



Community of Christ

2025 World Conference

Program & Legislation

Hope
IS HERE

Table of Contents

3	World Church Officials	19	Letters
4	2025 World Conference Planning and Coordination	19	Letter from the Council of Twelve Apostles Regarding Call to Prophet-president
5	World Conference Schedule	20	Pastoral Letter to the Church – September 2024
13	Conference Business	25	Pastoral Letter to the Church – January 2025
13	Delegate Instructions	27	2025 Legislative Detail
13	Attendance	27	Legislative prioritization results
13	Delegate Changes	28	Speaking Guidelines
13	Delegate Seating	29	Organization and Administration
13	Conference Name Badges	29	A-1 Community of Christ Employee Recognitions
13	Polling Devices	29	A-3 No Preambles
13	Translations	30	Committees, Boards, and Councils
13	Priesthood and Caucus Meetings	30	B-1 World Church Finance Board
14	Caucus Meeting Locations	32	World Church Boards and Councils
14	Caucus Guidelines	34	Conference Organization and Procedures
14	Children and Youth Delegates Caucus	34	C-2 Standing Rules of the 2025 World Conference
14	English-, French-, Spanish-, and Tahitian-language Caucuses	36	C-3 Conference Organization and Procedures Team Report
15	Discussion Sessions	38	Finances
16	General Information	38	D-1 Presiding Bishopric Report
16	Auditorium Color System	44	D-2a World Church Budgeting and Audit Process
16	Announcements	46	Resolutions
16	Business Center	46	G-1 Increasing Access to Creative Works Copyrighted by Community of Christ
16	Children at Conference	46	G-2 Affirming an Inclusive Zion in the Holy Land
16	Daily <i>Bulletins</i>	46	G-3 Resolution Concerning the Sacred Stewardship of the Temple and the Auditorium in Independence, Missouri, and the Principle of Common Consent
16	Hearing Impaired	46	G-4 Establishment of a Bylaw Committee to Review and Revise Community of Christ Bylaws with a Focus on Governance
16	Information Desk	47	G-5 Climate Emergency—Fossil-Fuel Reduction
16	Giving at World Conference	47	G-6 Threat of Confiscation of Monies in the AIP Accounts
16	Canadian Contributions at World Conference	47	G-7 Unilateral Authority Not Given by Church Membership
17	Name Badges	48	G-8 Bicentennial Doctrine and Covenants
17	Parking		
17	Photography, Video, Recording, and Social Media		
17	Public Wi-Fi		
17	Ushering		
18	Health and Safety		
18	Standing in Aisles		
18	Balcony Retaining Rail		
18	Evacuation Procedures		
18	First Aid		
18	Health and Safety		

- 48 G-9 Divine Insights Calling Us!
- 48 G-10 Earth Stewardship Affirmation
- 49 G-11a Climate Change Emergency Call to Action
- 49 G-12 Promoting Peace by Reducing Gun Proliferation and Violence

50 Informational Reports

- 50 H-1 First Presidency Report
- 52 H-2 Church History and Sacred Story Team
- 53 H-3 Diversity and Inclusion Team
- 54 H-4 Earth Stewardship Team
- 55 H-5 Ecumenical and Interfaith Ministries Team
- 55 H-6 Human Rights Team
- 57 H-7 Spiritual Formation Team
- 58 H-8 Theology Formation Team
- 60 H-9 Peace and Justice Team
- 61 H-10 World Hunger Team

62 Alternative Common Consent Process

- 62 Draft Nonviolence Statement Survey Results
- 63 Considering I-1 through the Alternative Common Consent Process
- 64 I-1 Statement on Nonviolence

66 Prophetic Imagination

- 66 The Option for a Prophetic Imagination Session

67 Parliamentary Guidelines

69 Legislative Action Quick Reference

70 Parliamentary Actions which can be Utilized at World Conference

74 Electronic Polling Device— Quick Reference

World Church Officials

The First Presidency

Stephen M. Veazey
K. Scott Murphy, counselor and director of
Field Ministries
Stassi D. Cramm, counselor

Council of Twelve Apostles

Mareva M. Arnaud Tchong, president
Richard C.N. James, secretary
Bunda C. Chibwe
Janné C. Grover
Robin K. Linkhart
Lachlan E. Mackay
Catherine C. Mambwe
Carlos E. Mejia
Shandra K. Newcom
David M. Nii
Angela Alt. Ramirez de Hernandez
Arthur E. Smith

Order of Evangelists

Jane M. Gardner, presiding evangelist
Kristin D. Judd, secretary

Presiding Bishopric

Ronald D. Harmon Jr., presiding bishop
Carla K. Long, counselor
Willem F. van Klinken, counselor

Standing High Council

David M. Byrn
Mark D. Dixon, MD
Eva M. Erickson
Gwendolyn E. Hawks-Blue
Lucy N. Ibanga
Issac Bennet Joshua
Sharon M. Kirkpatrick
Vincent E. Lewis
Ronald Alexander Viera López
Marilee A. Martens
Warwick (Rick) Sarre
Joan L. Thompson

Quorum of High Priests

David N. Anderson, president
Julie A. Smith, secretary
Jennifer L. Killpack, counselor
Urban Mbenga Mpiem Ley, counselor

Presidents of Seventy

Karin F. Peter, senior president
Adam R. Wade, secretary
John F. Glaser
Larry M. McGuire
Humberto Rosario del Rosario
Joelle Wight
Joey S. Williams

World Church Secretary

Susan K. Naylor

2025 World Conference Planning and Coordination

The World Conference experience is more than just a one-week event. It encompasses an entire journey between conferences and includes spiritual formation, community building, and education opportunities for people around the world.

To make such an experience come to life, thousands of hours have gone into visioning, planning, budgeting, dreaming, writing, recording, translating, and preparing for the culmination of this journey—the 2025 World Conference.

THANK YOU! To all those staff and volunteers who gave their time, talents, and detailed creativity to help create and implement this Conference, we are so grateful for the generosity of your sharing. You have brought life and blessing to the church.

We could not do this important work without you!

Conference Director Team

Susan K. Naylor, team lead

Katy Toese, administrative support

Cara L. Casey

Phyllis Gregg

Katie Harmon McLaughlin

Jenn Killpack

Tammy Lindle Lewis

Joey Williams

World Conference Schedule

Bold typeface indicates key Conference activities.

* indicates an offering will be received.

+ A 30-minute break is provided during legislative sessions longer than one hour to provide interpreters with a break and allow adequate time for delegates to get through bathroom queues.

Wednesday, May 28–Thursday, May 29

10:00 a.m.–3:00 p.m. Registration Booth Open Auditorium, west foyer

Friday, May 30—Hope Is Here

A.M.

9:00–7:00 p.m. Registration Booth Open Auditorium, first floor, east side

P.M.

Noon–5:00 Conference Event Store Temple Museum (inside)

1:00 Prayer for Peace Temple Sanctuary

1:15–2:45 Discussion Sessions Temple, see page 14

3:00–4:30 Discussion Sessions Temple, see page 14

Saturday, May 31—Story of Hope

A.M.

8:00–Noon	Conference Kids (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	402 Auditorium
8:00–Noon	Childcare (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	Stone Church
8:30–6:45 p.m.	Registration Booth Open	Auditorium, first floor, east
8:30–12:00 p.m.	+ 1st Legislative Session <i>Session will include opening ceremony, conference organization, statements by departing First Presidency, and presentation of Prophet-President call by Council of Twelve Apostles</i>	Auditorium Conference Chamber
8:30–6:45 p.m.	Conference Event Store	Temple Museum (inside)
11:30–2:00 p.m.	Mission Expo	Temple Reception Hall

P.M.

12:00–1:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00–1:30	Prayer for Peace	Temple Sanctuary
1:30–5:00	Conference Kids (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	402 Auditorium
1:30–5:00	Childcare (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	Stone Church
2:00–4:30	Priesthood and Caucus Meetings <i>Session will include consideration of Prophet-President call</i>	Various Locations, see page 14
4:30–6:00	Dinner	
4:30–7:00	Mission Expo	Temple Reception Hall
7:00–8:30	* Worship “Singing and Sharing Our Story” <i>Celebrating our story and 20 Years of President Stephen M. Veazey’s Leadership</i>	Auditorium Conference Chamber
8:30–9:30	World Plaza Celebration <i>Come meet and celebrate our Conference community</i>	Temple World Plaza
8:30–9:30	Mission Expo	Temple Reception Hall
8:30–9:30	Conference Event Store	Temple Museum (inside)
9:00–10:00	Communion Server Practice	Auditorium Conference Chamber

Sunday, June 1—Prophetic Hope

A.M.

8:30–9:15	Communion Prep and Meditation	Temple
10:00–Noon	*Communion Service <i>Council of Twelve Apostles presiding</i>	Auditorium Conference Chamber (seating is every other row)

P.M.

Noon–1:30	Lunch	
Noon–2:00	Mission Expo	Temple Reception Hall
Noon–4:00	Registration Booth Open	Auditorium, first floor, east side
1:00–1:30	Prayer for Peace	Temple Sanctuary
1:00–6:45	Conference Event Store	Temple Museum (inside)
1:30–5:00	Conference Kids (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	402 Auditorium
1:30–5:00	Childcare (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	Stone Church
2:00–4:30	+ 2nd Legislative Session <i>Session will consider Prophet-President call, Alternative Common Consent: Statement on Nonviolence</i>	Auditorium Conference Chamber
4:30–6:00	Dinner	
4:30–7:00	Mission Expo	Temple Reception Hall
7:00–8:30	*Worship <i>Prophet-President ordination service and presentation of Letter of Counsel with leadership changes</i>	Auditorium Conference Chamber
8:30–9:30	World Plaza Celebration	Temple World Plaza
8:30–9:30	Mission Expo	Temple Reception Hall
8:30–9:30	Conference Event Store	Temple Museum (inside)

Monday, June 2—Turn Toward Hope

A.M.

8:00–Noon	Conference Kids (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	402 Auditorium
8:00–Noon	Childcare (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	Stone Church
8:30–4:30 p.m.	Registration Booth Open	Auditorium, first floor, east side
8:30–11:30	Priesthood and Caucus Meetings <i>Session will consider Letter of Counsel for World Church leadership</i>	Various Locations, see page 14
10:00–6:45 p.m.	Conference Event Store	Temple Museum (inside)
11:30–1:00 p.m.	Lunch	

P.M.

Noon–2:00	Mission Expo	Temple Reception Hall
1:00–1:30	Prayer for Peace	World Plaza
1:30–5:00	Conference Kids (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	402 Auditorium
1:30–5:00	Childcare (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	Stone Church
2:00–4:30	+ 3rd Legislative Session <i>Session will include statements by World Church leaders retiring, consideration of the Letter of Counsel for World Church leadership, World Conference Legislation</i>	Auditorium Conference Chamber
4:30–6:00	Dinner	
4:30–7:00	Mission Expo	Temple Reception Hall
7:00–8:30	*Worship <i>Ordination of First Presidency Counselors and Presiding Evangelist</i>	Temple Sanctuary
8:30–9:30	Welcoming New Leadership	Temple World Plaza
8:30–9:30	Mission Expo	Temple Reception Hall

Tuesday, June 3—Spirit of Hope

A.M.

8:00–Noon	Conference Kids (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	402 Auditorium
8:00–Noon	Childcare (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	Stone Church
8:30–4:30 p.m.	Registration Booth Open	Auditorium, first floor, east side
8:30–10:00	Priesthood and Caucus Meetings <i>During the High Priest Quorum, the new President will be set apart</i>	Various Location, see page 14 <i>Stone Church Sanctuary</i>
10:00–6:45 p.m.	Conference Event Store	Temple Museum (inside)
10:30–11:30	4th Legislative Session <i>Session will consider World Conference Legislation</i>	Auditorium Conference Chamber
11:30–1:00p.m.	Lunch	

P.M.

Noon–2:00	Mission Expo	Temple Reception Hall
12:30–1:30	Lunch and Learn Sessions	Various Locations (see Saturday <i>Bulletin</i>)
1:00–1:30	Prayer for Peace	Temple Sanctuary
1:30–5:00	Conference Kids (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	402 Auditorium
1:30–5:00	Childcare (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	Stone Church
2:00–4:30	+ 5th Legislative Session <i>Session will consider World Conference Legislation Alternative Common Consent: Statement on Nonviolence</i>	Auditorium Conference Chamber
4:30–6:00	Dinner	
4:30–7:00	Mission Expo	Temple Reception Hall
7:00–8:30	*Worship <i>Ordination service of new apostles</i>	Temple Sanctuary
8:30–9:30	Welcoming New Leadership	Temple World Plaza
8:30–9:30	Mission Expo	Temple Reception Hall

Wednesday, June 4—Breathe in Hope

A.M.

8:00–Noon	Conference Kids (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	402 Auditorium
8:00–Noon	Childcare (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	Stone Church
8:30–4:30 p.m.	Registration Booth Open	Auditorium, first floor, east side
8:30–10:00	Priesthood and Caucus Meetings <i>During the Joint Council of Seventy the new Presidents of Seventy will be set apart</i>	Various Locations, see page 14 <i>Temple Sanctuary</i>
10:00–3:00 p.m.	Conference Event Store	Temple Museum (inside)
10:30–11:30	6th Legislative Session <i>Session will consider World Conference Legislation</i>	Auditorium Conference Chamber
11:30–1:00 p.m.	Lunch	

P.M.

Noon–2:00	Mission Expo <i>This is the last session for the Mission Expo during this World Conference</i>	Temple Reception Hall
12:30–1:30	Lunch and Learn Sessions	Various Locations (see Saturday <i>Bulletin</i>)
1:00–1:30	Prayer for Peace <i>Service will include setting apart of President of Council of Twelve Apostles</i>	Temple Sanctuary
1:30–5:00	Conference Kids (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	402 Auditorium
1:30–5:00	Childcare (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	Stone Church
2:00–4:30	+ 7th Legislative Session <i>Session will consider World Conference Legislation</i>	Auditorium Conference Chamber
4:30–5:30	Dinner <i>Receptions and Community Building (see Saturday Bulletin)</i>	

Thursday, June 5—Choose Hope

A.M.

8:00–Noon	Conference Kids (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	402 Auditorium
8:00–Noon	Childcare (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	Stone Church
8:30–4:30 p.m.	Registration Booth Open	Auditorium, first floor, east side
8:30–10:00	Priesthood and Caucus Meetings <i>During the High Priest Quorum the new Standing High Council members will be set apart</i>	Various Locations, see page 14 Stone Church Sanctuary
10:00–3:00 p.m.	Conference Event Store	Temple Museum (inside)
10:30–11:30	8th Legislative Session <i>Session will consider World Conference Legislation</i>	Auditorium Conference Chamber
11:30–1:00 p.m.	Lunch	

P.M.

12:30–1:30	Lunch and Learn Sessions	Various Locations (see Saturday <i>Bulletin</i>)
1:00–1:30	Prayer for Peace	Temple Sanctuary
1:30–5:00	Conference Kids (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	402 Auditorium
1:30–5:00	Childcare (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	Stone Church
2:00–4:30	+ <i>Alternative Common Consent: Statement on Nonviolence</i>	Auditorium Conference Chamber
4:30–6:00	Dinner	
7:00–8:30	*Worship <i>First Presidency presiding</i>	Temple Sanctuary
8:30–9:30	World Plaza Celebration <i>Come celebrate our Conference community</i>	Temple World Plaza

Friday, June 6—Onward in Hope

A.M.

8:00–Noon	Conference Kids (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	402 Auditorium
8:00–Noon	Childcare (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	Stone Church
8:30–3:30 p.m.	Registration Booth Open	Auditorium, first floor, east side
8:30–11:30	+ 9th Legislative Session <i>Session will consider World Conference Legislation</i>	Auditorium Conference Chamber
11:30–1:00 p.m.	Lunch	

P.M.

1:00–1:30	Prayer for Peace	Temple Sanctuary
1:30–5:00	Conference Kids (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	402 Auditorium
1:30–5:00	Childcare (<i>Advance enrollment required</i>)	Stone Church
2:00–3:30	10th Legislative Session <i>Session will engage in Prophetic Imagination or continue with Unfinished World Conference Legislation</i>	Auditorium Conference Chamber
3:45–4:30	*Commissioning Service <i>Council of Twelve Apostles and Presidents of Seventy presiding</i>	Auditorium Conference Chamber

Conference Business

Delegate Instructions

Attendance

Ten legislative meetings and one session of Alternative Common Consent call for delegate seating. Delegates should be in their seats 10 minutes before each meeting. The Conference will be organized formally at the opening legislative meeting Saturday, May 31, at 8:30 a.m. Delegate attendance at worship experiences is highly encouraged as these services bring a meaningful relationship to the overall Conference experience.

Delegate Changes

Delegate changes are reported by the mission center president, or their assigned representative, through the Delegate Reporting App.

Delegate Seating

Conference delegates will be assigned seating in the Conference Chamber for all scheduled legislative meetings. Delegate seating is also available in Sections 13 and 15 in the balcony for those who prefer additional space for social distancing.

Conference Name Badges

Delegates must wear their name badges to be seated in delegate seating during legislative meetings. All registered participants are encouraged to wear their Conference badges while attending every Conference event.

Polling Devices

For detailed instructions about device distribution and use, please refer to page 76.

Translations

Several hundred Conference participants speak languages other than English. The Translations Team includes five full-time staff, two part-time contractors, and grows for World Conference to include a volunteer corps of up to 30 people. The team offers simultaneous interpretation and translation of printed materials.

If you speak with any scripted or written material, please email a copy of your notes or script to translations@CofChrist.org. If you have language skills and an interest in helping with translations, we want to meet you.

Priesthood and Caucus Meetings

Authorized Conference delegate groups include the Children's and Youth Delegate Caucus, and the English-, French-, Spanish-, and Tahitian-speaking language caucuses.

All elected delegates who are not members of other authorized Conference groups—Quorum of High Priests, Quorums of Seventy, Order of Evangelists, Order of Bishops, Council of Twelve Apostles, and delegates in mass meetings of the Aaronic and Melchisedec priesthoods—should choose which delegate caucus group they will join. They should continue to participate in the same venue during World Conference. Each remote location will participate as an individual caucus.

Priesthood and caucus meetings are scheduled:

- Saturday 2:00–4:30 p.m.
- Monday 8:30–11:30 a.m.
- Tuesday–Thursday 8:30–10:00 a.m.

Caucus Meeting Locations

Group	Location	Presiders
Aaronic Mass Meeting	Stone Church—Floor A	Andrew Fox, Carina Lord Wilson
Children/Youth Caucus	Temple—Shalom Place	Laura Bolton, Humberto Tinsman
High Priests Quorum	Stone Church—Sanctuary	David Anderson
Mass Meeting of Elders	Temple—Sanctuary	Deb Crowley, Tyler Horrington
Order of Bishops	Temple—Lecture Hall	Ronald D. Harmon, Jr.
Order of Evangelists	Auditorium—Lower Assembly Room	Jane Gardner
Quorums of Seventy	All Quorums: Temple—Continents Room Room with breakout sessions in the Temple Peacemakers Room	John Glaser, Larry McGuire, Karin Peter, Humberto Rosario, Adam Wade, Joelle Wight, Joey Williams
English-language Delegate Caucus	Stone Church—Luff Auditorium	Jim Resch, Peggy Young
French-language Delegate Caucus	Temple—Theater 2	Eray Henricksen
Spanish-language Delegate Caucus	Temple—Seminar Room	Damaris Pujols Beltre
Tahitian-language Delegate Caucus	Temple—Theater 1	Mathilde Chanteau

Caucus Guidelines

Each caucus operates under the following guidelines:

1. The purpose of the caucus is to consider pre-submitted legislation and matters brought before the Conference.
2. The First Presidency appoints a presider(s) subject to the approval of the caucus at its first meeting during each World Conference. On Saturday, May 31, this will be the first item of business for each caucus. A secretary, parliamentarian, and spiritual-formation leader also may be assigned.
3. The caucus determines its agenda in the following manner: In consultation with the First Presidency, the caucus presider(s) recommends a daily agenda, which will be subject to modification by the caucus through usual legislative procedures. The World Conference legislative calendar is also a factor in determining the agenda.

Children's and Youth Delegate Caucus

- The Children's and Youth Delegate Caucus consists of *elected delegates 23 years old and younger* who are not members of other authorized Conference groups.

English-, French-, Spanish-, and Tahitian-language Caucuses

- The language-based caucuses consist of all elected delegates who are not members of other authorized Conference groups.
- Delegates eligible to participate in another quorum, council, order, caucus, or mass meeting session, in addition to the language-based caucus, must choose which venue they will join at the beginning of Conference. Delegates will participate in the same venue throughout World Conference.

Discussion Sessions

Discussion sessions provide delegates opportunities to continue preparing for legislative sessions regarding the business before the church. All sessions are facilitated by trained facilitators. Sessions are open for delegates and other attendees. All attending can participate but will give priority for participation to delegates.

Discussion sessions give delegates and members the opportunity to share their perspectives on the issue scheduled for that time. Hearing varied points of view from different places and cultures of the church can broaden how each person considers the issue.

*denotes this session is translated

Friday, May 30

1:15–2:45 p.m.

