

Covenant Point Bible Camp

Mission, Core Values, History/Denomination, and Program Overview

Covenant Point Bible Camp is a year-round, Christian camp and retreat center, located on Hagerman Lake in Iron River, Michigan. A ministry of the Central Conference of the Evangelical Covenant Church, CPBC's **mission** is *to present campers with the claims of Jesus Christ, and encourage them in their next step of faith.* Covenant Point offers onsite and wilderness summer youth and family camps, year-round retreats, rental group facilities, and outdoor education opportunities to guests of all backgrounds.

Our **core values** are collaboratively discerned, God-given gifts which drive our ministry and inform our identity. They function like rails of a railroad track, providing for us a sure way to move forward in ministry and make evaluations about our programs.

Our mission statement answers the question: Why do we exist?

Our core values answer the questions: What are we passionate about? Who is God calling us to be? How are we uniquely "us" when it comes to the way we carry out our ministry?

Firsthand Experience

Whether it means picking up a frog for the first time, watching a shooting star, climbing to the top of the Playpen, or praying instead of talking about prayer – we're all about creating opportunities for campers to experience the power and love of God and creation.

Stillness and Silliness

It's through play that we are re-created, and that we become more child-like again – more fit to enter the Kingdom of God, more humbly ready to grow, more open to relationships, and more authentically ready to be present and still before God. We talk about, practice, and teach the disciplines of stillness, prayer, and reflection – recognizing that we provide rare opportunities for our guests to listen for God's voice.

Deep Discipleship

We seek to serve the particular churches of the Central Conference, as well as the broader Church, always finding ways to challenge campers to discover their unique next step of faith, to connect with their God-given call, and to think deeply about and respond with action to the hurts in our world. We seek to embody and teach a faith that encompasses head, heart, and hands.

Space to Lead

We see ourselves as a place of leadership development through doing, trying, succeeding, and sometimes failing within the bounds of a safe and supportive community; the wonderful strength of Covenant Point is rooted in the unique individuals who contribute to every element of its program in a bottom-up manner.

Passion for Wilderness & Adventure

Imagination, child-like faith, and deep wisdom are all often ignited by time spent in wild places; we value our unique section of God's creation and consider it a privilege to bring others further into it to discover more of themselves and God.

Excellent Care

Intimate knowledge of the place and people of Covenant Point affords the opportunity for long-term and wise nurturing; we strive to steward with excellence everything that God has given us – both

human and non-human resources with frugal ingenuity and love. We seek to care for our campers by providing safe spaces to take risks, to explore creation, to know and be known. We consider serving to be a Christ-like, dignified, and important act, regardless of the task – from cleaning toilets to leading a devotion.

History and Denomination

Established in 1926, Covenant Point is one of the earliest examples of the Covenant Church's summer camping movement, which gathered steam in the early 1900's and continues today. Covenant Point is part of the A4Cs, the formal association of camps within the ECC, of which there are 22.

Covenant Point is owned and operated by the [Central Conference](http://www.covchurch.org) of the Evangelical Covenant Church (www.covchurch.org) though we serve campers and guests who come from a wide variety of backgrounds in addition to the ECC. The Evangelical Covenant Church is a rapidly growing multiethnic denomination in the United States and Canada with ministries on five continents of the world. Founded in 1885 by Swedish immigrants, the ECC values the Bible as the word of God, the gift of God's grace and ever-deepening spiritual life that comes through a faith with Jesus Christ, the importance of extending God's love and compassion to a hurting world, and the strength that comes from unity within diversity.

The Evangelical Covenant Church is:

- Evangelical, but not exclusive
- Biblical, but not doctrinaire
- Traditional, but not rigid
- Congregational, but not independent

Summer Program Overview

Mainland: one week, traditional residential camp for 2nd-12th grade students and families.

Island: one week, medium (30), rustic camp, on our 8.5 acre island for 6th-9th grade students.

Trips: one/two week, small (8-15), backcountry canoeing or backpacking trip for 6th-12th grade students.

Crew: four week, service (kitchen or grounds) and discipleship experience for 10th-12th grade students.

Fall, Winter, Spring Program Overview

Programmed Retreats: fall and winter retreats for youth, families, men, and women, crafted and led as a partnership between owner churches and our staff.

Guest Groups: affinity or community groups who rent our facilities for retreats that they primarily develop on their own.

Outdoor Education: day, or multi-day grade-school age classes, rooted in environmental sciences, stewardship, and/or group building.

University/Graduate School Partnerships: weekend, week-long, and multi-week partnerships with professors and university departments to create unique learning and community-building opportunities.