



NOVEMBER 2024

Newsletter



Welcome to our latest newsletter, where we're thrilled to share reflections from the National Covenant Properties (NCP) board's recent visit to partner churches in Denver. In April, the NCP board took a meaningful journey to connect with seven Covenant churches, each uniquely engaged in fulfilling God's mission in their communities. From hosting impactful ministries for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities, like Castle Oaks Covenant Church's partnership with Wellspring Community, to witnessing the warmth of Restoration Covenant Church in its urban setting, each church showcased the beautiful diversity of Covenant ministry.

We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to partner with these faithful Covenant churches and for the privilege of witnessing how God is working through them to bring hope, healing, and transformation to their communities. Each church visit reminded us of the profound impact that dedicated service and intentional ministry can have, inspiring us all to continue supporting God's mission together.

As we reflect on these stories, we're reminded of the words in Hebrews 10:24-25: "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Thank you for your ongoing support, and may God continue to bless and guide each of you in your own ministries!



SEASONS COME & SEASONS GO



PETER HEDSTROM
PRESIDENT, NATIONAL COVENANT PROPERTIES

Seasons come and seasons go — which season are you in?

As many of you probably do during this time of the year, I tend to reflect on the past year while also thinking ahead about the upcoming year. It is a good time to consider all the wonderful things that we have an opportunity to participate in, experience, or learn from during this season while dreaming about new ways to build on the past in the next season of our journey. I trust you agree that there is a great deal to be grateful for.

One thing to be very appreciative and **thankful for is the meaningful ministry of all our Covenant churches and affiliated organizations in the Covenant.** There are more people reached, more lives transformed, and more neighbors connected with the gospel because of the many intentional and creative outreach initiatives by the church leadership and members of our local churches.

In this newsletter you will read about our board's visit last April to seven missional Covenant churches in the Midwest Conference and our opportunity to gain insight into a few of those remarkable ministries. We are blessed to have a talented board of directors at NCP, consisting of a balanced group of volunteer lay leaders with relevant backgrounds and people with pastoral leadership and ministry experience. Our board is passionate about the mission of NCP to help covenant churches find a place to call home and to use as a tool for ministry. We are grateful for their willingness to faithfully serve the greater Covenant family allowing NCP to assist, in a small way, in advancing our movement and the kingdom of God.

Our board and all of us at NCP recognize that we would not be able to serve and fund Covenant churches' financing needs without the **loyal support of our Covenant investors.** We are tremendously appreciative of the consistent, faithful and mission-minded commitment of our individual and organizational investors. Thank you very much for allowing us to do ministry.

On a personal note, as I reflect on the 55 years of ministry by National Covenant Properties, it is hard not to think about the two former presidents of NCP who are now home with the Lord. Without the vision of Robert Larson and servant leadership of David Johnson, NCP would not be what it is today. We are forever grateful for their commitment to create and lead an organization dedicated to serving the Covenant with its building needs, which has led to over 1,500 property-related loans provided to Covenant churches since its founding. Ministry is happening as a result of their dreams and passion!



Robert C. Larson, PhD
Founder and President
1970 - 1976
Board of Directors
1978 - 2024



David Johnson
President
1976 - 2007
Board of Directors
2008 - 2018

Our team is excited about what 2025 may bring in terms of new real estate project opportunities to collaborate on with Covenant churches across the country. We love to get involved early in the process to allow you to benefit from the combined 100+ years of experience in church facility-related projects of our real estate services team. NCP is ready to serve, consult, and dream with you about your relevant ministry focused building wishes and initiatives. We are looking forward to hearing from you in the new year.

As the **Advent season** is soon upon us, we anticipate the arrival of our Savior. Our team at NCP pray that you will have a blessed Advent and the opportunity to joyfully worship and embrace the meaning of the words in the song by Chris Tomlin.

*And the angels cry holy,
All creation cries holy,
You are lifted high, holy,
Holy Forever.*

*Hear your people sing,
To the King of kings,
You will always be, holy,
Holy Forever.*

It is an honor for our dedicated staff to serve and partner in ministry with our mission-minded Covenanters. Thank you for your continued commitment to the mission and ministry of NCP. **On behalf of our team, I would like to wish you a blessed Thanksgiving, a meaningful Advent, and a joyous Christmas season filled with hope, peace, joy, and love.**



Witnessing Faith in Action: National Covenant Properties' Journey with Denver Churches



Jon Brorson
NCP Board Chair



Wes Gibson
NCP Board Member

The National Covenant Properties board members along with their spouses, are grateful for the opportunity we had to travel to Denver this past April and connect with many ministry partners in the area. Along with holding our scheduled board meeting, we enjoyed wonderful fellowship together while also exploring local churches engaged in various ministries. It was inspiring to witness firsthand how National Covenant Properties is making a difference as these churches embody the message of being salt and light in the Denver area. What a joy to witness how each of the churches was engaged in faithful and fruitful ministry!

One church we visited was Castle Oaks Covenant Church. A number of years ago Castle Oaks connected with Wellspring Community, a local ministry to intellectual and developmentally disabled (IDD) adults. Initially, Castle Oaks became aware of Wellspring's need for a location to host a day program for their IDD adults. Castle Oaks Covenant Church offered their building on a weekday basis to meet this impactful ministry's need.

