



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

February 18, 2016

The Way Forward

By Scott Murphy, *First Presidency*

Because of the decision to reduce our world ministries budget to \$16.5 million for fiscal year 2017, the First Presidency created a strategic planning team from members of the World Church Leadership Council. This team will be responsible for developing the fiscal year 2017 world ministries budget that can best support the church's mission and growth strategies. Members of this strategic planning team are:

Co-chairs: Stassi Cramm, presiding bishop designate and First Presidency member designate; and Scott Murphy, First Presidency and director of Field Ministries

Steve Veazey: First Presidency

Becky Savage: First Presidency

Steve Graffeo: Presiding Bishopric designate

Michele McGrath: director of Finance and Presiding Bishopric designate

Linda Booth: Council of Twelve president and director of Communications

Barb Carter: Council of Twelve secretary

Ron Harmon: USA Apostles Team lead

Richard James: Multinations Apostles Team lead

Dave Anderson: director of Human Resource Ministries

Jane Gardner: director of Formation Ministries and presiding evangelist designate

John Wight: senior president of seventy

Members of the planning team have been asked to clear their calendars and will be engaged in critical planning from February 22–March 11, 2016.

On February 29, 2016, the World Church Finance Board will meet in special session to receive updates on the current budget information and plans for development of the 2017 fiscal year budget.

The Council of Twelve Apostles has been called into special session March 14–18, 2016, to develop more detailed plans for the leadership of mission in the fields of the church.

Completion of the proposed fiscal year 2017 world ministries budget to be submitted to the World Church Finance Board in June needs to be completed by March 30, 2016.

The First Presidency felt it was critical to share this recent news with employees of the church. However, because this information is still relatively new, we unfortunately do not have more details and plans to share with employees at this time. The Presidency will work closely with the Communications Team to ensure we provide ongoing communications as essential information becomes known.

Words can never fully express the agonizing sorrow we feel for our team of faithful employees. But know that from the depth of our faith and hope, the Presidency and all members of the World Church Leadership Council hold all our employees and the church in prayer in the days and weeks to come.