

Focus on Holistic Mission

All ministries, personnel, and resources of the worldwide church are focused on the mission of Jesus Christ through five life-changing, church-changing, world-changing Mission Initiatives. President Steve Veazey said:

The initiatives are not a list of tasks vying for attention in competition with other activities. They are foundational and essential to the church's life! They come from God's heart, and they lead to spiritual growth. ...

We show different aspects of Christ's mission to emphasize the full scope of his mission. However, 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.

—President's Address, April 6, 2014

Understanding this holistic approach to Christ's mission is reflected in how members and friends give to Worldwide Mission Tithes. Since Mission Initiatives debuted in 2011, 74 percent or more of all contributions have been given to Use Where Needed Most. In fiscal year 2016, it was 85.6 percent.

As church leaders navigated expense reductions to reach the fiscal-year 2017 budget, it became clear that categorizing the budget around five Mission Initiatives created an arbitrary division, rather than efficient achievement of budget goals. Leaders reflected on these struggles and recognized that tracking expenses to singular Mission Initiatives did not uphold the holistic approach we are called to live.

Because dollars primarily have been given to Use Where Needed Most, the fiscal-year 2017 Worldwide Mission Budget was based on total expected Worldwide Mission Tithes income instead of contributions to each Mission

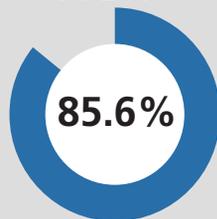
Initiative. This approach is aligned with President Veazey's introduction of the Mission Initiatives in his April 2011 address to the church: "From this point forward, we will focus all ministries, personnel, and resources of the worldwide church on the whole mission of Jesus Christ."

With our growing understanding of how the Mission Initiatives work together, offering envelopes will be updated to simplify giving and receipting. Also, they will align with the approved fiscal-year 2017 budget. Envelopes are mailed monthly to USA contributors.

Beginning January 1, users will enter a single amount on the Worldwide Ministries side of the envelope to be used across all five initiatives supporting Christ's mission—our mission—holistically, around the world. Envelopes in other countries will be updated as stock is depleted and new envelopes are printed. E-Tithing (www.CofChrist.org/give) categories will reflect this change by the end of the first quarter of 2017.

To honor World Conference Resolution (WCR) 773, envelopes for the first Sunday of each month also will have space for a contribution to Abolish Poverty, End Suffering, allowing for oblation giving. This will be in addition to the opportunity to give an amount to Worldwide Mission Tithes to be used across all five initiatives. Unmarked contributions received the first Sunday (or when the Lord's Supper is served) also will be used for Abolish Poverty, End Suffering in harmony with Community of Christ tradition and WCR 773. 

USE WHERE
NEEDED MOST
CONTRIBUTIONS
IN 2016



Learn More Online

Find answers to frequently asked questions and view the 2017 Worldwide Mission Budget. Go to www.CofChrist.org/resources and search keywords "fiscal year 2017."