Legislation/Topic	Location (Temple)
G-1 Increasing Access to Creative Works Copyrighted by Community of Christ	Theater 2
*G-3 Resolution Concerning the Sacred Stewardship of the Temple and the Auditorium in Independence, Missouri, and the Principle of Common Consent	Lecture Hall
G-5 Fossil Fuel Reduction	Shalom Place
G-7 Unilateral Authority Not Given by Church Membership	Peacemakers Room
G-9 Divine Insights Calling Us!	Seminar Room
G-10 Earth Stewardship Affirmation	Theater 1
*G-12 Promoting Peace by Reducing Gun Proliferation and Violence	Continents Room

Friday, May 30

3:00–4:30 p.m.

Legislation/Topic	Location (Temple)
A-3 Resolution on Preambles	Shalom Place
D-2a World Church Budgeting and Audit Process	Theater 1
*G-2 Affirming an Inclusive Zion in the Holy Land	Lecture Hall
G-4 Establishment of a Bylaw Committee to Review and Revise Community of Christ Bylaws With a Focus on Governance	Theater 2
G-6 Threat of Confiscation of Monies in the AIP Accounts	Seminar Room
G-8 Bicentennial Doctrine and Covenants	Peacemakers Room
*G-11a Climate Change Emergency Call to Action	Continents Room

General Information

Auditorium Color System

A system of colors—graphics on the Conference Chamber doors and colorful directional banners in the corner ramp atriums—will help you navigate the Auditorium.

- North–blue
- West–green
- East–purple
- South–orange

Announcements

Only emergency announcements will be made over the public-address system. During legislative meetings, find the World Conference directors by the east steps of the rostrum. File all other messages at the Information Desk in the Auditorium north foyer.

World Conference directors must approve the posting of notices around the Temple and Auditorium. Conference management will remove unauthorized posts.

Business Center

The Temple Library (first floor) will be available with access to the Internet, as well as printer services. It will be open Saturday, Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and will be closed Sunday.

Children at Conference

Childcare is available for those who registered in advance. Family care rooms are available in the Auditorium West Conference Room (second floor, west side) and in the back of the Temple Sanctuary. Do not leave children unattended.

Daily Bulletins

Delegates and nondelegates who have registered to receive print materials may pick up one daily *Bulletin* each day at their priesthood and caucus meetings or at the Information Desk in the Auditorium north foyer by showing their badge.

Hearing Impaired

Hearing assistance is available; stop by the Information Desk in the Auditorium north foyer or Temple foyer for details.

Information Desk

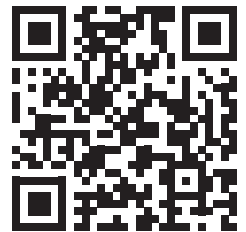
Information desks are available in the west and north foyer of the Auditorium and at the Temple lower foyer reception desk.

Giving at World Conference

World Conference registration fees only cover a portion of the total event cost. Offerings given during worship are another source of support for the Conference expenses.

In addition to cash or check, there are several ways to give using your mobile device.

For eTithing users in the USA, use this QR code or visit CofChrist.org/give.



To use Apple Pay, Google Pay, Venmo or Debit/Credit card, use this QR code.



Canadian Contributions at World Conference

The church will joyfully accept your generous contributions to support World Conference expenses.

We accept contributions in Canadian dollars (cash, cheque, or credit card). Make cheques payable to Community of Christ, ensuring that cheques display your name and address. Place cash in an envelope, available from the Auditorium or Temple Information Desk, and include your personal information.

Contributions by credit card will be recorded by the Canadian Headquarters in Canadian dollars. Income-tax receipts will be issued from the Canadian Headquarters for all contributions.

Name Badges

All registered participants are encouraged to wear their conference name badges while attending conference events on site. Your badge is essential for recognition, access to conference events, and ensuring a more secure environment for everyone.

If friends or family are visiting the conference for a short time, please have them stop by the information desk to receive a visitor name badge. A donation is recommended and appreciated.

Wearing your badge and ensuring that visitors check in creates a more welcoming atmosphere and helps keep our community safe.

Parking

Please observe all reserved and designated parking signs. Display parking permits prominently when parking in a designated or reserved space.

Vehicles in handicapped-designated parking spaces must have state-issued license plates or an official permit in the car window. Without an official permit or license plate, cars are subject to ticketing and towing.

Photography, Video, Recording, and Social Media

The Communications Team is coordinating with local media, professional photographers, and video crew to capture the event. As you take photos and video with your personal devices, please help us create a responsible community:

- Remain seated during legislative meetings and worship experiences. Moving into the aisle to “get a great photo” interferes with others’ ability to focus and might block video cameras that are streaming the event around the world.
- Do not take video or audio recordings of legislative meetings. Sharing portions of meetings taken out of context might cause harm.
- When you share photos on social media, please refrain from identifying people by name unless you get their permission.
- Our event hashtag is #CofChristWC25

Public Wi-Fi

The publicly available Wi-Fi has been upgraded since the 2023 World Conference and is available throughout most of the Auditorium and Temple. You may connect to the Public Wi-Fi by searching for *CofCPUBLIC* on your mobile device.

NOTE: Please refrain from creating, enabling, and using a Wi-Fi hotspot with your device while in any area with active language translations, such as the Auditorium Main Chamber, Temple Sanctuary, Continents Rooms, and all surrounding areas. Hotspots create significant interference with Operational and Translation technologies used during World Conference.

Ushering

Please volunteer for this essential ministry. To express your interest, email Erin Cackler, ecackler@CofChrist.org.

Health and Safety

Standing in Aisles

As a matter of courtesy and safety, do not stand in aisles or block doorways of the meeting rooms. Likewise, do not sit on the stairways of the balcony in the Auditorium Conference Chamber or the Temple Sanctuary.

Balcony Retaining Rail

As a safety precaution for those seated below, do not place coats or other articles on balcony rails or ledges in the Conference Chamber or Temple Sanctuary.

Evacuation Procedures

If it becomes necessary to evacuate the Auditorium Conference Chamber or the Temple Sanctuary, the supervising official will give instructions. Familiarize yourself with the doorway you are to use. If instructed to evacuate the building, walk—do not run or push people ahead of you. Exit and keep moving away from the building to accommodate those coming behind you.

In Stone Church, or other areas, the supervising officer will give instructions.

First Aid

First aid and minor medical treatment is available in the Auditorium First Aid Room on the first floor, southeast corner, Room 123. In the Temple, the First Aid Room is located in the hallway behind the Reception Desk. These services are primarily for out-of-town visitors. Local residents should use their personal physicians for medical services. Medical professionals are on duty during these times:

FIRST AID	AUDITORIUM	TEMPLE
Fri, May 30	closed	noon–5:00 p.m.
Sat, May 31– Tues, June 3	8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.	6:30–10:00 p.m.
Weds, June 4	8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	closed
Thurs, June 5	8:00 a.m.–6:00 p.m.	6:30–10:00 p.m.
Fri, June 6	8:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.	closed

For all medical emergencies, dial 911 and notify the closest Conference staff member for assistance.

Health and Safety

Please take precautions to protect yourself and our community. We encourage you to wash your hands often; wear masks when indoors as needed; stay home/local lodging if you have symptoms of a fever, cold, flu, or COVID-19.

Letters

Letter from the Council of Twelve Apostles Regarding Call to Prophet-president

17 January 2024

First Presidency Preamble

In March 2023, President Stephen M. Veazey invited members and friends into an intentional process to discern the next prophet-president of Community of Christ. In August, President Veazey experienced a health issue that necessitated a medical leave of absence. The remaining members of the First Presidency believed the ongoing discernment process should proceed in accordance with President Veazey's original plan. 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.

On Sunday, 7 January 2024, a joint council of the First Presidency—including President Veazey, Council of Twelve Apostles, Council of Presidents of Seventy, Presiding Bishopric, presiding evangelist, and president of the Quorum of High Priests—met to receive the name of the one called to serve as the next prophet-president. The joint council spent time in worship and heard testimonies from the apostles about their discernment experience. Following a time of personal sharing regarding the call, the joint council unanimously expressed support for the one named as the prophet-president designate for the church.

The joint council extended deep gratitude to the apostles for their willingness to assume leadership in the unfolding discernment. Their stewardship of this sacred responsibility has been faithfully fulfilled on behalf of the church. The following letter from the Council of Twelve Apostles regarding the calling of the next prophet-president is offered to the church for prayerful consideration.

—The First Presidency

Letter from the Council of Twelve Apostles

Beloved Community of Christ,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

The Council of Twelve Apostles expresses deep gratitude to the worldwide church for diligent, blessed, and dedicated engagement in discerning future leadership. We thank God for the guidance by the Holy Spirit throughout this spiritual journey.

After months of discernment and reflection, the Council of Twelve Apostles engaged in open dialogue with the Holy Spirit, exploring its mysteries, posing profound questions, and receiving divine guidance and assurance. Today, with humility and gratitude, we are privileged to announce our individual and collective testimony that Stassi D. Cramm is called by God to be prophet-president of Community of Christ.

She is well prepared and uniquely equipped for this role. She possesses the heart, gifts, experience, and knowledge to adapt and grow with God and others in supporting priesthood, members, and friends. She will help us embody and put into action Community of Christ's identity, mission, message, and beliefs in local contexts for bringing to life God's vision for all creation.

Through our experience with the Holy Spirit, we unanimously affirm God's call for Sister Cramm. Strongly united in the richness of our diversity, we present her name to the church for consideration. This call also receives unanimous support from the Joint Council.

With humble reverence, Sister Cramm accepts the sacred call to serve as the next prophet-president. She affirms her faith and trust in God, answering "yes," not stemming from the strength of human confidence, but from the humility of being cradled in the arms of God's grace. Early in ministry she pledged to do what the church needs her to do and go where the church needs her to go. President Stephen M. Veazey's retirement announcement stirred echoes of that promise, and she leaned into the unfolding story with a willingness to respond based on the church's expressed need.

This call will be presented for consideration at the 2025 World Conference. If approved and supported by the Conference, Sister Cramm will be ordained prophet-president during this celebration. We believe she faithfully will serve to ensure that God's purposes are embodied in the church's mission to bless the entire creation.

As a council, we affirm this call and will support Sister Cramm as she prepares to lead the church. We share this news with renewed hope for a bright future unfolding before us.

Beloved Community of Christ, we express sincere gratitude for your support throughout this exceptional divine and sacred journey. Together, let us continue to pray and discern, asking the Holy Spirit to guide our hearts and our church in continuing this spiritual journey. May the love and peace of Christ guide us as we move together into a radiant future under the inspired direction of God.

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

With love and gratitude,

Mareva M. Arnaud Tchong, president
Richard C.N. James, secretary
Bunda C. Chibwe
Janné C. Grover
Robin K. Linkhart
Lachlan E. Mackay
Catherine C. Mambwe
Carlos Enrique Mejia
Shandra K. Newcom
David M. Nii
Angela Alt. Ramirez de Hernandez
Arthur E. Smith

Pastoral Letter to the Church

Anticipated Leadership Changes in June 2025

1 September 2024

To members and friends of Community of Christ:

In March 2023, President Stephen M. Veazey announced his plan to retire in June 2025, relinquishing his role as Community of Christ's prophet-president. The church will celebrate Steve's twenty years of courageous, visionary leadership as its eighth prophet-president at the 2025 World Conference. On 31 May 2025, after faithfully serving in full-time ministry for more than forty-two years, Steve will be honored as he transitions from the burdens and responsibilities of prophet-president to continue his ministry in retirement as president emeritus.

Steve's legacy will live in countless ways through our identity, mission, message, and beliefs to which he brought increased clarity as expressed in *Sharing in Community of Christ*. The church is profoundly grateful for Steve's leadership in sharing the peace of Jesus Christ and living Christ's mission. We look forward to his ministry in the years to come.

As part of Steve's announcement to retire, he invited members and friends into an intentional process to discern the next prophet-president. Several events following this announcement led to the Council of Twelve Apostles finalizing the calling process. On 17 January 2024, the Council of Twelve Apostles, with support of a Joint Council, presented to the church my name as the one called to serve as the next prophet-president.

Since then, the focus of my ministry has shifted to learning and preparing for the responsibilities of prophet-president should the 2025 World Conference approve my call. Part of this preparation has been prayerfully discerning the needs of the leading quorums of the church in collaboration with current World Church leadership and presidents of seventy. I also have been blessed by the prayers and support of numerous people from around the church who have shared ideas and suggestions.

As I prayerfully pondered the challenges and opportunities before the church, the Spirit impressed on me calls to the leading quorums that bring the

right giftedness and experience to help the church faithfully embody God's vision of shalom and live Christ's mission into the future.

With deep respect for the prophetic voice of the people in the calling process, I humbly present the anticipated leadership changes that the Holy Spirit has confirmed to me, allowing time for the church's prayerful consideration. I am still discerning related to one position in the Council of Twelve Apostles. As clarity on this call emerges, I will share it with the church.

Each time we approach a World Conference, current World Church leaders prayerfully weigh the need for some existing leaders to stay for continuity and experience while others move on. As we have witnessed over time, some individuals serve in the leading quorums of the church until their retirement. Some serve as volunteers after their retirement. Others complete their employment and fill critical needs after being released from the quorums.

One common motive shared by the ministers transitioning from the leading quorums next Conference was the desire to create space for fresh perspectives and increased diversity within the leading quorums, enriching the church's direction and growth potential. Guided by the Holy Spirit, I have tried to honor that desire as much as practical.

Identifying leaders is a daunting task, especially when considering all the faithful priesthood ministers who tirelessly serve God and lead Christ's mission around the world. In humble reverence for the way God works, I share these calls and ask for your prayerful consideration. It is my testimony that they are sacred calls discerned through the depths of my heart, guided by the gentle movement of the Holy Spirit.

If my call is approved by the 2025 World Conference, following my ordination I will formally submit a letter of counsel for consideration by the World Conference delegates.

Upon the ordination of a new church president, the Quorum of the First Presidency, as previously constituted, will be dissolved.

K. Scott Murphy, responding to the leading of the Holy Spirit, expressed his desire to retire from full-time church employment, making space for new leadership. As this option was prayerfully considered, the prophet-president designate recognized Scott's broad experience and knowledge as critically

important for preparing and training the newly forming Presidency and Leadership Council. Scott's passion for mission, openness to new ways of being the church, and first-hand experience of operations are invaluable as new leaders respond to their calling. As a high priest, Scott graciously has agreed to serve one more year as a consultant with the Presidency, training and mentoring the new members of the World Church Leadership Council.

In June 2026, Scott will retire from full-time church ministry after twenty-five years of faithful service and respond to his sense of call to provide ministry in a local context. Scott's unwavering commitment to the church's mission has been reflected in every aspect of his leadership. Scott faithfully made difficult decisions for the benefit of mission, even when those decisions were not popular or well understood. Through his ministry, he helped the church embody our Enduring Principles in culturally appropriate ways. His leadership significantly strengthened the church's approach to discipleship, ministry, and leadership through spiritual formation and the local embodiment of the mission of Jesus Christ.

To achieve the reorganization of the Quorum of the First Presidency, the following calls are presented:

Bunda C. Chibwe is called from the Council of Twelve Apostles to serve as a member of the First Presidency and a counselor to the president. Bunda's faithful service since 2000 as an apostle has prepared him for this important opportunity in the life of the church. Before Bunda retires, he is called to bless the Presidency and the church through his breadth of worldwide vision, theological depth, multicultural perspective, and passionate invitational witness. Bunda will focus on helping the church balance healthy independence with faithful interdependence, building a resilient, supportive, and united worldwide church. This approach honors the diversity and contributions of all Community of Christ members and friends.

Bunda will guide the church in embracing Unity in Diversity, leading us to extend the Blessings of Community to all God's children. He will help the church enculturate the best worldwide traditions, strengthening the identity and calling of Community of Christ while challenging us to release cultural norms that are not faithful to whom God calls us to

be. Through Bunda's leadership and focus, people who never set foot in the Temple will be blessed through ministries that spread peace, reconciliation, and healing of the spirit.

Janné C. Grover is called from the Council of Twelve Apostles, where she has ministered since 2016, to serve as a member of the First Presidency and a counselor to the president. Janné's ministry around the world, experiencing different worship styles, discipleship formation, and ways to live Christ's mission, has prepared her for this leadership as we are challenged to discover and embrace new ways of being the church in various contexts. As the church grows in some areas and struggles in others, Janné's steadfast hope will inspire disciples to sing a new song. This hope will empower the church to do the courageous—and sometimes difficult—work of becoming what God needs us to be where we live and serve.

Janné will guide the church in sharing the gospel message to people of all ages through words, music, and creative worship. This will help the church grow spiritually, laying the foundation for exploring and embracing new ways of living Christ's mission. Through these ministries, Janné is called to bring vision of the Temple as an ensign of peace and a place where reconciliation and healing of the spirit can be experienced tangibly by the local community while connecting with places near and far.

Through collaborative prayerful reflection, **Jane M. Gardner** is released as presiding evangelist, serving since 2016 as the position's first woman. She has prepared the way for the calling of an employed presiding evangelist to further develop the role's vision. Jane began her full-time ministry in 1998, driven by a passion for worship. Throughout her ministry, she has faithfully guided the church's understanding of worship and individual and collective spiritual formation. In 2007, Jane became the first woman to serve as president of the High Priest Quorum while continuing her devotion to scripture-based worship. One of Jane's most significant contributions was her leadership from 2008 to 2013 in blessing the church with Community of Christ Sings. Throughout her twenty-seven years of service to the church, Jane wrote and edited many church publications, including *Sermon & Class Helps* and *Worship Resources*.

In 2019, Jane retired from full-time employment, continuing to sacrificially serve as the presiding evangelist. Jane helped the church experience the fullness of spiritual blessings offered through the sacraments, including evangelist blessings. Jane has organized the Order of Evangelists and the sacrament of blessing in ways that will enrich the church well into the future. Her gift of insight and broad perspective will be missed around the leadership council table, but the church will continue to be blessed through Jane's volunteer support of Temple and evangelist ministries.

Mareva Arnaud Tchong, who has served since 2013 on the Council of Twelve Apostles, currently as its president, is called to take on the full-time position of presiding evangelist. Mareva's exceptional gifts in language, music, cultural diversity, administrative leadership, pastoral presence, and tireless encouragement have greatly blessed the Council of Twelve Apostles and her mission field. Now, she is called to extend these gifts to the entire church.

She will assume the traditional responsibilities of the presiding evangelist, bringing her gifts of hospitality and evangelism to bless the Order of Evangelists and the church. Mareva also will serve as a spiritual companion to the First Presidency, following the legacy of some predecessors. She will foster a culture of continual discernment in leadership, ensuring a faithful focus on the spiritual needs and opportunities of the worldwide church. Mareva also will serve as a chaplain for the World Church Leadership Council and the Council of Presidents of Seventy. Mareva's spiritual guidance will inspire and nurture these councils, helping them become living examples of wholeness, faith, and integrity, providing ministry that will enrich and uplift our worldwide community.

In addition to the vacancies in the Council of Twelve Apostles created by the calls of Bunda Chibwe and Janné Grover to the First Presidency and Mareva Arnaud Tchong to presiding evangelist, two other members of the Council of Twelve Apostles have discerned the timing is right for their release.

Robin K. Linkhart, faithfully serving in the council since 2016, will be honorably released from her responsibilities of apostolic leadership and ministry. Robin will serve as a high priest, focusing on disciple formation and worship-resource development until her retirement in September 2026. Her passion for

living Christ's mission and inviting others to join that journey is evident in all she does. Her extensive field ministry in various roles and her effective invitational witness have equipped her to create resources that embody the Mission Initiatives and Enduring Principles in practical, actionable ways. Robin's continued service to the church will help move forward several key strategies through resources and ministries. These strategies will focus on developing disciples who invite others to join and serve in Spirit-led communities dedicated to justice and peace. Although Robin's presence and expertise will be missed in the World Church Leadership Council, her commitment and expertise will continue to bless the church as she develops material to nurture and inspire future generations of disciples.

David M. Nii, after serving the church for nearly twenty-nine years, is honored with retirement from World Church employment at his request. Dave is released from the Council of Twelve Apostles, where he has served since 2019, to minister as an elder, focusing on mission in his local area. Dave has provided critical leadership, most recently as apostle for the Southern USA Mission Field and as the team lead of the USA apostles. Dave's extensive ministry includes roles such as USA Field bishop, Asia Mission Field bishop, and apostolic assistant for the Western USA and West Central USA mission fields, among others. His seasoned leadership, openness to diverse perspectives, and passion for finding common ground through Christ's mission have blessed the church and its mission. While Dave's presence on the World Church Leadership Council will be deeply missed, we are grateful for his continued service as an elder in his congregation and the life of the church. His enduring commitment and contributions will continue to bless the church community in countless ways.

