



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

Statement from the First Presidency

30 August 2023

Thank you for the continued outpouring of support and prayers for President Stephen M. Veazey and his family.

After consulting his medical team, President Veazey has decided he will need to focus on his treatment and healing to recover fully. In that light, President Veazey has decided to remain on leave from his role as prophet/president until April 2024.

Leading the church in President Veazey's absence

According to internal practice and policies, President Veazey's two counselors, Presidents Stassi Cramm and Scott Murphy, retain the authority to act as the First Presidency during his leave. They do not have the right to receive revelation for the whole church.

The discernment process and the calling of a new president

Previously, President Veazey invited members and friends into an intentional process to discern the next leader of the church. The First Presidency believes the discernment process should move forward in accordance with President Veazey's original plans.

After reviewing succession guidance, scripture, and policies, the First Presidency asked the Council of Twelve Apostles to accept the sacred responsibility of calling the new prophet/president. As a reminder, President Veazey's call was processed by the Council of Twelve Apostles. The apostles are asked to prayerfully discern whom God is calling to be the next president and to name the one they believe is called.

Presidents Cramm and Murphy met with the World Church Leadership Council and Council of Presidents of Seventy to review this plan, and they were supportive.

Next steps

The Council of Twelve Apostles now is stepping into the lead for the remainder of the discernment process. The council will follow the current timeline and process previously announced to the church and available at: CofChrist.org/discerning-future-leadership/.

The Presidency has sent the Council of Twelve Apostles all the feedback provided from people around the church regarding the discernment questions.

During this transition, your continued prayers, support, and understanding are appreciated. As a community, we will navigate these changes with faith and unity in Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the First Presidency at FP@CofChrist.org.