999	2000
Gordon College, Wenham, MA	Webmaster	1994	1995

Denominational & Community Involvement

List up to five significant areas of involvement in the last five years: Boards, Commissions, Committees, Ecumenical, etc.

Type of Involvement	From Year	To Year
Amy Foundation, board of advisors	2001	present
Detroit Area Covenant Pastors Cluster	2001	present
West Side Pastors Cluster (Lansing, ecumenical)	2001	present
Contributing Writer with the Amy Internet Syndicate	2007	present
Michigan Prayer Breakfast	2001	present

Spiritual Journey

Your conversion and spiritual pilgrimage:

My parents introduced me to Jesus at an early age, and I accepted Him as my Savior while still in grade school. As I grew up, I also grew in faith and knowledge of Christ. As my relationship with Jesus matured, faith flowed from my mind into my heart. Over the years, God has revealed Himself to me in numerous ways, calling me to live more fully in His Spirit, to dig more deeply in His Word and to serve His purposes with greater passion. God has blessed me with wisdom that allows me to see the world increasingly from His perspective, transforming my mind and taking captive my will. Above all, He has caused my heart to yearn for Christ and has never failed to satisfy my spiritual hunger with the goodness of His grace and the life-changing truth of His word. I can't wait to see what He does next!

Your call to ministry:

From an early age, I longed to be of service to God. I could see Him developing in me teaching and leadership gifts, and I sensed a calling to seminary while in high school. During college and through my first year of seminary, however, I tried to ignore the call to pastoral ministry. I wanted instead to serve through teaching politics or ethics. God's will proved stronger than mine, and He began to develop in me a love and passion for His Church. I have now fully embraced this calling and, looking back, can see clearly how the Spirit led me step by step to this point. Now I see daily evidence that God is using me according to His will in service to His church. What a joy it is to be a part of the greatest cause the world has ever known!

Theological Perspective

The six Covenant Affirmations are: 1) the centrality of the Word of God, 2) the necessity of the new birth, 3) a commitment to the whole mission of the church, 4) the church as a fellowship of believers, 5) a conscious dependence on the Holy Spirit, 6) the reality of freedom in Christ. Within the provided space, reflect on ways the affirmations influence your ministry in the local church. (21 lines max.):

God gave the church the greatest calling in the world and promised to enable His faithful people to accomplish our mission to reach the lost (Matt. 28:18-20). 1. It is my experience that God's Word is our most valuable tool to motivate and guide people in the church. Each of us need the wisdom God provides as we face the struggles of life and as we put our hearts into accomplishing all God has called us to do. 2. Jesus said one must be born again in order to enter the Kingdom of God. The church can never compromise the necessity of personal rebirth for each person in the world nor its mission to take this message to our local communities and beyond. 3. Jesus called His followers to continue the ministry He started. That is still the mission of the church, and it includes every aspect of Jesus' work on earth: teaching God's word; honoring and worshiping God; serving those in need; sharing the message of salvation; holding those in power to standards of biblical justice; resisting evil; and loving everyone. The church of Jesus Christ must be committed to His entire mission. 4. Building and maintaining loving relationships within the church is a constant challenge that requires intentional and strategic commitment. How we treat one another in the church is one of the greatest evidences we show the world of God's power to change lives through Jesus Christ. 5. While the Word is our greatest tool, the Spirit is our greatest resource and power. God chose to live in our hearts so He could empower us to fulfill His mission. The church must continually seek the Spirit's direction and willingly submit to His power and leading. There is no power in the church aside from God's Spirit. 6. As we come together for a common mission, seeking and serving God in community, we also each retain our own relationships with Christ and the freedom to be guided personally by God's Word and Spirit.

Perspectives on Pastoral Ministry

Your theology and practice of worship:

No human experience is as inspiring or powerful as entering God's awesome presence in prayer and worship. While worship in this life is never perfect nor our communion with God complete, our practice of worship is as vital to our Christian walk as breathing is to our physical bodies. Worship should connect us with God, it should open our hearts and minds to everything He is, it should transform us as followers of Jesus Christ. Worship should declare creatively and passionately who God is and what He has done for us. The style of worship in a given church reflects the church's personality, mission and target audience. The structure, music and atmosphere of worship should be personally meaningful to those who attend so they can best connect with God.

Philosophy of leadership and team ministry:

Effective leadership is vital to a church's ability to focus on its mission and accomplish its goals. Without strong and wise leadership, resources can be wasted or misallocated at the cost of effective ministry. Church leaders must translate biblical values into ministry priorities into life-changing programs and policies that move people closer to Jesus and the church closer to its vision. I believe each person in the church is gifted for ministry and useful to God, and that the church needs leaders who can discern gifts and enable each person to serve effectively. As a leader, I seek to communicate God's vision for the church and to empower others to be a part His mission. Effective leadership enables others to grow, succeed and work together.