To fill four of the five vacancies created in the Council of Twelve from the other leadership changes, the following calls are presented for consideration:

Matthew J. Frizzell is called from his position as director of Human Resource Ministries to serve as a special witness of Jesus Christ as an apostle of Christ's peace and a member of the Council of Twelve Apostles. Matt's ethical and theological training, service as a mission center president, time away from church employment as dean of Community of

Christ Seminary, and service on the World Church Leadership Council have been instrumental in his preparation. Throughout his experiences, Matt has learned to advocate for the most vulnerable and those on the margins of society. He has developed a deep passion for how the ethics of Christ's peace can unite and guide the church in pursuing its mission. As an apostle, Matt is called to help the church focus on living in communities that reflect God's reign, emphasizing the importance of repentance, wholeness, justice, and peace. His leadership will be vital in guiding the church to embody these values more fully and faithfully.

Adam R. Wade is called from the Council of Presidents of Seventy to continue ministry as a special witness of Jesus Christ as an apostle of Christ's peace and a member of the Council of Twelve Apostles. Adam skillfully has guided disciples in living Christ's mission across a diverse array of countries and contexts, developing a profound understanding of the challenges and promising opportunities the church faces as it moves into the future. His insights will drive his innovative and entrepreneurial spirit, empowering him to lead prophetic people in fully embracing the church's identity and mission in local contexts. Whether exploring the ocean floor, engaging in challenging discussions, or simply being present, he brings a sense of peace, empathy and divine connection. Adam's unwavering passion for the church's identity as a welcoming, loving, and justice-oriented sanctuary of Christ's peace will shine through his apostolic witness, lighting the path with compassion and conviction, inviting others to follow.

Carrie L. Welch is called from her position as bishop and team leader of the USA Field support ministers to serve as a special witness of Jesus Christ as an apostle of Christ's peace and a member of the Council of Twelve Apostles. Throughout her ministry, Carrie has shown unwavering dedication, serving in various leadership positions across the USA. She has a remarkable ability to connect with people from diverse backgrounds, ages, and life contexts, helping them embrace and live Christ's mission. Carrie's extensive experience includes prioritizing missional opportunities, strategically aligning resources to support what matters most, and fostering an environment where groups can make important

decisions collaboratively. This experience uniquely equips Carrie to help navigate the way into the future. She understands the challenges ahead and is blessed with prophetic insights that help others envision possibilities. Carrie's deep commitment to serving others and her adeptness at guiding communities will bless the church and its mission.

Joey S. Williams is called from the Council of Presidents of Seventy to continue his ministry as a special witness of Jesus Christ as an apostle of Christ's peace and a member of the Council of Twelve Apostles. Joey's gifts of language, music, and navigating a variety of cultural settings have flourished through his ministry in the worldwide family of Community of Christ. These gifts uniquely prepare him to stand in solidarity with the voices and viewpoints of often-marginalized cultures. Joey is called to orchestrate a harmonious blend of diverse perspectives, amplifying the peace of Jesus Christ and inviting others into Spirit-led diverse communities of justice and peace. With innovative strategies for inviting and nurturing disciples, Joey will empower those he serves to embody fully the identity, mission, message, and beliefs of Community of Christ in ways that are meaningful across cultures. Joey will help create Christ-centered groups where every voice finds resonance, and every soul finds belonging in the shared symphony of faith, acceptance, and fellowship.

Through collaborative discernment about the needs of the High Priest Quorum, **David N. Anderson** is honorably released as president, a position he has held since 2016. Dave previously served as director of Human Resource Ministries, apostolic assistant for the Eurasia Mission Field, president for the Western European and Eurasia mission centres, and president of the Chesapeake Bay USA Mission Center. After fourteen years of faithful service, Dave retired from church employment in 2020 while continuing to serve as a volunteer president of the High Priest Quorum, generously sharing his time and talents.

Through his leadership, Dave has fostered connections and support among high priests, utilizing technology in ways previously unimagined. His vision

for high priests helped others innovate new ways to support the church's mission and established a legacy that will shape the church's future. Dave's ministry will continue to evolve as he lives into his role of pastoral presence and one who walks with others, helping them connect with the Divine. Dave will be a blessing to many as he embraces this next chapter in his priesthood ministry.

To fill the vacancy created by Dave's retirement, **Jennifer L. Killpack** is called to serve as president of the High Priest Quorum in addition to her full-time role as director of Communications for Community of Christ International Headquarters. Jenn possesses a remarkable gift for prophetically imagining the world as God desires it and inspiring others to embrace this vision. Through loving and empowering relationships, Jenn helps people overcome their fear of change, motivating them to become leaders who guide others toward fulfilling God's vision of shalom. Jenn steps into this role at a pivotal time for the church, as high priests are being challenged to explore new ways of fulfilling their call and guiding groups in discerning innovative ways of being the church. Jenn will lead the church's ministers of vision by fostering a supportive environment where they can train, mentor, and inspire each other. Jenn's leadership will bless the quorum, and by extension the church, with fresh perspectives about the faithful ministry of high priests for a new era.

In closing, I appreciate the church's prayerful consideration of these calls as we journey toward the next World Conference. I trust in the prophetic voice of the people in the calling process. Should my call be approved by the 2025 World Conference and circumstances remain unchanged over the next year, I then will formally submit a letter of counsel regarding calls to the leading quorums for consideration by the delegates of the World Conference.

Onward!

Stassi D. Cramm
prophet-president designate

Pastoral Letter to the Church

Additional Anticipated Leadership Changes in June 2025

29 January 2025

To members and friends of Community of Christ:

In September 2024, I shared a pastoral letter outlining the calls to leading quorums that would be presented to the 2025 World Conference, contingent on the Conference's support of my call to prophet-president. You can find this letter at CofChrist.org/news/pastoral-letter-to-the-church/. Since releasing that letter, I prayerfully have continued to consider leadership needs. With the blessings of the Holy Spirit, additional changes have emerged.

With deep gratitude and reverence, **Shandra Newcom** will be released as an apostle and member of the Council of Twelve Apostles effective at World Conference. This decision will honor her request for space to focus on necessary self-care as she navigates a progressive auto-immune disease. Though her time on the council was shorter than any of us hoped, it has been distinguished by her compassionate voice, an unyielding passion for people who feel on the margins, and her boundless desire to create opportunities for young adults. While her profound contributions will be missed, we are thankful for her continued service as a high priest in other ministry capacities as her health allows. We are particularly excited that she will lead the team organizing the 2026 International Peace Colloquy, a testament to her ongoing dedication to fostering peace and understanding around the world.

With Shandra's departure, the Council of Twelve Apostles has two vacancies. The following calls are presented for the church's prayerful consideration:

Kathleen (Kat) Erin Hnatyshyn is called to serve as a special witness of Jesus Christ as an apostle of Christ's peace and member of the Council of Twelve Apostles. Kat brings a deep passion for the church's mission to this call. Kat is a leader representing a younger generation, effectively bridging generations

and fostering understanding among diverse perspectives. Her wisdom, drawn from years of volunteer service as a congregation and mission center leader, provides an unfolding understanding of God's vision of shalom. Kat's spirit of generosity and practice of whole-life stewardship inspire others to explore what Community of Christ stands for and what it means to follow Christ faithfully. She enthusiastically invites others to join the journey. Kat will bring giftedness and courage to the council, carrying the experience of what has been and the vision of what is yet to be.

Shannon Jean McAdam is called to serve as a special witness of Jesus Christ as an apostle of Christ's peace and member of the Council of Twelve Apostles. Shannon builds bridges by prayerfully listening to diverse perspectives and guiding the group in discerning the Holy Spirit's direction. She courageously advocates for the voiceless and marginalized, offering hope and a new understanding of the Blessings of Community for all. Shannon is a skilled administrator with a deep commitment to making space for those who feel marginalized by policies and practices. She inspires growth and awareness of missional opportunities by asking thought-provoking questions. Through her own example, Shannon invites others to embody the Enduring Principles, expressing them in daily actions and behaviors. Her joyful optimism and openness to the Holy Spirit's call are evident in all she does. Shannon will bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the council on how to live Christ's mission.

Kat and Shannon will leave their current professions and become full-time employees of Community of Christ as of 17 February 2025, serving as apostle designates. This will provide time for training and transition as the church prepares for the 2025 World Conference.

These calls and those presented in the September 2024 pastoral letter complete the leadership changes anticipated in June. If my call to prophet-president is approved by the 2025 World Conference, I will formally submit a letter of counsel regarding all the calls to

the leading quorums. It will be released following my ordination on Sunday, 1 June. Delegates of the World Conference will consider it Monday, 2 June.

I am humbled by and deeply grateful for the prayerful support of the church and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we prepare for the upcoming Conference. With great anticipation, I look forward to the opportunity for our worldwide community to

be together, in-person and online. I trust God will bless and renew us as we discover and celebrate "Hope Is Here."

Onward!

Stassi D. Cramm
prophet-president designate

2025 Legislation Detail

Legislation Prioritization Survey Results

Fourteen pieces of legislation have been submitted by mission centers and World Church standing teams. In addition, item Z-1 Prophetic Imagination provides an opportunity to vision for the future with the Leadership Council. Each mission center was asked to prioritize these fifteen items to be considered at the 2025 World Conference. Feedback was requested before the end of 2024.

The First Presidency considers prioritization a very important part of the legislative process and chose to follow the process used before the last World Conference.

Prioritization input was received from 59 mission centers with an estimate of over 700 people participating from around the world. Here is the final recommended priority list from that input:

Priority	Item	Resolution Title	Originating Body
1	D-2a	World Church Budgeting and Audit Process	First Presidency
2	Z-1	Prophetic Imagination	First Presidency
3	G-3	Resolution Concerning the Sacred Stewardship of the Temple and the Auditorium in Independence, Missouri, and the Principle of Common Consent	Canada East Mission Centre
4	G-12	Promoting Peace by Reducing Gun Proliferation and Violence	World Church Peace and Justice Team
5	A-3	Resolution on Preambles	First Presidency
6	G-5	Fossil Fuel Reduction	Greater Pacific Northwest USA Mission Center
7	G-1	Increasing Access to Creative Works Copyrighted by Community of Christ	Kentucky-Indiana USA Mission Center
8	G-4	Establishment of a Bylaw Committee to Review and Revise Community of Christ Bylaws with a Focus on Governance	Canada East Mission Centre
9	G-11	Climate Change Emergency Call to Action	World Church Human Rights Team
10	G-10	Earth Stewardship Affirmation	World Church Earth Stewardship Team
11	G-2	Affirming an Inclusive Zion in the Holy Land	World Church Peace and Justice Team
12	G-6	Threat of Confiscation of Monies in the AIP Accounts	Cedar Valley / Nauvoo USA Mission Center
13	G-7	Unilateral Authority Not Given by Church Membership	Cedar Valley / Nauvoo USA Mission Center
14	G-9	Divine Insights Calling Us!	Midlands USA Mission Center
15	G-8	Bicentennial Doctrine and Covenants	Midlands USA Mission Center

The First Presidency will consider these recommendations received through the results of the prioritization survey and the needs of the Conference in establishing the tentative legislative agenda to be considered at this World Conference.

Speaking Guidelines

For Delegate Sessions at World Conference

- Speak at a slow deliberate pace. Pause three seconds between each sentence.
- Write the message out that you want to share. For example: "Mr. President, I rise to speak in favor of this motion." (*pause three seconds*) "This is because I grew up in an area that is also very much in favor." (*pause three seconds*)...etc...
- Speak in short, simple sentences. Sentences with several commas and more than one topic are too complex.
- Keep the ideas simple for clarity.
- Pronounce your words carefully and clearly.
- Use common words; avoid specialized terms. For example, if you are an accountant and are speaking to delegates that are not accountants—please use words that they will understand.
- Many people do not understand theological terms, thus making it difficult to follow complex theological discussions.
- Avoid idioms or figures of speech. For example, "clear as a bell," "thick as thieves"
- Slang, jargon, technical terms, and culture-specific expressions do not translate well. For example, "pony up," "parking lot," "silo," "hitting a home run," "elephant in the room," "blue line," "in the black or in the red," "piggyback," "at the end of the day"... The reason that they do not translate well is that each individual expression represents several sentences or even paragraphs of explanation. By the time that the explanation is given, the interpreter will have missed several sentences and the train of thought.
- References to current entertainment, movies, popular actors, fashion, action characters, etc., are understood within limited national experience. It is best not to use them.
- Jokes do not translate well and often cannot be translated, so it is best to avoid them. Many jokes are culture-bound and do not have clear meaning in other cultures. Jokes isolate members of the assembly who cannot understand the joke.
- If you choose to refer to your nation's history, please give information about it. Those who are from other countries will not know your country's history.
- Please avoid **double negatives** in a sentence. For example: "He was not unwise in his action." Say instead: "He was wise in his action."
- Seasonal terms such as "winter," "summer," etc., have different meanings around the world. Use the name of the month or months instead.
- If in doubt...leave it out.

Organization and Administration

A-1 Community of Christ Employee Recognitions

List of Retired World Church Employees

Ricky (Rick) L. Boyd
Mark A. Euritt
Andrew Fox
Sambara Gamanga
Paula R. Gunlock
Clemencito B. Magabilin
Josefina C. Magabilin
Stephen R. Newby
David M. Nii
Guillermina (Geri) Silva
John G. VanDerWalker II
Stephen M. Veazey
Amancio Villar
Ruth Denise White

Jean Pierre Ilunga Masaka
Carolyn Jackson
David Kaleikau, Jr.
Katherine (Kay) McArthur
Margaret McDowell
Jerry Niefert
McAdamson Nkhoma
Carolyn Passmore
Larry Pool
Ronald Ross, Jr.
Darwood (Dar) Shepherson
Gloria Smith
Terry Smith
Wallace B. Smith
Wesley (Pat) Spillman
Robert (Bob) Watkins, Jr.
Carol White
Sandra (San) White
John Wiley

In Memoriam: (as of 5 April 2025)

Lackings Banda
Thomas Bennett
Barbara Bernauer
Gretchen Booz
Ronald Brettrager
Laura (Madelon) Brunson
Glenn Campbell
Joe Donald
Victor Edsall
Penny Edwards
Lyman Edwards
Calvin (Cal) French
Kenneth Green
William Gregson
Mary Handlen
Rosa Harris
Herbert Hawley
Barbara Howard

A-3 No Preambles

From the First Presidency

Resolution

Resolved, That resolutions submitted for consideration by a World Conference not include preambles (“Whereas” statements); and be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency define what additional information, such as background and supportive statements may be submitted with proposed resolutions and make provision for the publication of said information with the proposed resolutions.

Read background statements and support statements at <https://CofChristIHQ.sharepoint.com/sites/2025WorldConference>.

Committees, Boards, and Councils

B-1 World Church Finance Board

To the World Conference:

In harmony with World Conference Resolution 1306 the First Presidency nominates the following people for election to serve a six-year term on the World Church Finance Board beginning 1 July 2025 and ending at the 2031 World Conference or until a successor is elected.

1. Raphael Asiko
2. Melissa Gribbon
3. Valerie Brennan
4. Leslie Brooks
5. Berry Ellis
6. Suanny Genao
7. Katheryne Haines
8. Wendell Nahum Dubon Hernandez
9. Judith Jackson
10. Ronald A. Viera Lopez
11. Kimberly Lubbers
12. Claribel Ramirez Tejada
13. Joel Ross
14. Mike Wellington
15. Carol Wight

Additional nominations may be made from the floor.

If no nominations are received from the floor, those named will be elected by acclamation as provided in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised. If there are nominations from the floor, the vote will be taken via an electronic survey outside the legislative meetings for delegates in Independence, Missouri, and via paper ballot for delegates at the authorized remote sites. The fifteen names receiving the highest number of votes will be elected.

—The First Presidency

Nominees' Biographical Information

Raphael Asiko Diang'a: Mombasa, Kenya; Universal Central College in Thika; blast training in Egypt at Cairo El-Sokhna Cement Plant; mechanical engineer and certified explosives blaster; quarry supervisor for Lafarge Holcim Bamburi Cement Limited and packing-plant foreman from 1988 to 2017; Music Director, assistant Director of Logistics

& Coast Region Co-ordinator in [KeMCANet] Kenya Music Composers & Arrangers Network. Kenya Mission Centre President, male 57; a high priest.

Melissa Gribbon: Alta Loma, California, USA; bachelor of arts degree from Graceland University, and a Master's degree in National Security Studies from California State University; Vice President of Business Development at Computershare Corporate Trust, leading public finance initiatives across 21 western U.S. states; working with municipalities, state agencies, developers, and other public finance professionals, to deliver trustee, paying agent/ registrar, custodian, and escrow services for a variety of bond transactions; more than 16 years of experience in serving the capital markets—including leadership positions at Wells Fargo; active minister at the Upland Congregation in Southern California and a member of the World Church Peace and Justice Committee; a board member of the Women in Public Finance Pacific Northwest Chapter; serves on the national Communications Committee for Women in Public Finance, and a member of the Government Finance Officers Association. age 45; an elder.

Valerie Brennan: Zionsville, Indiana, USA; bachelor's degree in accounting; member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Indiana CPA Society, the Estate Planning Council of Indianapolis, and the International Academy of Collaborative Professionals; managing director with CBIZ, a national financial services firm, headquartered in Cleveland, OH; involved with several nonprofit organizations within the Indianapolis area, including Outside the Box (board president); currently lead pastor for the Indianapolis Congregation, Kentucky-Indiana USA Mission Center; a former member of the standing high council; age 58, a high priest.

Leslie Brooks: Independence, Kansas, USA; a member of Community of Christ since age 8; congregational CFO since 1995 and co-pastor; South Central States Mission Center financial officer since 2010; bachelor's degree in business administration from Oklahoma Wesleyan University; officer manager for several companies; holds an insurance license; Series 6 Investment license while working with Prudential Insurance for 11 years; a role assisting individuals with mental health issues in the crisis

department and retired after 12 years in this field; age 67; a bishop.

Berry Ellis: Pace, Florida, USA; Vice President of Indirect Lending at Gulf Winds Credit Union in Pensacola, Florida; more than 18 years' experience with a Credit Union; experience with the annual budgeting process in current Credit Union position, which has \$1.3 billion dollars in assets; life-long member of Community of Christ and Alabama Northwest Florida Mission Center; age 49; a seventy.

Suanny Genao: San Juan de la Maguana, San Juan, Dominican Republic; a bachelor's degree in business administration; master's degree in mathematics; works as an educator; advisor to the financial officer of the Missionary Center of the Dominican Republic; collaborates with the realization of the budget in my congregation. age 36; a teacher.

Kathryn "Kath" Haines: Leicester, England; bachelor's degree in combined sciences and master's in business administration; chartered accountant (retired in 2020); (FCA), qualifying with Price Waterhouse Coopers over 40 years ago, continuing work as a senior member of the audit department for another 10 years; experience covers a variety of sectors in the UK, culminating in over 10 years as Chief Executive of a charity with an asset base of over £100m; since retirement has served in trustee roles with two local charities; a life-long member of Community of Christ; serving as the assistant finance officer for the British Isles Mission Centre; finance officer for the Leicester congregation, and serves on the Leicester leadership team; served 30 years as treasurer/finance director for Dunfield House, the British Isles campgrounds; currently serves as an elected member of the World Church Finance Board and would be delighted to be appointed for a second term; age 68; a bishop.

Wendell Nahum Dubon Hernandez: San Pedro Sula, Honduras; Pastor of the Community of Christ Church of San Pedro Sula Cortés, Honduras; a degree in English Literature and Languages; financial experience as a Treasurer in the center "Jose' Ramon Aguilar" where I work as a teacher of technology educational systems and English language; age 42; an elder.

Judith Jackson: Forster, New South Wales, Australia; advanced certificate in accounting, North Coast Institute of Technical and Further Education;

held various Australian government and private-enterprise positions, performing administration and financial roles; served as finance manager in a nonprofit organization, retiring in 2017; volunteers in various organizations, from junior-school reading programs to the Red Cross; age 67; a priest.

Ronald A. Viera Lopez: San Pedro Sula, Honduras; industrial engineer with a Master's degree in Operations and Logistics Management from the Central American Technological University; diploma in leadership from Dale Carnegie; Municipal Civil Registrar in Las Vegas, Santa Barbara; has led national youth camps; serves as pastor of the El Carreto congregation in Las Vegas, Santa Barbara, Honduras; is a member of the Central American Mission Center Council; age 44 years; a high priest.

Kimberly Lubbers: Tempe, Arizona, USA; CPA in public accounting for 25 years; controller for a manufacturing company and currently controller for non-profit University; served as treasurer for several nonprofit entities; member of the Phoenix Central Congregation pastorate; age 59; an elder.

Claribel Ramírez Tejada: Santo Domingo Este, Dominican Republic; Bachelor of Marketing and Technician in Business Administration, more than 20 years of experience in the Financial Sector of Private Banking; she is currently Deputy Manager of Control & Services (Business-Services areas) of the business centers for three areas of the country; supports financial responsibilities at the local and national levels for the Community of Christ including pro-fund activities, production of special services, administered emergency funds; training focused on caring for and managing congregational and community finances; manages a financial support network to raise funds to support congregational and mission center activities; 49 years old; a priest.

