

The Evangelical Covenant Church of Venice Isle (ECCVI) was planted by Reverend Roy Olund in 1974 at Venice Isle Estates (VI), a resident-owned retirement (55) community on Florida's Gulf coast. ECCVI is unique among Covenant churches – maybe even unique among all churches: In the Covenant denomination we are one of only 6 similar churches, however all 6 are located in southwest Florida. Like church plants of today, ECCVI does not have its own building. We meet for worship in Clubhouse 1, one of two community centers at VI.

ECCVI's purpose is to unite Christians in fellowship for spiritual development, for the winning of persons to Christ, and for the propagation of the gospel of Jesus Christ through Christian education, home and world mission, and the institutions conducted by the Evangelical Covenant Church and its Southeast Conference.

Membership at ECCVI is open to all Christians. Seasonal residents can become Associate Members, having all the rights and responsibilities of full membership while still holding membership in their church "up North."

In 1976 ECCVI had 28 members and 8 Associate members. Membership ebbs and flows throughout the years. Summer worship averages 40 people. In season the average is 140. As with every church, volunteers are essential. We have been blessed with gifted people who graciously serve for the good of the church and the glory of God. More are always gratefully welcome!

The Covenant's focus on unity in Christ results in intentional efforts not to allow minor doctrinal differences to cause division. As a result, Christians from most denominations can find a home in the Covenant church. ECCVI is blessed by the diversity and variety of Christian denominational backgrounds represented by those who now call ECCVI home, whether as permanent or as seasonal residents.

ECCVI is part of the Evangelical Covenant Church and its Southeast Conference. To learn more about the Evangelical Covenant Church click here (www.covchurch.org). To learn more about the Southeast Conference click here (www.se-conf.org).

These are the Pastors who served ECCVI over the years:

Rev. Roy Olund	1-Oct-72	1-Dec-88
Rev. Gus Bringerud	1-Feb-89	1-Oct-92
Rev. Charles Sibley	1-Jan-93	1-Jan-94
Rev. Frank Hagburg	1-May-94	17-Jun-95
Rev. Neil Peterson	1-Jul-96	1-Oct-03
Rev. William Stone	1-Jan-04	27-Jun-05
Rev. Frank Gready, Rev. Bob Hirsch, and other interim pastors	28-Jun-05	5-Oct-08
Rev. Elizabeth Jensen	12-Oct-08	Current