



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

FAQ: Giving to the Fiscal Year 2017 Worldwide Mission Budget

Q: Are we moving away from the five Mission Initiatives?

No. Since 2011 all ministries, personnel, and resources of the worldwide church have been focused on the mission of Jesus Christ through five life-changing, church-changing, world-changing Mission Initiatives.

In his April 2014 address to the church, President Steve Veazey described the initiatives as “foundational and essential to the church’s life” and emphasized their holistic nature: “all Mission Initiatives must function together to express the whole mind and mission of Christ. Concentrating on only one or two initiatives diminishes their holistic, spiritually transforming power.”

Q: Why is the budget no longer categorized by Mission Initiatives?

As leaders navigated budget reductions to get to the approved fiscal-year (FY) 2017 Worldwide Mission Budget, it became clear that categorizing it by the five Mission Initiatives would create arbitrary assignments that would not allow the level of efficiency necessary to achieve budget goals. As leaders reflected on these struggles, they recognized that trying to track expenses to singular Mission Initiatives did not uphold the holistic approach to mission we are called to live. Because contributions were primarily given to Use Where Needed Most, the FY2017 Worldwide Mission Budget (www.CofChrist.org/common/cms/resources/Documents/FY17-Budget-ENGLISH.pdf) is based on expected income from Worldwide Mission Tithes in total instead of on projected contributions to each Mission Initiative.

Q: Do I need to reset my e-Tithing designations?

No. E-Tithing (www.CofChrist.org/e-tithing-faq) categories will be adjusted by the end of the first quarter of calendar year 2017. If you currently contribute to one or more Mission Initiative, those contributions will be moved to Worldwide Mission Tithes.

Q: Can I still give to a specific Mission Initiative by writing it on my check, envelope, etc.?

Yes. If you write a specific Mission Initiative on your envelope or check, it will be recorded for that Mission Initiative. Purpose codes used in Shelby for each Mission Initiative will stay active to handle these contributions.

Q: Why is Abolish Poverty, End Suffering on envelopes for the first Sunday of every month?

To honor World Conference Resolution (WCR) 773, envelopes on the first Sunday of each month have two giving opportunities on the Worldwide Ministries side. Contributors may indicate one contribution for Worldwide Mission Tithes to be used across all five Mission Initiatives, and another contribution for Abolish Poverty, End Suffering for oblation giving. Unmarked contributions received on the first Sunday (or when the Lord's Supper is served) will also be used for Abolish Poverty, End Suffering in harmony with Community of Christ tradition and WCR 773.

Q: What if I want to give to oblation when I'm in a Communion service and I don't have an envelope?

You can write a check. Write Oblation or Abolish Poverty, End Suffering in the subject line. You can also put loose cash in the offering to be used for Abolish Poverty, End Suffering, which includes oblation and World Hunger. Loose cash contributions are anonymous and will not be recorded or receipted to a specific individual.

Q: Will I be able to mark my contribution for Abolish Poverty, End Suffering if I'm using e-Tithing?

Only in response to specific needs. Generally, support of Worldwide Ministries through e-Tithing will be given to Worldwide Mission Tithes, which supports all five Mission Initiatives, including Abolish Poverty, End Suffering.

However, when the church needs to provide major disaster relief through oblation support, that option will be found in e-Tithing. These unique opportunities will not be available under your congregation on e-Tithing. When prompted to select your congregation on e-Tithing, you will need to select the Worldwide Mission Tithes category.

Q: How does this update on the envelope align with our new understanding of tithing?

Giving to Worldwide Mission Tithes to support Jesus Christ's mission in a holistic way is consistent with Doctrine and Covenants 165 and World Conference Resolution (WCR) 1314, adopted June 11, 2016.

Doctrine and Covenants 165:2d states, "Tithing is a spiritual practice that demonstrates willingness to offer every dimension of one's life to God." WCR 1314 states: "...Although tithing literally means a tenth, giving generously to one's true capacity is the spirit of tithing.

Tithing of time, talent, treasure, and testimony supports local and worldwide church ministries in pursuit of Jesus Christ's mission..."