Joel Ross: Venetia, Pennsylvania, USA; bachelor's degree in business administration, Graceland University; graduate, University of Pittsburgh Institute for Entrepreneurial Excellent Program for executives; graduate, Harvard Business School Executive Education Programs in Building Business in Emerging Markets and Leading Global Businesses; Director, Ulbrich Stainless Steels & metals Company in Hartford, Connecticut, USA; former chief executive officer, Universal Electric Corporation; former board

member of Outreach International; former board member of The Catalyst Connection Industrial Resource Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; pastor of Pittsburgh South Hills Congregation, Eastern Great Lakes USA Mission Center; former co-chair of the Mission Funding Council; age 67; a high priest.

Mike Wellington: Edmond, Oklahoma, USA: served as director of finance, chief financial officer, and treasurer for many entities including overseas operations in developing countries; 30 years of experience in real estate development, commercial rental properties, national and international agricultural ventures, and a public accounting firm; serves as the chair of the Mission Center President Team of the Oklahoma USA Mission Center; member of Community of Christ Professional Law Enforcement Officers Association; member of the World Church Finance Board and the Audit Review Team; age 66; a high priest.

Carole Wight: Blue Springs, Missouri, USA; bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Missouri-St. Louis and many Credit Union National Association economic development programs; President of Holy Rosary Credit Union in Kansas City, Missouri; a small, \$45 million, low-income designated CDFI credit union which serves a low-income population comprised largely of immigrants, people of color, disabled low-income seniors and other financially underserved populations; Carole feels fortunate to be part of the credit union movement as a way to live out the Community of Christ's mission to abolish poverty and end suffering; age 70; a priest.

World Church Boards and Councils

World Church Finance Board

ExOfficio Members

First Presidency; Council of Twelve Apostles; Presiding Bishopric; president of High Priests; senior president of seventy; and presiding evangelist.

Four Bishops Elected by the Order of Bishops

Terms expire 2025 or at the next World Conference

Andrew Fox

Malcolm Stephenson

Terms expire 2028 or at the next World Conference

Bibek Nayak

Carrie Welch (*will be replaced when ordained to the Council of Twelve*)

Thirty members Elected by World Conference

Terms Expire 2025 or at the next World Conference

Ronald A. Viera Lopez

Raphael Asiko Diang'A

Valerie Brennan

John Chatburn

Eric Cox

Carolina de la Rosa Sánchez

Rocio Del Pilar Paz Carlos

Kathryn "Kath" Haines

Kat Hnatyshyn

Judith Jackson

Kimberly Lubbers

Mark Megee

Joel Ross

Michael Wellington

Shelby Williams

Terms Expire 2028 or at the next World Conference

Janelle Anders
S. Mark Barnes
Cara Borkowski
Denise Fears
David Harrison
Richard Higdon
Garland Land
Tamatoa Mariteragi
Debora Mejia
Bob Piepergerdes
David Siddall
Mark Swanson
Joel Trinkle
Tom Webber
Sam Zokar Zota, Jr.

**Graceland University Board of Trustees
Community of Christ Corporate Body Appointed
Board Members:**

Michael R. Wiley, PhD, Chair (2026),
Blue Springs, MO
LouAnn Muir-Hutchinson, MPH,
Vice-Chair (2026), Groton, MA
Jay Cook, MBA, Treasurer (2027), Henrico, Virginia
Mike Seagraves, PhD, Secretary (2026),
Granite Bay, CA
Steven E. Graffeo, MA, (2026), Independence, MO
Ronald D. (Ron) Harmon Jr., MAR, (2026),
Independence, MO
Gwendolyn Hawks-Blue, (2026), Kansas City, MO
Vincent E. Lewis, EdD, (2026), West Des Moines, IA
Jim Lysinger, MBA, (2026), Scottsdale, AZ
Randall E. Pratt, JD, (2028), Lees Summit, MO
Samuel G. (Sam) Smalldon, MBA, (2025),
Calgary, Alberta, Canada
Julia Snethen, PhD, (2026), Kenosha, WI
John R. Whitehurst, (2027), Goleta, CA
Stephanie Winters McConnell, MS, (2027),
Overland Park, KS

Board of Trustee Appointments:

Emily Hughes, JD, (2028), Iowa City, IA
Aleksandar (Aleks) Memca, (2027), San Diego, CA
Toyia K. Younger, PhD, (2025), Ames, IA

**Alumni Board President, and Alumni Board
Representative to the Board of Trustees:**

Melissa Sherer, MBA, (2026), New York, NY

(Terms expire at midnight the day before the summer meeting of the year indicated.)

Standing High Council

The World Conference approves and sustains members of the Standing High Council. The following High Priests served during the last inter-Conference period.

David M. Byrn
Mark D. Dixon, MD
Eva M. Erickson
Gwendolyn E. Hawks-Blue
Lucy N. Ibanga (*resigned 30 March 2024*)
Issac Bennet Joshua
Sharon M. Kirkpatrick
Vincent E. Lewis
Ronald Alexander Viera López
Marilee A. Martens
Warwick (Rick) Sarre
Joan L. Thompson

Conference Organization and Procedures

C-2 Standing Rules of the 2025 World Conference

From the Conference Organization and Procedures Team

Summary: If passed, the Standing Rules provide the World Conference with a framework for conducting business. They would cover approving delegates, voting, basic procedures, printing the records of meetings, speaking in business meetings, adjusting the agenda, and other things. This item also would establish the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, as the source for governing the Conference in all cases when not inconsistent with bylaws and these Standing Rules. Standing Rules may be suspended by a majority vote of the body without debate.

Resolution

1. The Credentials Committee, which certifies delegates, must report names of certified delegates and alternates at the opening of Conference. Without involving the Conference, the Committee is authorized to certify alternates as delegates—according to guidelines previously established--without further reference to the Conference. (Guidelines: Alternate delegates certified by the Committee will be listed in order of the number of votes cast for them at their election. Those delegates will be certified by the Credentials Committee in place of regular delegates who cannot attend. The Committee's action will be based on a statement signed by the administrative officer of the electing jurisdictional conference, indicating which elected delegates cannot be present at Conference. The Committee must have the statement at least 10 days before Conference. If a permanent vacancy occurs due to an emergency during the 10 days before or during Conference, the Credentials Committee is authorized to certify the next-listed alternate, if requested in writing by the administrative officer of the electing jurisdictional conference or the officer's designee.)
2. The First Presidency will identify delegations without full representation due to government or economic conditions of the jurisdiction. The delegates from those delegations will cast proportional votes equal to the number of delegate votes provided in the rules of representation. When using an electronic system to vote, proportional voting will be automated. If the Conference votes by another method, the chair is authorized to call for a counted vote. For each delegation using proportional voting, the ratio each delegation uses is calculated by dividing the number of delegates the jurisdiction is entitled to by the number of delegates registered. The ratio will be carried to the second decimal place and rounded to the nearest whole number.
3. Conference registration badges must be worn during Conference business sessions at the main Conference venue. Delegates at approved remote sites must follow rules established at each location for identifying certified delegates.
4. If the electronic connection to approved remote sites is lost or has unusable quality, no action will be invalidated because delegates at those locations could not participate.
5. In compliance with WCR 1290, legislation to be considered at World Conference must have been approved by a mission center conference, quorum, council, the Presiding Bishopric, orders of the World Church, or committees (teams) of the World Conference. For such legislation to come before the World Conference, the World Church secretary must receive it at least one year before the Conference.
 - a. At the main World Conference site, the quorums, councils, Presiding Bishopric, orders of the World Church, mass meetings, and caucuses authorized by the First Presidency will meet for fellowship, spiritual growth, education, and to consider pre-submitted legislation and other matters. However, with the approval of the First Presidency, proposals from councils, quorums, the Presiding Bishopric, orders

- of the World Church, mass meetings, and authorized caucuses may be submitted during Conference if urgent or required because of actions during Conference. Delegates at an approved remote site are authorized to form a caucus for the purposes outlined above.
- b. During World Conference, these urgent resolutions must be presented to the World Church secretary. Any of the groups listed in the previous paragraph can consult with the Resolutions Team about wording and form before submitting resolutions to the World Church secretary.
6. The minutes of World Conference business meetings will not be approved by the Conference each day. They will be approved after the business meetings by a team from the Standing High Council appointed by the First Presidency on behalf of the delegates. To help delegates, the First Presidency will provide a summary of the prior day's business and actions in each daily *Bulletin*.
 7. No delegate is allowed to speak in debate more than once on the same question on the same day or longer than three (3) minutes without permission of the Conference. This will be granted by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote without debate. In the case of the delegate making the motion and first speaker in opposition, five (5) minutes will be allowed. These time limits are doubled for non-English speaking delegates whose remarks require translation. Individuals called to provide information are not governed by this rule. If adjustments are needed, Standing Rule 20 can be used.
 8. The chair may allow more time for delegates to understand the parliamentary process through discussion among themselves before voting so delegates can make an informed decision.
 9. All primary amendments to be proposed should be given to the World Church secretary 24 hours before their expected consideration to allow for translation.
 10. At the chair's discretion, voting can be electronic if available. Voting results will be reported to delegates.
 11. The First Presidency plans and adjusts the Conference legislative agenda each day as needed; the printed agenda is for guidance only. It is not considered general or special orders. Prior to the beginning of Conference, the church may be given the opportunity to prioritize business items, except those required for church management. This process guides the First Presidency as it creates and adjusts the agenda.
 12. Delegates seeking the floor to ask a question will not receive special preference in being recognized by the chair. They may obtain the floor in the same way as those wishing to speak in debate.
 13. To allow adequate debate, the motion to "close debate" may be moved only on the immediately pending motion being discussed. The chair is justified in ruling any motion to close debate out of order until diverse viewpoints have been well expressed.
 14. After any main motion is introduced, at least two speeches in favor and two opposed will be allowed before the chair receives any amendment or any motion to refer.
 15. Generally, points of order will not be recognized while someone is speaking. The person expressing a point of order will be called on when no one has been assigned the floor.
 16. Questions of privilege (e.g. temperature, difficulty hearing, and so on) will be addressed to the Conference directors and shall not interrupt the proceedings.
 17. The chair may direct disconnecting or muting an electronic connection if it is causing undo interference with the Conference. This decision by the chair is not subject to appeal and will be announced during the meeting and recorded in the minutes.
 18. The final legislative session of the World Conference will be adjourned as close as possible to 3:30 PM (time in Independence, MO) Friday, 6 June 2025 in order to address a variety of factors affecting many delegates such as scheduled travel plans. Any business pending or submitted but never brought before the conference for consideration at that

time will be referred to the First Presidency for consideration and any action they deem appropriate.

19. As provided in the Bylaws of Community of Christ, the rules in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* will govern the Conference in the cases that apply when they are not inconsistent with the Bylaws and these standing rules.

The chair can choose for the assembly to follow a different process for debate or decision-making to reach common consent on any matter properly before the World Conference. The Presidency will outline the other processes to be used. These will include methods for sharing, small-group conversation, polling, refining a proposal, voting, determining levels necessary for decision-making, and other considerations. Any rules in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised and any World Conference standing rules that conflict with a different decision-making process will be suspended while the process is followed.

20. Any of these standing rules may be suspended by a majority vote of the delegates without debate. In such a case, the rules in the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised* shall come into force. Rules that relate to the fundamental rules of parliamentary procedure may not be suspended (i.e., the right of each member to speak in debate, make motions, and vote). A two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote shall be required to amend or rescind these standing rules.
21. The following list of 16 parliamentary actions described in the document titled "Parliamentary Actions which can be Utilized at World Conference" are the ones which can be utilized during this Conference.
 1. Speak FOR
 2. Speak AGAINST
 3. Speak FOR Amendment
 4. Speak AGAINST Amendment
 5. Ask a Question
 6. Amend

7. Refer (Send to a Group)
8. Close Debate
9. Object to Consideration
10. Point of Order
11. Appeal Decision of Chair
12. Reconsider
13. Suspend the Rules
14. Division of the Question
15. Division of the Assembly
(Call for a different way to count votes.)
16. Make a Nomination

C-3 Conference Organization and Procedures Team Report

The World Conference Organization and Procedures Team (COPT) is a standing committee of the World Conference appointed for each inter-conference period by the First Presidency. The purpose of the team is to evaluate the organization and procedures from past World Conferences and recommend to the First Presidency suggested changes to improve the function of the World Conference legislative process.

During the inter-conference period of 2023 – 2025, the following goals were accomplished:

1. Reviewed the legislative cards used to register to speak and recommended changes that are being implemented for the 2025 World Conference.
2. Reviewed the translation and interpretation process as it related to supporting the legislative sessions and recommended improvements that are being implemented at the 2025 World Conference.
3. Reviewed the parliamentary actions that have been historically permitted and recommend including a new rule in the Standing Rules that lists the parliamentary actions. This will give the delegates the opportunity to amend the list of parliamentary actions, if required.
4. Reviewed the Standing Rules of the World Conference and recommended changes for the proposed Standing Rules for the 2025 World Conference as presented in a separate report. The proposed Standing Rules are item C-2.

5. Evaluated the flow of the legislative sessions and discussed ways to improve effective use of the time. Considered resolutions suggested to streamline the legislative process:
 - a. Requiring amendments to be vetted and “approved” by more than one person before being presented. Submitting a resolution was not pursued as it was not implementable with the current version of Robert’s Rules.
 - b. Requiring the first amendment made on a resolution to be submitted several months ahead of time to allow for legal review, translations, and distribution. Submitting a resolution was not pursued as it was not implementable with the current version of Robert’s Rules. However, one of the proposed standing rules required that all primary amendments be submitted to the World Church secretary at least 24 hours prior to the expected time of consideration.
 - c. Limiting the format of resolutions submitted to only include “Resolved Statements” with all other information provided as background or support but not printed with the resolution if it is approved. Submitted a proposed resolution as a recommendation to the First Presidency which was submitted to the 2025 World Conference as resolution A-3.
6. Reviewed the bylaws of Community of Christ as related to supporting World Conference and determined if any modifications were recommended. Considered the number of delegates authorized by the current bylaws based on the below criteria but decided not to

recommend a change at this time because it was determined a more thorough review of the bylaws should be accomplished:

- a. Reduced participation at World Conference in recent years.
- b. Difficulty receiving visas to the USA for delegates from various countries leading to out-of-balance representation and increased dependency on proportional voting.
- c. Desire to increase the use of the Temple Sanctuary during World Conference.
- d. Possibility of fully online World Conferences in the future and the ability to effectively manage a large number of participants.

Respectfully submitted,

Stassi Cramm, team lead
Chito Magabilin
Chizaso Chunga
Dan Nowiski
Deb Crowley
Esdras Hernandez
Gina Colvin
Ui Ishikawa
Joan Thompson
John Wight
Larry Martin
Lexie Frazier
Mark Euritt
Ryan Pitt
Sandee Gamet
Sharlotte Green
Susan Naylor
Tehinarii Reiatua

Finances

D-1 2025 World Conference Presiding Bishopric Report

The 2023 World Conference marked a leadership transition with the ordination of Ron Harmon as Presiding Bishop and Carla Long and Wim van Klinken as counselors. The following two years brought both significant challenges and meaningful achievements. Consistent throughout has been the generous response of many to a divine cause that inspires hope and possibility for the future.

During this interconference period, Worldwide Mission Tithes supported ministers and leaders around the world in preaching, teaching, and transformative ministry. These ministries reflect Christ's mission in Luke 4:18–19 and our mission initiatives. <https://issuu.com/cofchristhq/docs/issuu-sharing-in-community-of-christ>

In practice, these ministries take many forms: providing clean drinking water, funding education through scholarships, developing creative online outreach, supporting the most vulnerable through compassionate care, and addressing systemic oppression through transformative action for the common good.

This report provides summary financial information for ministries supported by the 2024 Worldwide Mission Budget and projections through 2030. For more detailed information during the interconference period from 2023 to 2024, we encourage you to read the financial updates that are available at: <https://www.cofchrist.org/financial-updates>

Review of 2024 Results

Worldwide Mission Budget

In 2024, Worldwide Mission Tithes totaled \$11.64 million—significantly above the \$10.2 million budget goal—and included \$681,000 from Giving Tuesday. This contributed to an overall surplus for the Worldwide Mission Budget of \$875,000. Church leaders are deeply grateful for the generosity of contributors and the responsible staff financial management that made this possible.

Worldwide Mission Tithes support many aspects of our mission, including special initiatives by the Council of Twelve to combat poverty and hunger. The World

Hunger Fund, rooted in our gospel call to justice and compassion, was established in 1978 (WCR 1148) and reaffirmed in 1992 (WCR 1227). It addresses the root causes of hunger and inequality.

For example, in 2023, \$200,000 was allocated to World Hunger projects, administered by the Council of Twelve. Highlights included:

- Six clean water projects in Congo DR, Kenya, and Zambia
- Soap-making training for 300 women and youth in Malawi
- School benches in Congo DR (through Health-Ed Connect)

These projects improve health, empower women, and expand education—especially for girls who often miss school to collect water.

We also celebrate past projects like solar irrigation, brick-making, sewing workshops, and microfinance efforts. Through member and friend generosity, lives continue to be transformed.

Endowment Balances

As of December 31, 2024, the Temple Endowment balance was \$213.0 million, with \$197.5 million invested in marketable securities. The Worldwide Mission Endowment totaled \$17.6 million, with \$14.9 million invested in marketable securities.

In line with our endowment spending policy, the current 3% spending rate applies only to the liquid portion invested in marketable securities.

Looking ahead, our funding strategy includes growing the liquid portion of the Temple Endowment to \$200 million. This will enable sustained support for Temple ministries, mission support services, and the Temple Complex's operations. Supporting the Temple and its ministries remains a strategic priority of the World Church Leadership Council and honors the legacy of those who gave sacrificially to the Kirtland Temple.

With the Temple Endowment well-funded, our future focus shifts to growing the Worldwide Mission Endowment. As it grows, the 3% spending rate will generate income to fund ministries in the USA and globally, as part of the Worldwide Mission Budget.

The following additional endowment balances are reported as of 12-31-2024 (USD):

Endowment	Balance as of 12-31-2024
Canada Mission Endowment	\$11.677 million
Canada Temple Endowment	\$3.645 million
Canada Worldwide Communications Endowment	\$3.631 million
General Operating Endowment	\$6.069 million

Operating Reserve

Operating Reserve balances at 12-31-2024 totaled \$10.567 million and included a world conference designated reserve of \$3.865 million, a Worldwide Ministries Contingency Reserve of \$4.199 million, and donor Designated Reserve of \$2.503 million. These strategic reserves provide stability as we look to support mission and ministries into 2025 and beyond.

2025 Worldwide Mission Tithes Goal

The Worldwide Mission Tithes goal range for 2025 is \$10.16 to \$11.16 million. We are deeply grateful for the continued response of the church to our divinely instilled call and vision.

Bridge of Hope Retirement Responsibility

In February 2024, the Presiding Bishopric announced the Bridge of Hope retirement responsibility goal had been met and exceeded. This occurred prior to the sale of historic assets and without the need for any Affiliate Investment Pool loans. This is a significant accomplishment made possible by the work of many field, mission center, congregational leaders, and members across the church.

Recognizing the church's broader mission funding needs, many congregations and mission centers chose to contribute to the retirement goal, often at a personal or local sacrifice. The church is deeply grateful for this unified commitment to honoring those who have dedicated years of service and ministry.

Work is now underway to finalize retirement funding arrangements in the U.S. and internationally. As previously shared, any remaining funds after this process will go toward endowments—the second goal of Bridge of Hope. A final summary report will be included in the December Financial Update.

Historic Asset Sale

The sale of historic assets in March 2024 was a difficult and painful moment for some. The Presiding Bishopric, along with other leaders and members around the global church, have deep personal connections to these sacred places that are part of our shared faith story. Through online opportunities for gathering and many hours of one-on-one conversations, we have supported one another through the range of emotions associated with the historic sale.

Had it not been for the historic assets' sale, instead of looking to the future, the church would have been considering significant reductions in staff, ministry, and services in 2025. Although the sale did not resolve all the financial challenges, it is providing assets that position us for the future through our endowments.

Endowments Position us for the Future

On May 23rd, 2024, the World Church Finance Board approved a resolution to move \$165 million from the sale of historic assets to the Temple Endowment and \$10 million to the Worldwide Mission Endowment. By placing these funds in each Endowment, the spending rate (currently 3%) will generate annual income to the budget for years to come in accordance with the Spending Rate Policy on Endowments.

A \$2 million endowment was set up as part of the Temple Endowment to support the ongoing efforts of Community of Christ in partnership with the Historic Sites Foundation to engage in projects that convey our sacred story.

Remaining Net Process from Sale of Historic Assets

The Presiding Bishopric completed a study with J.E. Dunn in 2024 to identify maintenance and replacement needs of the Temple and Auditorium over the next decade. The first phase which will occur over the next three years includes the following projects:

- Temple Roof Sealing and Repair
- Original Carpet Replacement in Office and Educational Section of Temple
- Concrete Steps Replacement at World Plaza
- Complete Heating and Cooling Systems Replacement

- Securing, Caulking, and Cleaning External Auditorium Stone Panels
- Landscaping replacement and improvements including Temple Rooftop Garden
- Electronic Door Replacements at Temple Main Entrances
- Lighting Control Upgrade in Temple

These projects have an estimated cost of \$12 million and will ensure these buildings are able to meet the needs of the church into the foreseeable future.