The last few years the church and Wellspring began to realize a bigger need with the IDD community. Parents of IDD adult children were becoming concerned about who would care for their children after they passed away. The church and Wellspring began to look for property that could be purchased and refurbished to be a supported residential facility for IDD adults. Through a series of events that were clearly God-ordained, Wellspring and Castle Oaks found a hotel next to the church that was available for purchase. Through various partnerships with the city, some government funding, and some support from Castle Oaks Covenant, Wellspring was able to purchase and renovate the hotel, creating living space for adults with IDD. As the



Castle Oaks Wellspring

**"I am so grateful for
National Covenant
Properties' support and
resources to assist the local
church in fulfilling God's
mission. Thank you for your
partnership with NCP and
with our local churches!"**
Wes Gibson



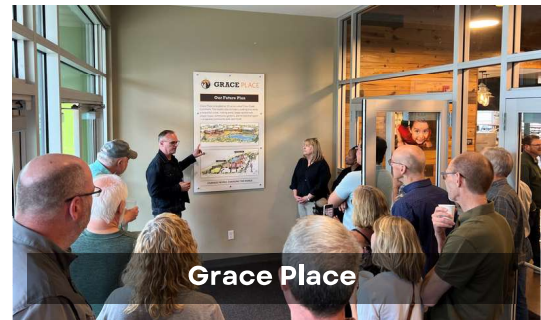
Castle Oaks Wellspring

Castle Oaks Covenant Church and Wellspring partnership continues to grow and thrive, they are in discussion with National Covenant Properties about expanding the church building to better serve both ministries. It is such a blessing to see God working in creative ways through local and faithful Covenant churches to do God's redemptive work!

At Restoration Covenant Church, located in a lower-income urban area, the warmth of the congregation was unmistakable, even without upscale facilities. Many board members were moved to return for Sunday worship, where the sense of community was uplifting. Although Restoration Covenant is not currently a borrower of National Covenant Properties, our staff is working alongside them and are ready to support them when their existing (seller financing arrangement) loan comes due next year.

Alternatively, Grace Place, situated north of Denver, features a beautiful, modern facility with stunning views of the Rocky Mountains. This church is deeply embedded in the community, hosting local high school events, fire department demonstrations, and running a food depository, among other initiatives. They also serve gourmet meals prepared by an award-winning chef in a welcoming cafeteria setting. After enjoying a delicious lunch, we were touched by the chef's testimony about his journey to faith and how he now uses his culinary skills in service to others.

Each church we visited showcased its unique mission and location, clearly demonstrating how they share the love of Jesus and spread the gospel message. It was great for our board members to visit each church to see and hear how the partnership with NCP is helping fulfill God's mission of making disciples in their local communities. What a joy to witness how each of the churches was engaged in faithful and fruitful ministry!



"It was a joy for the board to witness the impactful work of so many Covenant ministries in Denver, reaffirming once again the meaningful role National Covenant Properties plays in advancing God's kingdom."
Jon Brorson



New York Covenant Church

NEW ROCHELLE, NEW YORK

When Pastor David Holder planted New York Covenant Church (“New York Covenant”) he had a vision for a church that served the whole community of New Rochelle, New York. In 2004 NCP helped New York Covenant to purchase a 44,000 square-foot building that had previously been an REI retail store. The facility, located on Main Street in the heart of downtown New Rochelle, was ideally situated to support the mission of New York Covenant. In their new space, the church created a welcoming worship area, as well as setting up a recording studio, a fitness center, a furniture rehabilitation program, and a hydroponic garden where they grew vegetables to serve at Isaiah’s Room, a ministry of New York Covenant that provided meals and support for those in need.



While all of these ministries were exciting, Pastor David had an even bigger dream. He wanted to leverage the location of the building to help provide affordable housing for New Rochelle. Over a number of years New York Covenant worked with housing developers, trying to find the right plan for redeveloping the property. The goal was to provide a new home for the church as well as create much needed affordable housing in the community.

In 2021 New York Covenant completed the sale of their building to BRP Companies (“BRP”). As part of the transaction, BRP agreed to provide New York Covenant 20,000 square feet of space for their use and to construct 447 residential housing units, of which 119 would be designated as affordable housing. NCP’s real estate services division has been a resource for New York Covenant as they worked through the details of the transaction, and NCP provided financing for the build out of their space.

New York Covenant also realized that as the cost of housing in their community increased, it would be difficult for the next pastor to afford a home there. So, with the help of an NCP loan, the church was able to purchase a parsonage which ensures that when Pastor David transitions to a new call, the next pastor will be able to live in the community.

Pastor David reflected on the long relationship between NCP and New York Covenant: “Our relationship with NCP has truly been a blessing. They have not only demonstrated flexibility in addressing our unique needs, but have also been instrumental in helping us envision the most prudent path forward. Their invaluable support and accountability have guided us through a complex and challenging church development project. We simply could not have succeeded without them.”

Merry CHRISTMAS



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