Your primary spiritual gifts for pastoral leadership:

(1)Biblical Teaching: God has given me a passion for His Word and a desire to help others understand and live by the Word. I preach and teach the Bible in order to change lives and consistently see God's power at work through my service. (2)Leadership & Administration: As a strategic leader, God enables me to develop priorities and plans to move ministry forward in accordance with His vision. I am skilled at assessing the health of an organization and implementing corrective changes. I am also uniquely gifted in efficient administration (finances, personnel, policy development, etc). (3)Wisdom: God has given me an ability to listen, discern and offer counsel in line with His will and often far beyond my own knowledge or experience. The Spirit puts this gift to work primarily in pastoral counseling and church leadership situations.

Perspectives on Pastoral Ministry (Continued)

Reflect on the different church and community cultures you have experienced:

I have experienced a wide variety of church cultures and am amazed by the power of Jesus Christ in each culture and style of church. Currently, I serve a small, traditional church in the process of renewal and growth. Previously, I have been involved with larger Covenant churches in Chicago and Kansas City. I grew up in a large, suburban Presbyterian congregation and attended a contemporary non-denominational church during college. My time at Gordon-Conwell, a multi-denominational seminary, gave me wide exposure to the diversity of evangelical churches, from charismatic to orthodox. Churches come in many forms, and I feel at home in any evangelical body where people are highly motivated by the things of Christ and authentic in their relationships with one another.

Comment on life circumstances that might affect the call process for you (i.e., spouse's occupation, health, etc.):

There are no significant life issues that would affect my ability to respond to a call, so long as Laura and I felt God's hand leading us. Let me also mention that Laura is gifted and trained for ministry. She earned a masters degree in theology from Gordon-Conwell and has served our church in adult and children's education programs. She also served two terms on the Great Lakes Conference Christian Formation board. She is not currently employed, but as our children grow older, she hopes to expand her service to the church, particularly in the area of children's ministry.

Pastoral Preferences

Preference Continuum: Indicate your **preferences** on this continuum with 1 being the lowest (or least frequent/preferred) and 10 being the highest (or most frequent/preferred). You may write an explanatory note in the provided space.

	Least	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Most
Worship Style												
	Contemporary	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Traditional	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>note:</i>	Worship style needs to fit the culture and "language" of the worshippers so they can fully engage with God.											

Sermon Style	Thematic	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Expository	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>note:</i>	Every sermon I preach arises directly from Scripture (therefore exegetical in style), though I often choose passages to fit a given theme or topic.											

Sermon Text	Lectionary of Christian Year	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Series	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>note:</i>	I prefer to follow God's leading as I plan sermon series and choose passages for teaching.											

Charismatic Movement	Knowledge of	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Involvement In	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>note:</i>	Every believer and every church should be open and submissive to the Spirit's work, but we should not seek particular gifts as evidence of faith or blessing.											

Evangelism Style	Intentional Strategy/Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Natural Outcome of Giftedness	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
<i>note:</i>	Effective evangelism is planned and yet dependent upon our use of spiritual gifts.											

Pastoral Preferences (Continued)

Preference Continuum: Indicate your preferences on this continuum with 1 being the lowest (or least frequent/preferred) and 10 being the highest (or most frequent/preferred). You may write an explanatory note in the provided space.

	Least	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Most
Compassion and Justice	Interest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ministries	Involvement	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

note: While we need to be cautious about political agendas, every church must be involved compassionately in its community.

Ministry Focus	Discipleship/Equipping	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Community Outreach	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

note: Outreach and evangelism must be at the center of the church's ministry. As a pastor, however, my calling is to encourage and equip those in the church to carry out these ministries.

Theology of Baptism	Believer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Infant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

note: I believe Scripture most clearly supports believer baptism, but I am happy to baptize infants of believing parents if they so desire.

Practice of Baptism	Believer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
	Infant	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

note: See note on "Theology of Baptism"

Note: Covenant pastors must agree to recognize the baptism of infants and adults as valid. In order to serve the entire church, pastors in the ECC are required to practice both modes of the sacrament.

Ministry Preferences

Rank the following positions from 1 to 10 (1 being highest) according to which positions you feel most suited

<u>1</u> Lead Pastor	<u>2</u> Christian Education/Christian Formation	<u>7</u> Children	<u>6</u> Youth
<u>3</u> Adult	<u>4</u> Administration	<u>5</u> Community Outreach/Development	<u>10</u> Worship Leader
<u>9</u> Chaplain-Military	<u>8</u> Chaplain-Institutional	<u>1</u> Other: _____	

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