Worldwide Mission Tithes: An Essential Part of our Funding Strategy

Worldwide Mission Tithes will remain a key source of funding for global mission. As endowments grow, the income they generate will gradually reduce the burden on tithes, allowing more of those funds to directly support mission work.

This shift will help the church engage younger generations who value seeing a clear connection between their giving and mission outcomes.

Looking ahead, the church’s funding model will rely on endowment income—especially from the Temple Endowment—to support the Temple Complex, operations, and global services. Meanwhile, field ministries and mission projects will continue to be funded by Worldwide Mission Tithes and the growing Worldwide Mission Endowment.

Looking Ahead to 2030

95% of contributions to Worldwide Mission Tithes in 2024 came from USA fields, 4% from Canada, and 1% from other multi-nation fields.

The number of individual contributor households declined from 6,157 in 2023 to 5,754 in 2024.

4,047 or 70% of the 5,754 contributors in the USA and Canada were over the age of 65. Those same 4,047 contributor households gave \$8.5 million

Worldwide Mission Tithes Contributors

(Canada and USA only)
CY2013 - CY2024

Calendar Year	# of Contributors	% Difference
2013	11,630	
2014	10,832	-6.9%
2015	10,608	-2.1%
2016	10,705	0.9%
2017	9,775	-8.7%
2018	9,088	-7.0%
2019	8,458	-6.9%
2020	7,578	-10.4%
2021	6,577	-13.2%
2022	6,334	-3.7%
2023	6,157	2.8%
2024	5,754	-6.5%

A contributor is defined as a household unless individuals in the household give through separate envelopes

Totals do not include jurisdictions, corporations or estates

or 73% of all Worldwide Mission Tithes (see chart below). This data tells a familiar story. We are still largely dependent on those age 65+ in the United States to support our Worldwide Mission budget. This highlights the need to focus on building younger generations of generous disciples who are engaged in mission with their whole lives.

While contribution data helps tell the story of generosity, it’s incomplete—especially in countries outside the U.S. and Canada where tithes are reported

Worldwide Mission Tithes Contributors

By Age

(Canada and USA only)
CY2020 - CY2024

Age Group	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	AVG	\$ amount	AVG	\$ amount	AVG	\$ amount	AVG	\$ amount	AVG	\$ amount
0-17	127	153	147	152	127	127	\$ 23,784	\$ 745	\$ 125,345	\$ 853	\$ 122,950	\$ 809	\$ 94,200	\$ 742	\$ 94,200
18-23	14	12	11	32	16	14	\$ 1,846	\$ 1,376	\$ 890	\$ 81	\$ 11,849	\$ 370	\$ 12,142	\$ 759	\$ 12,142
24-29	62	45	34	23	34	62	\$ 25,637	\$ 11,777	\$ 10,638	\$ 313	\$ 15,036	\$ 654	\$ 16,629	\$ 489	\$ 16,629
30-34	120	84	70	61	52	120	\$ 52,550	\$ 45,323	\$ 30,905	\$ 441	\$ 20,745	\$ 340	\$ 22,376	\$ 430	\$ 22,376
35-39	167	134	124	117	100	167	\$ 100,464	\$ 102,902	\$ 72,050	\$ 581	\$ 81,287	\$ 695	\$ 47,379	\$ 474	\$ 47,379
40-44	228	177	166	165	166	228	\$ 283,923	\$ 169,616	\$ 170,769	\$ 1,029	\$ 137,559	\$ 834	\$ 130,310	\$ 785	\$ 130,310
45-49	230	186	186	199	189	230	\$ 196,561	\$ 293,862	\$ 268,829	\$ 1,445	\$ 272,604	\$ 1,370	\$ 290,007	\$ 1,534	\$ 290,007
50-54	306	250	238	213	195	306	\$ 338,523	\$ 273,171	\$ 252,928	\$ 1,063	\$ 245,991	\$ 1,155	\$ 190,302	\$ 976	\$ 190,302
55-59	516	388	364	318	283	516	\$ 556,891	\$ 523,358	\$ 1,349	\$ 1,613	\$ 370,186	\$ 1,164	\$ 354,634	\$ 1,253	\$ 354,634
60-64	797	666	605	549	479	797	\$ 1,589,035	\$ 891,009	\$ 807,526	\$ 1,335	\$ 778,261	\$ 1,418	\$ 675,886	\$ 1,411	\$ 675,886
65-69	914	803	765	738	692	914	\$ 1,299,775	\$ 1,846,314	\$ 1,799,448	\$ 2,352	\$ 1,525,518	\$ 2,067	\$ 1,741,094	\$ 2,516	\$ 1,741,094
70-74	1160	988	921	903	808	1160	\$ 1,938,213	\$ 1,817,297	\$ 1,720,775	\$ 1,868	\$ 1,551,269	\$ 1,718	\$ 1,383,170	\$ 1,712	\$ 1,383,170
75-79	944	912	860	871	860	944	\$ 1,700,396	\$ 1,769,951	\$ 1,698,712	\$ 1,975	\$ 1,830,331	\$ 2,101	\$ 1,928,392	\$ 2,242	\$ 1,928,392
80-84	842	789	768	740	708	842	\$ 1,929,683	\$ 1,832,115	\$ 1,963,416	\$ 2,557	\$ 1,356,824	\$ 1,834	\$ 1,327,338	\$ 1,875	\$ 1,327,338
85-89	632	620	584	578	565	632	\$ 1,116,008	\$ 1,267,860	\$ 1,255,945	\$ 2,151	\$ 1,222,810	\$ 2,116	\$ 1,355,300	\$ 2,399	\$ 1,355,300
90-94	344	322	321	313	300	344	\$ 539,522	\$ 794,013	\$ 579,852	\$ 1,806	\$ 544,291	\$ 1,739	\$ 537,958	\$ 1,793	\$ 537,958
95+	98	96	112	106	114	98	\$ 130,651	\$ 175,087	\$ 174,266	\$ 1,556	\$ 161,584	\$ 1,524	\$ 227,492	\$ 1,996	\$ 227,492
No age listed	77	78	58	79	66	77	\$ 303,155	\$ 321,757	\$ 5,548	\$ 115,106	\$ 1,457	\$ 66	\$ 229,337	\$ 3,475	\$ 229,337
TOTAL	7,578	6,703	6,334	6,157	5,754	7,578	\$ 12,126,617	\$ 11,841,118	\$ 11,841,118	\$ 10,364,201	\$ 10,364,201	\$ 10,364,201	\$ 10,563,946	\$ 10,563,946	\$ 10,563,946

A contributor is defined as a household unless individuals in the household give through separate envelopes
Totals do not include contributions from jurisdictions, corporations or estates.
All dollars reported as USD

by congregations or mission centers, not individuals. The numbers also don't capture the dedication of the many employed and volunteer ministers and leaders who live out the church's mission worldwide.

Generosity is expressed in countless ways. For example, the Masina Congregation in Kinshasa rebuilt and expanded their church building—adding new tiles, doors, and windows—all with locally raised funds. They also support regional mission efforts through their mission center.

In Chandragiri, India, members of the Antarba Congregation have spent 20 years sacrificially working toward building a church that reflects their faith. The church in Odisha was established by missionary Sambara Raika, one of only two evangelists to serve the church in India. Though he has passed, his daughter now serves as the first ordained female elder in Odisha's tribal areas. They plan to dedicate the new building by late 2025.

The Presiding Bishopric is deeply thankful for the individuals and communities across the globe who support mission through their giving, leadership, and ministry. Their generosity fuels hope and helps the church become a living expression of Christ's peace.

However, with an aging donor base in the U.S. and Canada, a gradual decline in Worldwide Mission Tithes is expected. This will create a growing gap between income and expenses, requiring a budget reduction by 2030. To address this, the church must develop additional income sources while working to engage younger contributors.

The chart below illustrates actual and projected Worldwide Mission Tithes contributions through 2030 based on current trends.

As illustrated in the financial projections shown on page 42, we have approximately 5 years to generate new sources of income before a projected budget reduction of \$1.5

million is needed in 2030. These projections support a consistent level of ministries and services through 2029 using worldwide mission tithes, designated gifts, other income, and endowment spending rates.

Avoiding a potential reduction in 2030 will require working together to:

1. Engage new generations of disciples in mission, encouraging response through whole-life stewardship. As older contributors pass on, new disciples are essential to help offset the loss in income. This approach will take time to significantly impact income.
2. Identify and develop new income sources to grow endowments and support global mission. This includes evaluating how all church assets can best serve our vision and mission.

The Presiding Bishopric along with church leaders have been working on strategies related to growing the contributor base and alternate income such as those listed above for multiple years. The following 5 Strategic Priorities outline the focus of the Presiding Bishopric as we work to find ways to fund our global mission now and into the future.

PB Strategic Priorities and Initiatives

Priority #1

Engage new generations of disciples and seekers in our transforming mission including whole-life stewardship response.

Our top priority is addressing this missional and financial challenge by creating opportunities for new generations to engage with Christ's transformative mission and practice whole-life stewardship.

Steps have already been taken to align resources with this goal, including hiring two new mission development ministers, funded by the generosity of a family who recognized the need to connect with people under 65. These ministers are working with church leaders and an advisory team to explore innovative ways to teach generosity and engage younger generations in financially supporting the church's mission.

Priority #2

Explore and implement new sources of income to build endowments and sustain focused support of our global mission.

The Presiding Bishopric will continue to evaluate how we utilize all assets while exploring and implementing new sources of income. This will include new funding models and creative approaches to attract funding to various aspects of our mission that have appeal beyond traditional forms of organized religion.

In support of this, in September of 2025 the Presiding Bishopric will hold an entrepreneurial roundtable to engage a group of business leaders to explore opportunities to generate net revenue to support the church's global mission.

Priority #3

Explore and implement new partnership models to share gifts of ministry, story, leadership, and finances across fields, mission centers, and congregations in a decentralized church structure.

We will gradually build our endowments to fund most of the International Headquarters support expenses through endowment income. This shift will allow individuals, congregations, and mission centers to focus on funding mission work both locally and globally, in partnership with other areas of the church, as they respond to emerging mission opportunities.

This renewed generosity will go beyond finances, enriching the church with multicultural gifts of ministry, leadership, and stories that inspire new understandings of what it means to be a global, interdependent faith community.

Priority #4

Increase effective utilization of all our facilities, including International Headquarters facilities, for mission.

Stewardship of our physical assets requires effective use of facilities for mission across the church including the Temple Complex. We will support ways to expand utilization of the Temple and Auditorium as a center for community life, formation, and mission.

In the future we will continue to evaluate the best use of all physical assets to support mission. In some cases, this evaluation will lead to the conversion of physical assets (such as buildings and property) to liquid assets so those funds can be used for new mission opportunities locally and globally into the future.

Priority #5

Experiment with new ways to convey and live our principles of generosity and commitment to economic justice, offering hope for a sustainable future for all.

We are inspired by a broader understanding of generosity that creates a world where there is enough for all if we share courageously. We will focus on teaching these principles to younger generations, including children, to encourage their generosity. We will also advocate for policies that value the worth of all people, particularly those trapped in poverty and injustice.

The Presiding Bishopric is exploring potential projects related to the 2023 World Conference's Climate Change resolution. This issue strongly resonates with the Order of Bishops and demonstrates how generosity, economic justice, and sustainability intersect.

A Future of Challenge and Hope

The path ahead will not be easy. Even with our best efforts, we will face missional obstacles in nations that contribute the most to the Worldwide Mission Budget. Cultural and religious trends in these nations are affecting Christian denominations worldwide.

The Presiding Bishopric's focus on developing alternative income sources will be difficult but necessary to reduce reliance on Worldwide Mission Tithes. These new income streams will allow time to explore new strategies to engage younger generations in our mission and generosity.

In developing economies, opportunities for growth exist, but resources are limited. We will need to form creative partnerships between jurisdictions, exchanging resources such as money, leadership, ministry, and sacred story.

We recognize the challenges and opportunities before us. We are excited to support those who have accepted leadership calls and move forward, trusting that the Spirit who calls us will accompany us on this faith adventure.

D-2a World Church Budgeting and Audit Process

The First Presidency has revised resolution D-2 on the World Church Budgeting and Audit Process, reducing the

finance board by 12 world church leaders. The original item D-2 is withdrawn, and the revised D-2a will replace it.

From the First Presidency

Resolution

Resolved, That World Conference Resolution 1315 be amended to read as follows (proposed deletions are indicated using the strike-out feature and insertions are shown in bold):

World Church Audit and Budget-Development Policy

1. The World Conference shall establish a World Church Finance Board responsible for annually reviewing and approving the World Church audit, ~~approving the annual Worldwide Mission Budget, and making recommendations to the World Conference concerning special appropriations.~~ **and special appropriations.** ~~The board shall present projections to each World Conference for annual budgets for the next inter-Conference period. These projections shall be based on the best estimates of potential church income and expenses, but they shall not bind the World Church Finance Board in developing and approving annual Worldwide Mission Budgets should circumstances change or income vary. The World Conference shall discuss these projections, and the input gained shall be considered by the World Church Finance Board in forming and approving these annual budgets.~~
2. The World Conference may establish parameters for the World Church Finance Board in developing and approving annual Worldwide Mission Budgets.
3. The World Church Finance Board shall be presided over by the First Presidency and shall be composed of up to ~~fifty-five~~ **forty-three (55 43)** members as follows:
 - First Presidency (3)
 - **Members of the** Council of Twelve Apostles (~~12~~ **3**)
 - Presiding Bishopric (3)
 - President, High Priest Quorum (1)
 - Senior president of seventy (1)

- Presiding evangelist (1)
 - Four (4) bishops elected by the Order of Bishops at World Conference to represent the order, with each elected for **to serve** a six-year term **or until their successor is elected**. Terms would be staggered so two (2) will be elected at each World Conference.
 - Thirty (30) members elected by the World Conference to represent the church at-large, with each elected for **to serve** a six-year term **or until their successor is elected**. Terms would be staggered so fifteen (15) would be elected at each World Conference.
4. The First Presidency is authorized to appoint board members when vacancies occur between World Conferences. These appointments must follow the same criteria for the vacancy being filled.
 5. The bishops elected by the Order of Bishops as members of the World Church Finance Board shall be church members in good standing, may be current employees of Community of Christ in local or World Church jurisdictions, and may not serve more than two (2) consecutive full (six-year) terms without a three-year break in service. A term completed by a person appointed to fill an inter-Conference vacancy is not a full term.
 6. Individuals elected by World Conference as members of the World Church Finance Board shall be church members in good standing, shall not be current employees of Community of Christ in local or World Church jurisdictions, and may not serve more than two (2) consecutive full terms (six years) without a three-year break in service. A term completed by a person appointed to fill an inter-Conference vacancy is not a full term.
 - be church members in good standing,
 - not be current employees of Community of Christ in local or World Church jurisdictions, **except that, where an employee of the church in a multi-nation jurisdiction is nominated for election, the First Presidency may accept such a nomination,**
 - not serve more than two (2) consecutive full terms without a full-term break in service,
 7. The Worldwide Mission Budget shall provide funds to cover travel expenses as requested by World Church Finance Board members.
 8. The First Presidency, in consultation with the Presiding Bishopric, shall make nominations to the World Church Finance Board for election by the World Conference. In addition, each World Conference shall allow nominations from the floor. These nominations shall occur early enough to allow biographical sketches of the nominees to be available to the World Conference before the election. In the nomination process, attention shall be given to balanced representation, including factors such as vocation, geographic residence, age, gender, church leadership experience, and church jurisdiction. The First Presidency shall form the specific procedures to conduct voting, including use of prevailing technology as appropriate. The 15 individuals receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. The First Presidency shall provide the specific procedure in the event of ties.
 9. The First Presidency shall appoint a team to handle preliminary preparation of the budget. This committee shall be composed of World Church personnel responsible for church programming, finance, and field ministries.
 10. The annual audit and budget shall be made available on the church website. ~~The Herald shall publish an annual report on the audit and budget, and a~~ **A** summary report shall be **printed annually in the Herald** and made to each World Conference.
 - understand that a term completed by a person appointed to fill an inter-Conference vacancy is not a full term.

Read background statements and support statements at <https://CofChristIHQ.sharepoint.com/sites/2025WorldConference>.

Resolutions

Read background statements and support statements at <https://CofChristHQ.sharepoint.com/sites/2025WorldConference>.

G-1 Increasing Access to Creative Works Copyrighted by Community of Christ

From the Kentucky-Indiana USA Mission Center

Resolution

Resolved, That the appropriate team or presiding officers, in consultation with other World Church leaders, consider the possibility of applying Creative Commons licenses to some or all of the creative works currently copyrighted by all corporations associated with the World Church.

G-2 Affirming an Inclusive Zion in the Holy Land

From the World Church Peace and Justice Team

Resolution

Be it Resolved, That Community of Christ opposes any use of scripture that promotes an end-times theology that misunderstands and misstates God's plan for restoring Christ's Kingdom on Earth, such as that proposed by Christian Zionism, and be it further

Resolved, That Community of Christ rejects Christian Zionism's presumption that ethnic Jews have priority to inhabit the Holy Land, ignoring human worth and God's love for all its inhabitants and be it further

Resolved, That Community of Christ restates and reaffirms its belief in the inestimable worth of all persons.

G-3 Resolution Concerning the Sacred Stewardship of the Temple and the Auditorium in Independence, Missouri, and the Principle of Common Consent

From the Canada East Mission Centre

Resolution

Resolved, That the Temple and the Auditorium in Independence, Missouri, be declared essential for the enduring mission of the church, and as such, any or all decisions regarding the sale or mortgage of the Temple and/or the Auditorium must be made in keeping with the principle of Common Consent by means of direct authorization by the World Conference of the church.

G-4 Establishment of a Bylaw Committee to Review and Revise Community of Christ Bylaws with a Focus on Governance

From the Canada East Mission Centre

Resolution

Whereas, Community of Christ is working its way through several governance-related transitions, including non-geographic congregations operating on social-media platforms, the establishment of some policies applicable only within certain national churches, the cultural shift of moving from a people with a prophet toward being a prophetic people, and the increased use of technology to allow for remote participation for conferences, as well as sophisticated polling tools to allow for consensus-building practices within conferences. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That this Conference authorize the creation of a Special World Church Committee to investigate and propose recommendations for updated bylaws and governance models, to better meet current and anticipated future needs of an international church with multiple national jurisdictions, all the while upholding common consent as an important principle of our governance heritage; and be it further

Resolved, That this Committee provide a report to the 2028 World Conference.

G-5 Climate Emergency— Fossil-Fuel Reduction

From the Greater Pacific Northwest USA
Mission Center

Resolution

Resolved, That Community of Christ join with others to call for an accelerated, just transition to renewable energy in a fair and inclusive manner that benefits all peoples instead of the few while supporting countries and communities most vulnerable to the impacts of the climate emergency; and be it further

Resolved, That Community of Christ join with others and call for the expansion of fossil-fuel infrastructure to cease and support an immediate and urgent demand to transition away from all fossil-fuel-based energy production; and be it further

Resolved, That Community of Christ call upon its members, congregations, and jurisdictions to declare our intent to divest from fossil-fuel investments, following the process that the World Church is modeling: that is, to research, educate ourselves, and divest from companies that continue to invest in and promote fossil fuels; and be it further

Resolved, That Community of Christ declare its support for a just and responsible Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty.

G-6 Threat of Confiscation of Monies in the AIP Accounts

From the Cedar Valley Nauvoo USA Mission Center

Resolution

Whereas the World Church has frozen field assets in the Affiliate Investment Pool (AIP) system and indicated that they would borrow, at 0% for an indefinite time any funds they needed to satisfy their retirement obligations, and

Whereas, this has made field stewards reluctant to put more funds in AIP accounts, and those stewards have been thereby damaged by not having available an option to invest wisely, and

Whereas, in the past, the World Church promised that funds deposited in the AIP pool would always be available to the depositors, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the World Church will operate the financial pool known as the AIP system to invest funds wisely from various field organizations and to provide that those funds will always be available to the field organizations that deposited them, or if the depositor organization cannot act or no longer exists, then the funds will be at the disposal of the next-higher administrative organization.

G-7 Unilateral Authority Not Given by Church Membership

From the Cedar Valley Nauvoo USA Mission Center

Resolution

Whereas the World Church has declared that they have the unilateral authority to take and or to sell any property held in the name of Community of Christ at any level of administration of the church, and

Whereas this has not been the historical practice of the church, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the World Church in their role as trustee of the entire church will give priority in property decisions to the interests of the primary stewards, those responsible for the preservation and protection of church property. This includes not selling property without the consent of the primary stewards or in the case where the primary stewards are unable to act, then the consent goes to the next higher administrative level of stewards, and be it further

Resolved, That the net proceeds of any sale of property should stay with the current primary steward, or if that current steward no longer exists or is unable to act, the net proceeds will go to the next higher steward in the administration.

G-8 Bicentennial Doctrine and Covenants

From the Midlands USA Mission Center

Resolution

Whereas, Community of Christ embraces the Enduring Principle of Continuing Revelation, and

Whereas, Continuing revelations are compiled and published in the Doctrine and Covenants, and

Whereas, Concerns expressed as in Section 116 brought before the 2023 Conference emphasized the need for clarification of historical and cultural contexts in which documents were received as scripture, and

Whereas, The Conference action removing some sections to an Appendix, and a later Resolution 1215 (1990) removed the Appendix leaving unexplained gaps in the book (sections 107, 108A, 109, 110, and 123) and related issues, and

Whereas, A book can be expected to pay for its publication by its sales, and

Whereas, The digital (searchable) edition of the Doctrine and Covenants provided in 2023 adds significantly to our scriptural repository, and

Whereas, A new edition celebrating our bicentennial in 2030 would have a revitalizing effect, therefore be it

Resolved, That this Conference request the First Presidency consider preparing a bicentennial edition of the Doctrine and Covenants to include: historical and cultural contexts of revelations to facilitate understanding, clarifying our appreciation of scripture, and celebrating our heritage; and be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency consider making it available in multiple languages online at no cost, while at the same time being available bound for purchase.

G-9 Divine Insights Calling Us!

From the Midlands USA Mission Center

Resolution

Whereas, Community of Christ offers scripture unique and instructive to the world, and

Whereas, Section 163 invites us to become a prophetic people sharing our sacred journey, and

Whereas, From the beginning, God has spoken to humanity through many sources including truth and knowledge, hymns, personal revelation, arts, and sciences in every culture representing divine insights, and

Whereas, Great religions share commonalities with the gospel of Christ, therefore be it

Resolved, That the First Presidency consider a compilation-abridgment of God's insights to the modern world be prepared by qualified volunteers appointed to this mission by the First Presidency to highlight counsel, inspiration, and support for the Enduring Principles from the world's cultures, and be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency consider making this edition available in multiple languages online at no cost to the consumer. (However, it may also be bound and sold), and be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency consider making a draft of this compilation-abridgment available in 2028 to the joint council and a refined copy be prepared for the bi-centennial celebration of the Book of Mormon and establishment of the Church in 2030.

G-10 Earth Stewardship Affirmation

From the World Church Earth Stewardship Team

Resolution

Resolved, That the Earth Stewardship Team be directed to continue to address the issues of climate and environmental concern by producing resources for study and exploration with focus on issues worldwide; and be it further

Resolved, That requirements be in place for any new construction of church facilities to adhere to eco-friendly practices regarding energy usage and sustainability; and be it further

Resolved, That World Church jurisdictions and individual households be encouraged to evaluate the need to upgrade, renovate, and innovate in order to maintain existing properties and facilities and to recognize good energy practices and use of vital resources; and be it further

Resolved, That every Apostolic Field and Jurisdiction be encouraged to organize and conduct peace colloquia to focus on environmental issues unique to their locality; and be it further

Resolved, That projects be organized that promote strategies for care of Earth's resources specifically designed to involve children and youth and which consider the use of campgrounds and church facilities as sites to demonstrate and model good stewardship practice; and be it further

Resolved, That the Earth Stewardship Team and church officers explore ways to support research and innovations that mitigate environmental degradation and contribute to a healthy Earth; and be it further

Resolved, That World Church officials explore opportunities to be involved in discourse with organizations and movements that speak to the plight of vulnerable and at-risk populations of the world, addressing the consequences of climate change as a matter of justice.

G-11a Climate Change Emergency Call to Action

Based on feedback from the Resolution Review Committee received after the original printing of proposed resolutions, the World Church Human Rights Team submitted updated wording for Item G-11. The updates to the final resolved statement are shown in bold print in Item-G-11a.

From the World Church Human Rights Team

Resolution

Resolved, That Community of Christ identify and act on ways that it may, in socially responsible ways, respond to the climate change emergency and that it encourage its members, at an individual, congregational, and regional level, to do likewise; and be it further;

Resolved, That in keeping with its continued commitment and desire to educate, advocate and respond, Community of Christ develop and identify for its members and the global community scriptural, theological, and historical study and discussion resources pertaining to the climate change emergency and its impact on human rights; and be it further;

Resolved, That Community of Christ, as a global Christian community, declares that it supports the call for more inclusive national laws and policies and

international coordination, including a treaty/ treaties of the United Nations, that recognize the legitimate refugee status of persons forced to leave their homes and countries as a result of climate change; and be it further

Resolved, That the responsibility for continued response by Community of Christ to the climate change emergency be referred to the First Presidency for the adoption of further reports and/or official statements, and if deemed appropriate by the First Presidency, additional legislation to be presented to the 2028 World Conference; and be it further

Resolved, That the Conference **recommends** the First Presidency **to** direct the Temple School or another appropriate body for developing educational materials, over the next three years, to establish a curriculum (with components appropriate for youth and adults) designed to raise awareness of the climate change emergency and seeking to promote ways to respond to this.

G-12 Promoting Peace by Reducing Gun Proliferation and Violence

From the World Church Peace and Justice Team

Resolution

Resolved, That Community of Christ reaffirms its commitment to WCR 1270 and calls, with urgency, for all nations in which the church is established to reexamine firearms policies to determine how best to reduce firearm availability in private hands, and be it further

Resolved, That the church calls upon nations of the world in which the church is established to adopt firearm program and regulation regimes that have been demonstrated to substantially limit gun violence, and be it further

Resolved, That the church requests the Peace and Justice Team to prepare study materials for congregations and members to use to advocate for the most effective means of reducing gun violence in local communities.

Informational Reports

H-1 First Presidency Report

Introduction

This is the final report of the First Presidency of Stephen M. Veazey. President Veazey has served in the First Presidency for twenty years and blessed the church in countless ways. K. Scott Murphy has served as a counselor to Steve since 2013. Stassi D. Cramm has served as a counselor since 2016.

2023

Although only two years have passed since the last World Conference, it has been a challenging and busy period. We are deeply grateful for the church's prayers and support, offered graciously when Scott and Stassi needed to lead the church in 2023 while Steve was out for several months. We also appreciate the way the church rallied together to achieve the Bridge of Hope goal for the retirement responsibility by the start of 2024. Through generosity and sacrifice, the church collectively met the need.

2024

The year 2024 was challenging as the church sold the Kirtland Temple, Nauvoo sites, and other historic artifacts. The decision was made to invest in the church's future story and mission even as we continue to remember and celebrate our past. Amid a very complex and challenging time, the First Presidency is thankful that the Holy Spirit continued to weave the church together and guide us forward in living Christ's mission. A primary example of this is how the Spirit led the church in the discernment process for selecting the next prophet-president.

Actions on World Conference Resolutions

In response to the strong support of the 2023 World Conference, a draft Statement on Nonviolence was shared with the church. Feedback was collected as we continue the alternative common-consent process on this topic at the 2025 World Conference. Progress on various World Conference resolutions was made as follows:

1226 Human Diversity

The 1992 World Conference endorsed a statement on the affirmation of human diversity, declaring that

"The gospel of Jesus Christ reveals the unqualified love of God and the inestimable worth of all people..." In response to this resolution, the World Church Human Rights Team released a statement on Issues of Gender Justice in March 2025. This statement challenges the church to uphold the equal Worth of All Persons, across all nations, societies, and cultures and to seek justice and equality for all persons regardless of sex and gender differences.

1270 Personal Use of Firearms

This resolution was adopted by the 2000 World Conference. In June 2024, in ongoing response to this resolution, the USA Team of Apostles sent a pastoral letter to the USA fields calling members and friends to unite in ending gun violence in the USA.

1324 Baptism and Membership

The First Presidency received reports from the Theology Formation Team related to work it had accomplished surrounding the question regarding persons who were baptized before the age of eight becoming members of Community of Christ via confirmation after having reached the age of eight.

The Standing High Council and World Church Leadership Council each reviewed and discussed the Theology Formation Team's work. Educational material has been prepared for the church. Following the 2025 World Conference, people will be invited to prayerfully consider the question and respond via an online survey. Results will be studied and an updated provided to the church.

1325 The Climate Emergency

A climate-emergency statement was shared with the church and posted online in June 2023. This included a list of actions enacted at International Headquarters that support WCR 1325. Read it at CofChrist.org/news/climate-emergency-statement/.

The 2024 reunion theme was "Heal the Earth." Resources were focused on climate emergency and can be found at www.HeraldHouse.org/collections/church-life-heal-the-earth.

A series of articles that explore the climate crisis from different viewpoints continues in the *Herald*.

1326 Racial Justice

The World Church Diversity and Inclusion Team developed and offered education sessions on Identifying Microaggressions and Resisting Unconscious Bias. See other work of this team in its report, H-3. The USA Apostles wrote a letter to the church in the USA in October 2023, providing guidance and resources to explore about racial justice.

1327 Marriage

The Council of Twelve Apostles in consultation with the First Presidency implemented a process to support the review of proposed policies related to marriage, marriage-like relationships, and ordination. A study group of the Standing High Council developed a list of key questions to use when considering a proposed policy. Currently, the Council of Twelve Apostles and First Presidency are working on a proposed policy for Canada.

1328 World Refugee Day

In response to the first resolved statement, World Refugee Day, 20 June, was added to the official World Church calendar. The second resolved statement has been added to the Ecumenical and Interfaith Ministries Team charter as a goal, but due to the short interconference period, no progress was made.

1311 Israel and Palestine

This resolution, passed at the 2016 World Conference, continues to inform the church's actions. Through participation in Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP), Community of Christ supports advocacy work related to the conflict in Gaza and relationships between Israel and Palestine. The First Presidency has participated in several activities and letter-writing campaigns with CMEP. The Peace and Justice team released a statement supporting a ceasefire, which was shared with the church in February 2025.

Updates on Other Legislative Items

Bylaws Amendment: Electronic Meetings

The updated bylaws are at OurMinistryTools.org under official documents.

Bylaws Amendment: Organization of Additional Jurisdictional Units

The updated bylaws are at OurMinistryTools.org under official documents.

D-2 World Church Budgeting and Audit Process

This item was referred to the First Presidency at the end of the 2023 World Conference. The Presiding Bishopric reviewed the original wording and draft amendments. Based on that feedback, it submitted item D-2a with support from the World Church Finance Board to the 2025 World Conference.

G-2 Recommendation to Move Doctrine and Covenants 116 to Historical Records

This item was referred to the First Presidency by vote at the 2023 World Conference. The Presidency shared some initial reflections in the 2023 July/August *Herald*. After careful consideration, including consultation with Black members and priesthood, the First Presidency decided to retain this section to avoid the perception that the church is revising its history to put itself in a more favorable light.

A new preface was written, and a correction in paragraph breaks in the section was implemented in consultation with the History and Sacred Story and Diversity and Inclusion teams. An article with additional details was in the *Herald*. The new version of Section 116 is included in the paperback version of the Doctrine and Covenants available through Herald House. People also can buy individual versions of Section 116. An update to the Kindle version is being explored.

G-5 Universal Scripture Access

Although this item was not approved at Conference, the First Presidency supports the desire to have more access to Community of Christ scriptures. The Communications Team was tasked with providing an online, searchable version of the Doctrine and Covenants in English, French, and Spanish. It's now available at CofChrist.org/doctrine-and-covenants/.

G-6 Enhance Transparency, Openness, and Disclosure Concerning the First Presidency’s Statement on Community of Christ’s Position on Nonviolence

This item was referred to the First Presidency at the end of the 2023 World Conference. A member of the First Presidency met with mission center leaders and the resolution’s author after Conference. The resolution was considered with other feedback from the church in creating the draft Statement on Nonviolence released to the church for consideration.

G-8 Christian Zionism

This item was referred to the First Presidency at the end of the 2023 World Conference through the Standing Rules. The First Presidency opted to take no action on the proposed resolution as written and asked the Peace and Justice Team to look at the wording based on feedback provided during legislative-preparation sessions. The team created a new resolution for the 2025 World Conference, Item G-2.

—The First Presidency

H-2 Church History and Sacred Story Team

To the First Presidency and the World Conference:

Team Purpose

The team engages the church in exploring its history in responsible ways that inform and encourage its mission.

Objectives

- Coordinate oral histories.
- Provide content for church-communication outlets, including:
 - *Project Zion Podcast’s* “Cuppa Joe” history series
 - *The Herald*
 - *CofChrist.org*
- Develop historical materials to inform discussions on contemporary issues facing the church.
- Keep leaders current on new church history issues and questions.

- Integrate history into the life of the church to support identity formation.
- Support church members in developing the ability to think historically.

Activity Summary

Team members have:

- Provided the First Presidency with material on the development and historical context of Section 116 of the Doctrine and Covenants
- Focused heavily on growing the church’s oral-history program, courtesy of financial support from the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation; Chesapeake Bay USA Mission Center’s Racial Equity, Peace and Justice Committee; and Worldwide Mission Tithes.
- Supported numerous educational opportunities with the Community of Christ Historic Sites Foundation and *Project Zion Podcast*, including “Theo-History” episodes, “Cuppa Joe” episodes, and bus tours in the USA, UK, and Italy.
- Encouraged the continued filing of congregational histories.
- Worked to aid the transfer of congregational historical materials to the World Church Archives when fitting.
- Developed worship helps and services, including the opening evening worship for the 2025 World Conference.
- Provided guest ministry for congregational milestones and reunions.
- Provided instructors for mission center and field leadership-development programs in the USA, Africa, and Philippines.
- Continued to gather information on Community of Christ’s establishment and ministries in nations where members live. This includes collecting the stories of almost eighty church members from ten nations in Africa.
- Presented at conferences of the John Whitmer Historical Association and Mormon History Association and published articles in the JWHA, other scholarly journals, and the *Herald*.
- Written and edited a new Herald House volume on Joseph Smith III.

- Created and shared video tours of Kirtland Temple and the Smith family properties in Nauvoo, Illinois. These tours have more than 130,000 views since being posted in March 2024.
 - Church History and Sacred Story Team
 - Tehani Bennett*
 - John Charles Duffy*
 - Magen Edvalson*
 - David Howlett*, World Church historian
 - Peter Judd*
 - Rachel Killebrew*
 - Lachlan Mackay*, team lead
 - Ronald Romig*, World Church historian
 - Barbara Walden*, World Church historian
 - Charles Xu*

presentations on the “Impact of Black People in American History” and “Black Americans in Community of Christ History.” Also, four dialogues on diversity and the Enduring Principles in the current climate were presented.

- Created and administered “We Are One, We Are Many,” a survey on the experiences of members. Wrote articles for the *Herald* on some responses.
- Contributed articles to church publications: *Daily Bread*, *Bulletins*, and *Herald*.
- Presented sermons/talks by team members.
- Continued an active presence/page on Facebook and the World Church website.
- Responded as requested to the First Presidency on racial-justice issues and to the Human Rights Team’s “Gender Justice Statement.”
- Delivered guest ministry for the 2024 Florida Winter Reunion
- Presented a workshop on “Identifying Microaggressions to Create a Culture of Belonging” to a Missouri county health department.

H-3 Diversity and Inclusion Team

To the First Presidency and the World Conference:

Team Purpose or Objectives

The Diversity and Inclusion Team offers direction and resources to support the church on its journey to become more inclusive and just. It provides education and sensitizing resources to members at all levels (congregation to worldwide leaders) and the community upon request. The team works in the following areas:

- Education
- Advocacy
- Communications
- International Headquarters (IHQ) relationships

Summary of Activities

The team met on a bimonthly basis to discuss issues and formulate objectives to address its general purpose, education resources, and communications.

Team members took the following actions:

- Presented the interactive workshops “Resisting Unconscious Bias” and “Building Inclusiveness,” workshops on “Identifying Microaggressions to Create a Culture of Belonging,” “Pick a Diversity—Building Understanding,” and

Team Focused on the Mission Initiatives

In the four focus areas on education, advocacy, communication, and IHQ organizational change, the Diversity and Inclusion Team sought to highlight the connection to five Mission Initiatives:

- Invite People to Christ
- Abolish Poverty, End Suffering
- Pursue Peace
- Develop Disciples to Serve
- Experience Congregations in Mission

Recommendations

It is recommended that the team continue to provide educational opportunities for the church, advocate for understanding the life experiences of our diverse sisters and brothers, and provide consultation on inclusion.

Future goals include strengthening the team's online presence, creating and supporting additional educational resources and trainings, gathering more information from members on their experiences in the church, and advocating to foster and build understanding of diversity and promoting inclusiveness.

—Diversity and Inclusion Team
Gwendolyn Hawks-Blue
Cathi Cackler-Veazey
Bennie Blevins
Jerry M. Dale, Jr.
Carol Caplinger
Heather Frey
Lin Godfrey
Frank Gruver
J. Allen Jones, III
Tammie Lay
Vincent Lewis
Scott Murphy
Ruth Richardson
Chloe Secor
Nanette Chun-Ming Ward
Kevin Wilson

H-4 Earth Stewardship Team

To the First Presidency and the World Conference:

In 2016 President Stephen Veazey commissioned the Earth Stewardship Team to educate and address with a prophetic voice global poverty, climate, energy, ocean health, access to clean air and water, economics, deforestation, soil degradation, and preservation of flora and fauna. From 2023 to 2025 the team has sought to produce articles, study materials, and resources on these concerns.

The sheer magnitude of these issues has been a challenge. In addition, addressing these concerns for a worldwide body is difficult because what may be appropriate or feasible in one part of the world, may not be in another place. Making these factors even more difficult are language differences and the availability of physical resources.

An acceptable report to the Conference means more than listing actions. However, it is reasonable to note that progress has been made. Of further concern, at this time, are the political realities and chaos we face when addressing environmental concerns on the domestic stage and of worldwide impact going forward.

There continues to be denial at high levels of government. Nevertheless, when we consider poverty, food availability, clean air and water, human health, and climate, we must keep an open mind. Seeking answers begins at home, no matter where we live.

It has been said that Earth, when viewed from space, has neither lines nor boundaries that separate populations. As a matter of justice, when we look at challenges, we must commit to a culture of love, sharing ideas and resources to mitigate suffering while supporting the efforts of friends throughout the sphere of the church's influence.

With that as a backdrop for team progress, we consider the following, recognizing that some items are of a personal nature but come as a result of invitation based on team representation.

Herald articles addressed Earth Day, climate, and food issues. The 2024 reunion text and resources addressed the church's commitment to personal and corporate stewardship of the environment. There were reunion invitations to the Heartland, South Texas, and Chesapeake Bay mission centers. The keynote address was delivered for the Latin America Peace Colloquy, addressing environmental issues.

The church's seminary ran a series related to the reunion text that was streamed and available in many locations. Seven study lessons, including material for youth and adults, are available through *Herald House*. Also, a comprehensive bibliography of written resources has been created.

Finally, a resolution has been prepared to address some matters of concern to the 2025 World Conference. The focus is to encourage jurisdictions to involve youth as a matter of justice and to address issues of facility efficiency, where feasible and appropriate.

There is yet need to provide recommendations and strategies as to what needs to and can be done at all levels, beginning at home and expanding to all jurisdictions of the World Church.

—Earth Stewardship Team
Rick Bunch, team leader
Jen Abraham-White
Debra Bruch
Sherri Kirkpatrick
Michele McGrath
Brad Martell
Max Pitt
Phyllis O'Daniels
Larkin Powell
Tim Prescott
Steve Upson
Tracy Vallier
John VanDerWalker

H-5 Ecumenical and Interfaith Team

To the First Presidency and the World Conference:

The Ecumenical and Interfaith Team was not chartered for the 2023–2025 interim. This team will be chartered for the 2025–2028 period and will fulfill the requirements of WCR 1329 Compassion for Refugees/ UN World Refugee Day (adopted April 28, 2023).

This resolution requested:

...the Ecumenical and Interfaith Ministries team to collect and prepare multilingual resources (including potential worship resources and calls to action) across the international church for mission centres, congregations, and groups to learn about, plan, collaborate, and implement refugee awareness and support including climatic refugees.

Though this team was not chartered during this interim time, progress was made in the two-year period as Community of Christ became a covenant member of Church World Service and helped create the Lent 2025 resources that upheld the struggle of immigrants around the world. Community of Christ also is represented with the Churches for Middle East Peace.

Ecumenical engagement, representation, and support continue with the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. This includes Joint Action and Advocacy for Justice and Peace; Christian Education, Faith Formation, Leadership Development; Theological Dialogue | Faith and Order; and Interreligious Relations and Collaboration Convening Tables, which features multiple interfaith-dialogue circles. Community of Christ is represented in the Christian-Jewish dialogue.

We look forward to ongoing advocacy and partnerships.

—*Susan K. Naylor*
ecumenical officer

H-6 Human Rights Team

To the First Presidency and the World Conference:

The Human Rights Team (formerly Human Rights Committee) was established by World Conference Resolution 1197 in 1986. In one voice, the team invites all Community of Christ members to embrace the struggle for human rights as their response to Jesus Christ and renew their commitment to confront human-rights violations everywhere.

Climate-change Refugees

The First Presidency requested that the team identify and assess key impacts of climate change on human-rights issues, especially in relation to immigration and refugees. A subcommittee considered appropriate ways Community of Christ could address those impacts. The subcommittee conducted a literature search and reviewed a wide variety of materials from informed sources, including the United Nations, the US government, and various international human-rights organizations. The subcommittee identified the following recommendations:

1. That church officials and members in jurisdictions across the world, as appropriate within the local political system, advocate for including climate-change refugees in recognized asylum-seeker status.

2. That the church advocate for the United Nations to add to its definition of refugees persons who feel compelled to move within or across borders because of sudden or slow-onset climate-related disasters.
3. That Community of Christ create educational materials for all age levels regarding the climate crisis and the plight of climate-change refugees, including education on socially responsible ways to engage in advocacy and action.
4. That regional and local church communities seek ways to sponsor climate-change refugees for resettlement in their countries.
5. That Disciples' Generous Response and Prayer for Peace materials and *Daily Bread* and *Herald* articles be developed to raise awareness of the plight of climate-change refugees.
6. That the church's April 2013 Statement on Immigration be updated to include recognition of climate-change refugees and that the revised statement form the basis for implementing the above recommendation.

The subcommittee submitted legislation (G-11) for presentation to the 2025 World Conference, proposing implementation of these actions by the church and its members.

Gender Justice

A subcommittee was formed with strong interest in the intersection of sex and gender justice globally. Members researched gender issues throughout the world and identified varied issues, including female/male circumcision, the AIDS epidemic in Africa, and discrimination against all who do not conform to traditional expectations of male/female roles.

Discrimination based on sex was interrelated to discrimination based on gender. Sex refers to biological differences. Gender refers to social-identity characteristics. While not all cultures recognize the differences between sex and gender, LGBTIQ+ persons are found in high-income and low-income countries, and discrimination against women arises in places that conform to traditional sex and gender norms.

With input from the Diversity and Inclusion Team, the Human Rights Team drafted a statement on

gender justice. It upholds fundamental and equal human rights of all people, regardless of sex and gender differences. It encourages Community of Christ members and friends to examine their own biases related to sex and gender by listening to silenced voices and marginal experiences. At the time of this report, the gender-justice statement remains with the First Presidency.

Indigenous Persons

A team subcommittee committed to indigenous persons' rights and justice and hearing indigenous voices met during the inter-Conference period. The key item addressed was a forum for indigenous persons in the church to convene and be heard. Specifically, indigenous persons from around the church would be necessary, not just North America. The subcommittee planned to host a meeting and discussion of indigenous peoples at World Conference 2025.

To privilege the voices of indigenous persons, non-indigenous persons would be asked only to listen. The Human Rights Team sent a proposal to the First Presidency for a gathering at World Conference, which was accepted. The format was designed as a sharing circle.

Sharing circles accommodate and respect the oral traditions specific to many indigenous communities. Sharing-circle participants share together in an open-ended format, using oral history and storytelling. Participants have equal opportunities to speak. Sharing circles may include an article (e.g., a talking stick or feather), which moves from speaker to speaker, indicating who is able to speak openly without being interrupted.

After months of planning, the Human Rights Team canceled the event. After prayerful consideration and dialogue, the team was not certain our gatherings could achieve that goal. The team remains concerned about how the voices of indigenous persons can be heard.

Human Rights Award

The team is grateful for the number and quality of nominations received through our online nomination process in 2025. Two awards were selected to be announced at the 2025 World Conference.

The team has identified sources for a monetary

award to accompany the Human Rights Award beginning in 2026. A plan has been drafted for this monetary award to be ongoing. If successful, formal presentation of the Human Rights Award recipients will occur at the Peace Forum scheduled for October 2026. Because The Human Rights Award for Humanity was legislated by World Conference Resolution 1228, a legislative proposal will be required by the First Presidency to modify the presentation of future awards.

—Human Rights Team
Matthew J Frizzell, co-chair
Catherine Striley, co-chair
Clare Angeroth Franks
James Ash
Hannah Davidson
Rolana Frank
John Glaser
Dave Hall
Katherine Hill
Lisa Meyer
Mark Murphy
John Nichols
John Pearson
Zach Weaver-Shojaie
Elizabeth West
Poul Wilson
Dan Whittemore

H-7 Spiritual Formation Team

To the First Presidency and the World Conference:

In the interconference period, the World Church Spiritual Formation Team was created as an international team to deepen understanding of spiritual movements, practices, needs, and hopes across the worldwide church.

Sharing in dialogue, practice, and identification of emerging priorities contextually and globally were central to the team's work. Discerning what spiritual-formation support for the global church looks and feels like has been an important goal and outcome. This team has been a place to test ideas and practices, ensuring diversity and inclusivity in spiritual formation for the worldwide church.

One outcome was creation of preparation resources for the 2025 World Conference, created by a sub-team representing three nations and with support from the entire international team. We dialogued around culturally normative spiritual practices, ways of relating to God, and needs of the church interculturality in spiritual formation.

To share insight into the discussions, several team members provided reports on expressions of spiritual formation in their contexts:

Westgarth Sandy, Nigeria

In Nigeria, we are committed to spiritual formation because we believe the church and the world are better served by those who have a receptive heart and faithfully respond to the Spirit's work in their lives. The practice of these spiritual disciplines is the core value of our love for God and neighborhood in conformity with the image of Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Such spiritual practices, which are normative with meaningful transformation to our members and congregations, include prayer, fasting, praise/worship, hymns, service, sacraments, Bible studies, tithing, giving, evangelism, and outreach. These practices help our members and congregations discern and do God's will.

Without spiritual practice, it is almost impossible to discern God and (God's) work, and it is almost impossible to be changed.

The Holy Spirit through these practices inspires unity, love, revival, compassion and empathy in our congregations.

Rashmi Mallick, Odisha, India

In our culture, some people do individual spiritual practices like prayer, meditation, singing, worship, scripture reading, etc., and some people don't do the spiritual practices. But people do communal spiritual practices like fasting, prayer, serving the poor, visiting hospitals, worship, Bible study, spiritual gatherings.

Although we do individual and communal spiritual practices, cultural, language and caste barriers remain.

Maria Ramirez, Dominican Republic

We are a mission center within the Latino community; Latinos are more musical. Fasting is a welcomed spiritual practice, along with prayer and study of the Word.

On a personal level, we focus on and use music a lot to meditate. We do morning devotionals and camp meetings. We use the *Daily Bread* (translated into Spanish through WhatsApp) as a daily reflection.

Karen Waring, British Isles

Members and friends of the church in the British Isles draw great strength from gathering. We are blessed with an ancient heritage of spiritual formation in the broader European Christian church from monastic traditions. From the late nineteenth century, members of the church in the British Isles practiced fasting, confession, scripture reading, prayer and devout stewardship with the practice of tithing.

The British Isles has a long tradition of using traditional and contemporary music to enhance our spiritual life and continues to do so. We practice campfire singing, Taizé, and have drawn on the music of the Scottish Iona community. (John Bell received the Community of Christ International Peace award 2013.) And we enjoy singing, holy joy being a crucial element of any spiritual practice!

Sacramental practices are extremely important to us. We try to live these God-given practices to help us embrace the sacramental life.

These excerpts from team members give a glimpse into the kind of cultural awareness in spiritual formation and practice that has deepened in the team through these years of meeting. The Spiritual Formation Team encourages the church to balance personal and communal formation; to continue to deepen in relationship with God as the source of our activity, leadership, ministry, and mission; and to access the depth and width of wisdom across cultures as we form in the Holy Spirit as a worldwide family of faith.

—Spiritual Formation Team
Katie Harmon-McLaughlin, team lead
Jane Gardner, team advocate
Tyler Marz
Daniel Harmon

Maria Ramirez
Gobah Anderson
Macrine Mochama
Karen Waring
Gail Shurtleff
Kat Goheen
Westgarth Sandy
Rashmi Mallick
Kris Judd
Digna Villatoro Altamirano

H-8 Theology Formation Team

To the First Presidency and the World Conference:

The Presidency created the Theology Formation Team (TFT) in 2002. It advises the First Presidency on theological questions arising in church life and provides informed theological commentary on issues related to the church's identity, beliefs, message, and mission.

The 2023–2025 team members represented Germany, India, the Netherlands, Australia, Canada, England, Italy, Tahiti, and the USA. They reflect diverse theological perspectives, cultural backgrounds, gender experiences, and education, but they share a conviction that theology, as “faith seeking understanding,” is indispensable for the church.

The team uses scripture, tradition (Community of Christ and ecumenical Christian tradition), cultural and personal experience, and current scholarship in relevant fields in its deliberations. The church's public faith, in *Sharing in Community of Christ*, informs team reflection, as do the principles of mutual respect, faithful disagreement, and shared commitment to the church's mission.

For 2023–2025, the Presidency asked the team to 1) explore questions around the phenomenon of polyamory, and 2) offer its comments of a draft statement on nonviolence.

Polyamory

Polyamory commonly is understood as a consensual, romantic-sexual, non-monogamous relationship between three or more people. It differs from polygamy in that 1) polygamy is a type of marriage in which one person has multiple married

partners, and 2) polyamory is based on the full knowledge and consent of all partners but is not viewed as a form of marriage.

The Presidency asked the team to reflect on polyamory, especially as it relates to:

1. Baptism and sacramental theology.
2. Priesthood and ordination.
3. The relationship of this question to the church's approach to polygamy in other cultures.
4. Marriage and monogamy, including why monogamy is the basic principle of Christian married life.
5. How we might uphold ethical standards without creating "vice lists."

The team also was asked to express its position on polyamory in relation to the above questions (if one emerged), or in the absence of full consensus, to articulate majority and minority views.

The team submitted an initial report in October 2023. This report dealt with baptism and polyamory. The team held that "that there is no valid theological reason to withhold baptism/confirmation from persons in polyamorous relationships" who wish to follow the call of Christ and unite with the church. The team's report maintained:

"Repentance"—the turning of our whole life to God revealed in Christ—is the journey of a lifetime, an ongoing, transformative process that cannot be reduced to a single act. "Covenant," while individual, is also one's pledge to live responsibly in, with, and for the community. The gospel's open invitation to baptism is grounded solely in divine grace and generosity. But divine generosity should not be taken as an endorsement of specific behaviors, beliefs, lifestyles, and cultural practices of those baptized. Rather, it is a call to the long journey of "taking on the life and mind of Christ... (wherein) you increasingly view yourselves and others from a changed perspective" (Doctrine and Covenants 164:5).

Future work will need to be done (per the Presidency's request) on questions of priesthood and ordination, monogamy, and the function of ethical standards in church life.

Critique of Draft Statement on Nonviolence

In January 2024, the team wrote a report titled "TFT Commentary on Draft Statement on Nonviolence." The team offered criticisms on the content and form of the draft, arguing that it needed a more systematic theological structure and additional grounding in Community of Christ tradition.

The team encouraged the development of nonviolent practices, but it cautioned against absolutist declarations about nonviolence that might impose, not invite, members to a journey of understanding the complexities of confronting violence in the world today.

The team further criticized a tendency in the draft to equate "gospel" and "nonviolence," instead of treating nonviolence as one approach to living the good news. The gospel, the team maintained, must not be reduced to one way of life.

—Theology Formation Team

Cynthia Gardner

Adam Bouverette

Lew Shepherdson

Eva Erickson

Gillian Vincent

Charmaine Chvala-Smith

Lucia Piehi

Nick Keehler

Peter Smith

Kat Goheen

Robin Linkhart

Michael Wright

Isaac Joshua

Art Smith

Adam Wade

Matt Frizzell

Dan Jeffers

Wim van Klinken

Anthony Chvala-Smith, team lead

H-9 Peace and Justice Team

To the First Presidency and the World Conference:

Since the 2023 World Conference, the thirteen-member Peace and Justice Team considered how to pursue actions upholding peace and justice around the world while bringing those issues closer to the hearts and minds of our international church community. Five new members joined the eight continuing to serve from the previous team.

Our work to respond to our charter over this period included:

1. Liaising with the First Presidency regarding World Church Resolution 1319 Nonviolence (adopted April 12, 2019), helping review and integrate information gathered from the church for formal presentation of a *Statement on Nonviolence* at the 2025 World Conference.
2. Advising the church about WCR 1311 Palestine and Israel. Team members Andrew Bolton and Steve Kellogg joined others from Churches for Middle East Peace for a tour of Israel/Palestine in November 2024 and presented a report.
3. Continuing church efforts regarding WCR 1303 Action Toward Nuclear Weapons Abolition. The team prompted church leadership to sign the Interfaith Statement in support of the Second Meeting of the States Parties on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. The First Presidency and British Isles Mission Centre signed on behalf of the church.
4. Collaborating with ministers on justice and peace initiatives, including supporting and/or applauding the:
 - a. Sierra Pacific USA Mission Center Colloquy, December 2023.
 - b. European Peace Colloquy, March 2024.
 - c. Redwood Peace Colloquy, September 2024.
 - d. Latin America Peace Colloquy, October 2024.
5. Initiating development toward:
 - a. An international short-film festival for peace.
 - b. Peace-studies scholarships.
 - c. Peace ornaments.
6. Providing recommendations to the First Presidency regarding future World Church Peace Award recipients sponsored by the Shaw Family Foundation.
7. Giving prayerful consideration of threats to peace posed by climate change, biodiversity loss, political instability, poor education, disempowerment of women and girls, slavery, poor health, and poverty. In response to these topics, we:
 - a. Prepared two resolutions for the 2025 World Conference:
 - i. G2 Affirming an Inclusive Zion in the Holy Land.
 - ii. G12 Promoting Peace by Reducing Gun Proliferation and Violence.
 - b. Invited author and theologian John Heathershaw to speak on Christian Realism based on his book, *Security after Christendom: Global Politics and Political Theology for Apocalyptic Times*.
 - c. Expressed commitments to peace and justice, as well as concerns arising from war and conflict, through contributions to *Daily Bread* and *Herald*.
8. Remaining mindful of public-policy issues associated with peace, including abortion, medically assisted dying, and the disruption potential of artificial intelligence.
9. Reviewing WCRs on peace to ensure relevance regarding how the church may faithfully consider them today. These include: 1177 Peace, 1178 Nuclear Arms Reduction, 1195 Domestic Violence, 1270 Personal Use of Firearms, and 1317 Domestic and Sexual Violence. We anticipate revisiting WCR 1272 Practical Peace and Justice for Youth and Young Adults in due course.

As team lead, I deeply appreciate all our team members, each with a commitment and passion for justice and peace in their communities and the world:

—Peace and Justice Team
David Anderson
Andrew Bolton, secretary
Andrea Read Davis
Melissa Gribbon
Linda Hazell

Andy Horner
Robin Judd
Steve Kellogg
Sariah Boeve Middleton
Kelsey Paul Shantz
Joelle Wight
Bryan Wright
Rick Sarre, team lead

H-10 World Hunger Team

To the First Presidency and the World Conference:

Your generous contributions to Worldwide Mission Tithes play a vital role in the global effort to Abolish Poverty, End Suffering. Through targeted initiatives, your support transforms lives, fosters empowerment, and breaks long-standing cycles of poverty. Your contributions help provide access to clean water, education for girls, and opportunities for women to become self-sufficient—all key to sustainable development in underserved regions.

In 2023, the Worldwide Mission Budget allocated \$200,000 to the Council of Twelve Apostles for World Hunger projects. The majority of funding was directed toward educational support in Haiti and India through a partnership with Outreach International. Additionally, your contributions were directed to Bread for the World, a Christian advocacy group working to address global hunger through policy change.

The World Hunger Team carefully considered where the remaining \$55,572 would have the most impact and made the following strategic investments:

Fund Allocation for Life-sustaining and Empowerment Projects

- Six clean drinking-water projects in communities near congregations: \$41,572
- Women’s small-business project to generate regular income: \$4,000
- Benches for schools in partnership with HeathEd Connect to create comfortable learning environments: \$10,000

The Above Projects Touched Several Regions

- Boreholes in Zambia, Kenya, and Democratic Republic of the Congo:
 - Mulundu, Zambia, borehole: \$5,312
 - Lodwar, Kenya, borehole: \$7,880
 - Kikungu, DR Congo, borehole: \$8,500
- Soap-making project in Malawi empowering women: \$4,000
- Microfinance project in Monrovia (Zambia and Zimbabwe): \$7,540
- Manufacture of 200 benches for schools in Lumabashi, DR Congo: \$10,000
- Water wells in Katanga, DR Congo: \$12,340

These initiatives are integral in improving the quality of life for people most in need. For example, women and girls who previously spent hours fetching water now have more time to pursue education and entrepreneurship, improving their long-term prospects.

Programs like the soap-making initiative in Malawi not only offer economic independence for women, but provide a safe alternative to abusive relationships. With your support, 300 women and youth are being equipped with skills to start their own businesses, creating a ripple effect of stability and opportunity in their families and communities.

The generosity of Worldwide Mission Tithes continues to build a bridge for those in need. Together, we are making significant strides toward global poverty alleviation, empowerment, and education. Through your contributions, we are fostering a future where communities thrive in dignity, hope, and sustainability.

—World Hunger Team
Richard James, chair
Bunda Chibwe
Carla Long
Angela Ramirez
Scott Murphy
Arthur Smith

Alternative Common Consent Process

Draft Nonviolence Statement Survey Results

From early 2024 through February 2025, members and friends of Community of Christ were invited to prayerfully consider the Draft Statement on Nonviolence and provide feedback by completing an online survey or sending the First Presidency an email.

The First Presidency is grateful for all those who responded and provided important feedback as we move through the alternative common consent process and work towards a statement that the World Conference chooses to endorse.

There was strong support for the statement as written with 83% responding with 3s, 4s, or 5s as their level of support. The First Presidency, with support from others, reviewed the comments submitted about how to further refine the statement. Although there was strong support for the statement as written, the comments offered some helpful suggestions on how to further improve and clarify the points being made in the statement without substantively changing the overall principles being upheld. A new proposed statement was written based on the feedback. It is now titled Item I-1, Statement on Nonviolence and will be considered in the alternative common consent process during the 2025 World Conference.

The proposed statement, I-1, Statement on Nonviolence, is available on page 64. As a reminder, the only section being considered is the one titled, *Statement on Nonviolence to be Considered by the 2025 World Conference*. The *Background* section is to provide context. The *Further Context if the Statement is Approved* section is to explain how the statement would be interpreted and applied if approved.

A document tracking the changes made from the Draft Statement on Nonviolence in creating I-1, Statement on Nonviolence, is available at:

<https://CofChrist.org/statement-on-nonviolence/>

Below is a summary of the survey and email responses received and what was included in the proposed statement.

Overview of those Responding via the Online Survey

183 survey responses with an average level of support of 4.03.

- 5 – 101
- 4 – 36
- 3 – 15
- 2 – 12
- 1 – 19

Responders were from:

- Asia – 2
- British Isles – 2
- Australia – 3
- Canada – 13
- Europe – 13
- Mexico, Central, or South America – 1
- United States – 146
- Prefer not to say – 1
- Other – 2

Responders' age:

- Under 21: 1
- 21 – 49: 24
- 50 – 69: 78
- 70 – 85: 69
- Over 85: 9
- Prefer not to say: 2

Identify as:

- Community of Christ member: 88
- Community of Christ priesthood member: 149
- Community of Christ friend: 11
- Other: 3

Introduction Section:

- 107 provided written feedback
- 90 made recommended changes

Further Context Section:

- 95 provided written feedback
- 91 made recommended changes

Statement on Nonviolence:

- 112 provided written feedback
- 104 recommended changes

Anything else you want to add:

- 103 provided written feedback

Summary of Feedback from Survey and Email

There was strong support for the statement as presented, with many not recommending any changes. However, there were dozens of suggestions regarding how it might be modified. Most respondents recognized it as a foundation for ongoing discernment, dialogue, and refinement, evolving in response to real-world needs. Some said the statement is an opportunity to embody Christlike values and lead by example in addressing global and interpersonal challenges. Many said that it strikes a balance between prophetic boldness and inclusivity, inspiring members while respecting diverse viewpoints. Others saw it as a starting point for continued dialogue.

There was some negative feedback. Typically, however, it was because they felt the statement did not go far enough in offering actionable guidance and was overly cautious. Some desired a more prophetic tone that inspires active peacemaking and advocacy rather than cautious neutrality. Others called for actionable steps that provide guidance for addressing real-world issues, such as systemic violence, advocating for conscientious objection as a universal human right, and advocating for weapons bans. A few felt the statement was too strong and some recommended not having a statement.

Summary of Revisions Made to the Statement

- Emphasis was made on Christ's peace.
- The word peaceful was replaced in some places with peaceable where peaceful describes more a state of being and peaceable describes more an action or inclination towards peace.
- A broadening of references to who Community of Christ beliefs Jesus is based on the Christology Statement was added to include, but not limited to, Jesus, the peaceful One.

- Clarity was added to explicitly state that peacekeeping professions include military and law enforcement.
- A new paragraph, Collaborating with Partners, was added to the "Further Context" section to be clear that we are called to work with others.
- Several small editorial changes were made to improve clarity, readability, and flow.

Considering I-1 through the Alternative Common Consent Process

There are 3 sessions scheduled for considering Item I-1, Statement on Nonviolence, using the alternative common consent process. As a reminder, the only section being considered is the one titled, *Statement on Nonviolence to be Considered by the 2025 World Conference*. The *Background* section is to provide context. The *Further Context if the Statement is Approved* section is to explain how the statement would be interpreted and applied if approved.

The initial session is scheduled from 3:30 PM to 4:30 PM on Sunday, June 1st. During this session, delegates will receive a summary of the church's journey in formulating a statement on nonviolence. Delegates will provide their level of support for the statement as presented to the World Conference in Item I-1. The response will be recorded using a 5-point scale, with 1 indicating no support and 5 indicating full support. Additionally, delegates will select from a list that best describes their rationale for their level of support. Results will be printed in the *Monday Bulletin*.

The second session is scheduled from 3:30pm to 4:30pm on Tuesday, 3 June. Delegates will review the responses provided on Sunday. If there is strong support (80% or more of 3s, 4s, and 5s) then the delegates will be asked if they are finished refining the statement and are ready to send the statement for endorsement during a legislative session. Given the importance of the statement, without objection, a two-thirds vote will be required to endorse the statement. If there is less than strong support, then the delegates will continue with the alternative common consent process exploring what improvements to the statement would increase the level of support of the delegates.

The final session will take place, as needed, on Thursday, 5 June at 2:00pm. It is unlikely that a revised statement can be developed based on feedback from Tuesday. It is most likely that the Thursday session will be used to listen and explore what further refinement is needed on the statement to increase the level of support of the body.

At the end of the final session, if the body has not finished refinement and is not ready to endorse a statement during the legislative session of the 2025 World Conference, then the body will be asked if they want the church to continue working towards a statement for consideration at the 2028 World Conference.

I-1 Statement on Nonviolence

Background

The “Statement on Nonviolence” was created in response to World Conference Resolution 1319. If adopted by the World Conference, it will serve as a guiding document for Community of Christ.

This statement acknowledges the realities of a broken and incomplete world while encouraging the use of nonviolence whenever possible. As depicted in the Community of Christ seal, the lion, lamb, and child together reveal that peace resides at the core of our identity. This statement is another step in our journey to understand and implement fully the role nonviolence plays in pursuing “peace on and for the Earth” (Doctrine and Covenants 165:1d) and in the life and mission of the church.

God calls us to engage actively with the world’s realities, fully aware of our limitations and shared dependence on God and one another. This divine calling inspires us to alleviate suffering, promote justice, protect the vulnerable, and work toward the good of all creation.

It takes time and intentionality to respond to this call and become a prophetic people focused on working for justice and peace. This statement invites us—collectively and individually—to explore, journey toward, and embody the meaning of this call to live the full breadth of divine love for the world. Divine love seeks the well-being and flourishing of all creation. It seeks to embed the notion of Christ’s peace in all we do and say.

If this Statement on Nonviolence is accepted by the World Conference, we commit to using it as a disciple- and community-formation tool. It should not be used to judge or oppress another person. It should be used as guidance, recognizing that all disciples must interpret the statement and responsibly choose how it influences their personal choices.

Statement on Nonviolence to be Considered by the 2025 World Conference

We affirm that nonviolence is a means to embody the gospel message modeled by the teachings and life of Jesus Christ. In pursuing God’s justice, those who use nonviolence seek positive change through means guided by the Spirit that do not bring physical, emotional, spiritual, or relational harm to others, oneself, or creation. Worldwide examples teach us that nonviolent actions often lead to transformative and peaceful results. We acknowledge that violent actions often can lead to more violence, making peace impossible. We uphold nonviolence that promotes healing and reconciliation, advocates for the vulnerable, cares for the environment, and creates a just and peaceable society aligned with God’s vision for all of creation. Therefore, Community of Christ, recognizing and celebrating the Worth of All Persons and the Sacredness of Creation, encourages the use of nonviolence, whenever possible, to seek justice. How we decide when nonviolence is possible involves a continuous effort undertaken by each of us—both individually and collectively—as we follow Jesus Christ, the peaceful One, Son of the living God, Word made flesh, Savior of the world.

Further Context if the Statement is Approved

Ongoing discernment about our response:

Community of Christ strives to live Christ’s mission and work for the transformation of the world into a more just, peaceable, and compassionate place, in alignment with God’s vision of shalom. Part of this work for transformation is the ongoing discernment of what it means to embrace nonviolence whenever possible as part of following Jesus Christ. In response to our individual and collective discernment, we are called to continue to learn from our past, grow in

our understanding, and embody nonviolence in our lives, relationships, and engagement with society and creation.

Addressing root causes of injustice: We support initiatives and movements that address root causes of injustice and work toward sustainable peace for all people and the Earth. We grieve when faced with social structures or institutional practices that abuse power and perpetuate oppression, discrimination, and injustice that deny human rights or harm creation. Instead, we seek to establish social and economic structures that uphold Earth stewardship, human dignity, equality, fundamental rights, and the well-being of the vulnerable. Every individual or group choice seeking justice and sustainable life together, however small, is important because our world is interconnected and interdependent.

Calling individual disciples: We affirm everyone who through personal conscience and sense of call pursues justice and peace in ethical and diverse ways. We believe that all disciples are called to protect the most vulnerable, uphold human rights, and care for creation, avoiding the abuse of power in their personal and professional endeavors. We recognize the sincerity of those who, on the grounds of conscience, work in professions focused on peacekeeping including military and law enforcement. In addition, we recognize the sincerity of those who refuse to work in these professions, also on the grounds of conscience. We are united in our common commitment to Christ even amid our diverse perspectives about and shortcomings regarding how we respond to God's call to pursue peace.

Learning from the past: We encourage people to wrestle with the violence of many in human history and to learn repentantly from these stories. We grieve the trauma suffered by everyone caught up in violence. We seek to bring healing of minds, bodies, and spirits to all. We affirm just-war principles as a

minimum ethic for those in military service, together with those who act to protect the vulnerable. We also repent of times in our own church history when we have initiated or retaliated with unnecessary violence, or when we have turned a blind eye to injustice, including the dehumanization of others or the destruction of creation.

Promoting healthy relationships: We affirm that healthy and mutual relationships reflect God's love and, thus, are nonviolent. We reject all forms of violence, abuse, and unjust power imbalances in interpersonal relationships. Nonviolent approaches that foster dialogue, understanding, peaceful resolutions, and reconciliations are encouraged.

Seeking understanding: We encourage open dialogue to seek understanding about ways to pursue justice through nonviolence within our faith community and with others. We grieve when conversations shut down, and individual and collective relationships are broken. We seek to create opportunities where people with differing views can respectfully explore the role nonviolence plays in the pursuit of "peace on and for the Earth" (Doctrine and Covenants 165:1d) and in the life and mission of the church.

Collaborating with partners: We acknowledge and appreciate that numerous individuals, religions, and other organizations pursue peace on and for the Earth through nonviolence. We recognize that achieving God's vision for all of creation requires collective efforts beyond Community of Christ. We as a people have been challenged in Doctrine and Covenants 150:7, "These are portentous times. The lives of many are being sacrificed unnecessarily to the gods of war, greed, and avarice. The land is being desecrated by the thoughtless waste of vital resources. You must obey my commandments and be in the forefront of those who would mediate this needless destruction while there is yet day."

Prophetic Imagination

The Option for a Prophetic Imagination Session

The First Presidency is looking at the prioritization survey results for the 14 proposed resolutions and prophetic imagination session. They're also considering two other important items:

1. Letter of Counsel: Approving priesthood calls to leading quorums is a critical task that needs to be done early in the conference week.
2. Draft Statement on Nonviolence: The 2023 World Conference requested continued work on this statement. Time will be scheduled to review the current draft using the alternative common consent process.

The First Presidency's legislative agenda plans to finish all 14 resolutions before lunch on Friday. This

leaves time for a prophetic imagination session on Friday afternoon. This session is planned to follow Thursday night's worship, where the First Presidency will share their vision for the next three years.

If the conference has not finished considering the proposed resolutions before the lunch break on Friday, delegates will vote on how to use the remaining time. They can choose between a prophetic imagination session or continuing with unfinished resolutions.

The First Presidency encourages delegates to prayerfully consider the importance of both the prophetic imagination session and the proposed resolutions. It is important that the conference faithfully focuses on what matters most and uses the legislative time wisely.

Parliamentary Guidelines

One purpose of World Conference is to do the business of the church. Using the principles of common consent, delegates discuss important issues and decide which are essential to the continuing ministry of the church. The following are useful for delegate participation:

- Community of Christ Bylaws—guidelines to manage the church and handle conferences, including World Conference.
- *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (current edition)—defines procedures to discuss and decide legislation.
- Standing Rules, adopted by each World Conference—special procedures specifically for World Conference.
- A legislative communications system, which provides an orderly way for delegates to discuss issues and make legislative proposals for World Conference action.

Delegates should familiarize themselves with the principles in this guide and the Standing Rules to fulfill their responsibilities effectively.

Parliamentary Principles

The basic principles of parliamentary procedure help to provide the following:

- **Fairness:** No person or view should have a decided advantage or disadvantage in addressing issues properly before the World Conference.
- **Clarity:** The procedures used by the Conference should help clarify the precise issues under discussion and the precise proposals being decided in a vote.
- **Efficiency:** Given the large number of delegates and the size of the agenda, parliamentary principles should help the Conference move through its agenda at an efficient, but not excessively hasty, pace.
- **Protection of Minority Opinions:** A majority vote decides most issues. However, a two-thirds vote of approval is required sometimes. For example, matters that affect the rights of the delegates (such as closing debate) or that change the basic principles that govern the church (such as amending Community of Christ Bylaws). The parliamentary authority for World Conference

is *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* (current edition), except where it conflicts with the church bylaws or the Standing Rules. Specific actions are defined later in this guide.

Debate and Motions

Moving a Motion

After you have proposed a motion, the chair will call for a second. After the chair recognizes the second, you will be recognized to speak to your motion if it is debatable.

Amendments

Give the Conference secretary a written copy of any proposal to change a motion. Doing this ahead of time helps the translation team and allows projection of the text in several languages. This helps all delegates understand your idea. However, presenting a written copy does not guarantee you will be recognized. It is the responsibility of the delegate to get the floor.

Rule of Alternates

Delegates may register to speak for or against a proposal. The chair usually will alternate between those wishing to speak “for” and those wishing to speak “against.”

Closing Debate

After allowing reasonable time for debate, any delegate may move to close debate on the current proposal. If the delegates adopt the motion to close debate, the matter then is voted on without further discussion. Such a motion will prevail only if at least two-thirds of the delegates voting wish to close debate.

Responsible Participation

Effective World Conference business sessions require delegates to cooperate. Flexibility, patience, and consideration for others allow the legislative process to run smoothly and be fair for all.

Delegates cannot know their specific position in the speaking queue. To give an equal chance for each delegate who wishes to speak, the speaking queue is rearranged randomly after each speaker is recognized. The legislative communications system is designed so no delegates are systematically disadvantaged.

Several delegates may be registered to speak to a main proposal when an amendment is made. When a motion to amend has been made and seconded, a new speaking queue is opened, and the chair will call on people who are registered to speak to the amendment.

Those registered to speak to the main motion will remain in the main motion queue, which will be restored should the main motion return to the floor for more debate.

The chair recognizes delegates for the purpose they have registered. Delegates recognized for motions of precedence, such as points of order, will rise to the top of the queue. Delegates may not use motions of parliamentary precedence to speak to the substance of a motion or to ask rhetorical questions.

The Legislative Communications System

The chair receives information about delegates wishing to get the floor through the legislative communications system. This computerized system transfers and coordinates information to the presiding officer from each speaking lectern. The system is designed to be orderly and fair.

How to Use the Legislative Communications System

Become familiar with the list of parliamentary actions in this guide. When you wish to get the floor, write your badge number on the card from your delegate materials and the number of the action you wish to take before you approach the lectern operator. (Note: The numbers assigned to some parliamentary actions have changed from previous World Conferences.)

Try to anticipate when the action you wish to take would be proper. Then, while wearing your delegate badge, move quickly to a lectern. You may not register to speak on any item until the chair announces the item, and it receives a second.

Give the card to the lectern operator, who will enter the information into the system. Lectern operators may not give parliamentary advice, and they cannot tell you where you are in the queue.

If you have questions about how the legislative communications system works and how to use it effectively, please ask a lectern operator, but preferably not during a legislative session.

At times, large numbers of delegates try to seek the floor at the same time. Because the queue is rearranged each time a new person is recognized to speak, you will not know when (or if) you will be called to speak. Please be patient while waiting.

Return to your seat until the chair recognizes you. Do not block the aisle or access to the lectern. If the Conference disposes of the matter you rose to speak about before you are recognized, you will not be called to speak.

The lectern operator will enter the information from your card into the system.

If the action you wish to take has parliamentary

priority (such as a point of order) the system will alert the chair, but you will not be recognized until the current speaker has finished.

When the chair calls your name, speak directly into the microphone. Begin by giving your name and jurisdiction.

The system usually provides information about your primary language to the translators and the chair.

Parliamentary Deliberations in an International Assembly

Be aware that when you speak before the assembly, your words are translated simultaneously.

It is very important that you speak clearly and slowly. This will allow translators to keep up with what you are saying and will give all delegates a chance to understand your view. Because of time limits on speeches, it is tempting to quickly say as much as possible. If you speak too fast, the chair will interrupt you and ask you to slow down. It is far more effective to think carefully about how to express your thoughts briefly and clearly.

Technical language, culture-specific references, and humor do not translate well. If translators need to explain your words besides translating them, your speech will be less effective.

Legislative Action Quick Reference

Use these numbers on your legislative card:

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. Speak FOR | 11. Appeal Decision of Chair |
| 2. Speak AGAINST | 12. Reconsider |
| 3. Speak FOR Amendment | 13. Suspend the Rules |
| 4. Speak AGAINST Amendment | 14. Division of the Question |
| 5. Ask a Question | 15. Division of the Assembly
(Call for a different way to
count votes.) |
| 6. Amend | 16. Make a Nomination |
| 7. Refer (Send to a Group) | 17. _____ |
| 8. Close Debate | 18. _____ |
| 9. Object to Consideration | |
| 10. Point of Order | |

Parliamentary Actions which can be Utilized at World Conference

* Wording or specific function of traditional parliamentary action has been adapted to accommodate specific needs of World Conference.

Parliamentary Actions	Requires Second	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Required	May Be Reconsidered
1 Speak FOR the proposal*	No	No	No	N/A	No
2 Speak AGAINST the Proposal*	No	No	No	N/A	No
3 Speak FOR Amendment*	No	No	No	N/A	No
4 Speak AGAINST Amendment*	No	No	No	N/A	No
5 Ask a Question*	No	No	No	N/A	No
6 Amend (Change a Motion) This changes the proposal being discussed by the Conference. Be sure to state exactly what is to be inserted, struck out, or substituted with precise wording. It helps if written copy is filed with the secretary in advance.	Yes	If applied to a debatable proposal	Yes	Majority	Yes
7 Refer (Send to a Group)* If the assembly thinks it does not have enough information, or if too much time is needed to refine the proposal, it may be referred to a particular World Church Team or Quorum (group) for this work. The motion to refer should clearly state two things: a. The group to which it is referred; and b. What that group is to do: 1. Report at a certain time; 2. Act as it sees fit within specified limits; 3. Act or fail to act, as it feels is wisest.	Yes	Limited to advisability and details of referral	Yes	Majority	Yes

Parliamentary Actions	Requires Second	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Required	May Be Reconsidered
<p>8 Close Debate* This stops debate and calls for an immediate vote. The chair is justified in ruling it out of order until a diversity of viewpoints has been well expressed. When the discussion begins to be repetitive, offering this motion can be helpful. It can apply only to the current motion.</p>	Yes	No	No	2/3	Yes
<p>9 Object to Consideration This is proper only when it is thought discussion would bring disrepute, embarrassment, or unwarranted divisiveness to the assembly or a member. If you are merely opposed to a motion, the proper procedure is to speak against it and seek to vote it down. This motion must be made immediately after a proposal has been moved, seconded, and announced by the chair, but before any debate begins.</p>	No	No	No	2/3	Only when objection is sustained
<p>10 Point of Order This is proper if you think business is progressing contrary to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Parliamentary rules of the Conference; Church law; Normal standards of courtesy. 	No	No	No	Chair rules	No
<p>11 Appeal Decision of Chair If you think the chair has ruled mistakenly on a point of order, you can appeal to the Conference. This is the only time the chair has the right to speak in debate.</p>	Yes	If applied to a debatable issue	No	Majority	Yes

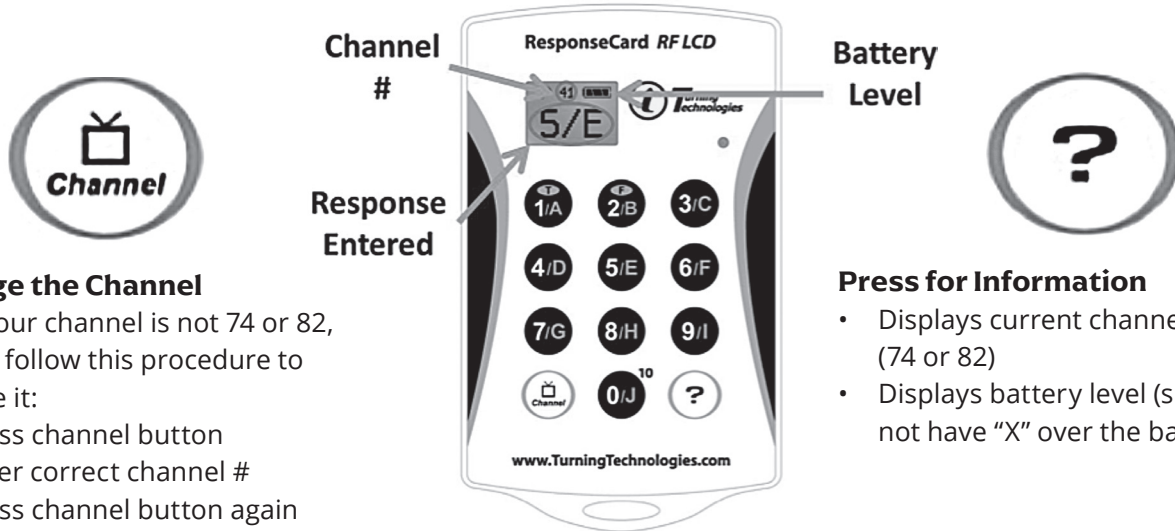
Parliamentary Actions	Requires Second	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Required	May Be Reconsidered
<p>12 Reconsider Brings before the assembly a motion that previously was acted on. Can be moved only by a person who previously voted on the prevailing side. The seconder can have voted either way. Can be raised only on the same day or the day following the original vote.</p>	Yes	Same as original	No	Majority	Yes
<p>13 Suspend the Rules If you think parliamentary or administrative rules of the Conference interfere with the progress of business, you can move to suspend the rules. Examples might be to change the time of the meeting, suspend the rule of alternates, or give an honored person the floor. Bylaws or church law cannot be suspended.</p>	Yes	No	No	2/3	No
<p>14 Division of the Question If two or more items in a motion can be accepted or rejected individually, this motion can be used. If it passes, the question will be voted on by its divisible parts, not as a whole.</p>	Yes	No	Yes	Majority	No
<p>15 Call to retake vote* The method (i.e. Division of the Assembly (rising vote), counted vote, etc.) would be specified by the delegate calling for this action."</p>	No	No	No	Chair Handles	No
<p>16 Make a Nomination* When the floor is open for nominations, use this choice to place a name in nomination.</p>	No	No	No	N/A	No

Parliamentary Actions	Requires Second	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Required	May Be Reconsidered
17 This row left blank to allow the computer system to accommodate a potential amendment made during consideration of the standing rule related to parliamentary actions.					
18 This row left blank to allow the computer system to accommodate a potential amendment made during consideration of the standing rule related to parliamentary actions.					

Electronic Polling Device—Quick Reference

Using Your Polling Device

- Delegations have one or more polling-device steward(s) to distribute devices at the beginning of the week and collect them at week's end.
- When you receive your device, immediately attach it to your lanyard.
- Polling devices are assigned to delegations, not to delegates.
- Replace malfunctioning devices by contacting your polling-device steward.
- All delegates need to bring their devices to all Conference business sessions.
- Devices represent delegates present in the Conference Chamber; do not share devices or use another delegate's device.



Change the Channel

If your channel is not 74 or 82, please follow this procedure to change it:

- Press channel button
- Enter correct channel #
- Press channel button again

When Polling Is Open

- The chair will provide instruction and announce that polling is open.
- The chair will announce polling soon will close, and the center screen will display a 10-second countdown.
- The delegate's final responses will display on the center screen.

Use Only Your One Assigned Device

- There is no "proxy voting." If you are absent from the Conference Chamber, another person cannot use your device to place your vote.
- Please report lost devices to your polling-device steward as soon as possible.
- If you lose a device, receive a replacement, and then find your lost device, please return it to your polling-device steward as soon as possible.

Respond to Yes/No Questions

- Press 1/A for Yes
- Press 2/B for No

Respond to Multiple-choice, Single-answer Questions

- Press the number/letter button corresponding to your desired response.
- You can change your answer by pressing another button as long as polling is open. The system records your last entry when polling closes.

Respond to Multiple-choice, Multiple-answer Questions

- The chair will explain how many responses delegates may enter. Example: "Select your top three answers to this question..."
- Press three numbers/letters corresponding to your desired responses.
- The system records your last three entries when polling closes.

To Abstain

- Do not enter any response when polling is open.



Community of Christ

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