



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

Official Actions of the 2016 World Conference

Letter of Counsel about World Church Leaders

On June 5, 2016, the councils, quorums, orders, mass meetings, and caucuses indicated they had given consideration to the calls in the letter of counsel about World Church leaders and that all had been approved by substantial majorities.

The calls were considered individually, and each was approved by the delegates in assembly.

Rulings on Items G-1, G-3, and G-4

On June 5, 2016, the chair made the following rulings.

Ruling Regarding Resolution G-4, “Cultural Considerations and Issues of Priesthood Morality”

Resolution G-4, “Cultural Considerations and Issues of Priesthood Morality,” found in the *Legislation* booklet in English and Spanish starting on page 18 and in French starting on page 17, would require that applying administrative sanctions specified in World Church policies regarding priesthood morality be decided locally on an individual basis following consultation with the First Presidency. Unfortunately, the First Presidency must rule this resolution out of order for the following reasons:

1. WCR 1192, “Ministerial Silences and Appeals,” approved in 1986, provides direction about the reasons (grounds for) and procedures for priesthood member silences. This resolution specifies the responsibilities and rights of those involved and the process of appeal to ensure such rights are protected. WCR 1192 specifically states that it “...shall govern all future silencing procedures.” Resolution G-4 proposes an approach to priesthood member silences that clearly conflicts with WCR 1192 without amending or rescinding it.
2. G-4 also conflicts with Community of Christ Bylaws, which state, “No legislative body can rightfully take to itself administrative or judicial functions” (Bylaws of Community of Christ, Article III, Section 6b). The First Presidency and other World Church officers, such as members of the Council of Twelve Apostles, have responsibility for establishing and implementing church administrative policies and procedures. G-4 seeks to remove the administrative responsibilities of World Church officers and place them elsewhere.
3. An important aspect of procedures to remove priesthood authority is an appeal process involving a series of church administrative officers and, if necessary, the Standing High Council. G-4 proposes that local church officers, such as pastors, consult with the First Presidency and then decide whether to remove priesthood authority. Since appealing a decision to the First Presidency is potentially one of the last steps in the appeal process, having pastors consult with the Presidency about

whether to remove priesthood authority could violate the integrity of the appeal process.

For these reasons the First Presidency regrettably rules G-4 out of order.

Ruling Regarding G-1 and G-3

Resolutions G-1 and G-3 are in the *Legislation* booklet in English and Spanish starting on page 17 and in French starting on page 16.

Both resolutions request the First Presidency to consider a review of relevant documents related to issues of priesthood morality as well as policies and procedures for removing priesthood authority.

They do not, however, mandate changes. They only request consideration of changes. These resolutions also uphold the role of World Church officers in determining church administrative policies.

Resolution G-3 is very similar in its approach to G-1. The First Presidency believes they should not be considered as separate items. There is a parliamentary principle that “the same or substantially the same question cannot be [brought up]...during the same session” of an assembly (*Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised*, page 88). The World Conference includes many business meetings but is only one legislative session devoted to a single agenda.

Therefore, the chair rules that however it is disposed of by the assembly, G-1 will carry the intent of G-3 with it. Therefore G-3 will not be considered separately. While G-1 is being considered, it will be in order to offer amendments if some wording in G-3 better expresses the will of the Conference.

Statement Regarding Consideration of the Words of Counsel

On June 6, 2016, President Veazey made the following statement to the Conference concerning the process to be used in considering the words of counsel to the church:

Throughout the years, World Conference delegates have considered inspired documents brought to the church through the prophet-president. Considering words of counsel is part of our discerning together God’s will for the future. Over the years, we have used different ways to consider inspired documents.

In 1873, the first inspired document considered by a General Conference was Doctrine and Covenants Section 117. Since 1873, various additions to the process of approval occurred. Over time, the documents were provided to caucuses, councils, mass meetings, orders, and quorums for their review prior to being considered by the Conference.

For most of our history, the process of voting was done on the whole document. The consideration of words of counsel paragraph-by-paragraph is a relatively recent innovation that began in the last 50 years.

The Presidency has received questions from people wondering what it means to vote paragraph-by-paragraph and then again on the document as a whole.

For example, what would it mean if one paragraph was defeated, yet the entire document was approved?

After discussion and prayerful consideration, the Presidency believes the historical practice of only voting on the document as a whole is the most appropriate way to proceed. With this understanding, voting paragraph-by-paragraph is unnecessary.

The Presidency believes the Conference certainly needs the opportunity to discuss each paragraph in a clearly defined manner. We also believe that when it comes to voting, there should be only one vote on the document in its entirety.

The best method to facilitate consideration of the words of counsel is through the use of the parliamentary device, “Consider in Seriatim” (consider by paragraph), which accomplishes the process of discussing each paragraph, but only voting on the document as a whole.

Words of Counsel from President Stephen M. Veazey, Dated April 5, 2016

On June 6, 2016, the councils, quorums, orders, mass meetings, and caucuses presented their reports on the words of counsel and indicated that all had approved by substantial majorities. The assembly of delegates gave formal consideration, and the vote was taken, and the motion approved “that the words of counsel from President Stephen M. Veazey dated April 5, 2016, be approved as inspired guidance to the church and that the Conference authorize their inclusion in the book of Doctrine and Covenants.”

Officers of the Council of Twelve

On June 7, 2016, the Council of Twelve Apostles unanimously sustained Linda L. Booth as president of the Council of Twelve and Barbara L. Carter as secretary of the Council of Twelve.

Council of Twelve Assignments

Mareva M. Arnaud Tchong

Pacific and East Asia Mission Field
 Australia Mission Centre
 French Polynesia Mission Centre
 Pacific Island Mission Centre
 East Asia Mission Centre
 East Asia Mission Centre president

Linda L. Booth

South Central USA Mission Field
 Ark-La-Tex USA Mission Center
 Coastal Bend USA Mission Center
 Heart of Texas USA Mission Center
 Mid-South USA Mission Center
 Oklahoma USA Mission Center

Rio Grande USA Mission Center
Council of Twelve Apostles president
Communications director

Barbara L. Carter

Southeast USA Mission Field
Alabama-Northwest Florida USA Mission Center
Bountiful USA Mission Center
Brush Creek USA Mission Center
Florida USA Mission Center
Gulf USA Mission Center
Kentucky-Indiana USA Mission Center
South Central States USA Mission Center
Southeast USA Mission Center
Western Ohio USA Mission Center
Council of Twelve Apostles secretary
Ecumenical and interfaith officer
Open Table
Spectacular and International Youth Forum

Bunda C. Chibwe

Africa Mission Field
Congo Katanga Mission Center
Ivory Coast and Togo Mission Centre
Kenya Mission Centre
Liberia and Sierra Leone Mission Centre
Malawi Mission Centre
Nigeria Mission Centre
South Central Africa Mission Centre
West Congo Kinshasa Mission Center

Janné C. Grover

Central USA Mission Field
Central USA Mission Center
Central Missouri USA Mission Center
Far West USA Mission Center
Gateway USA Mission Center
Midlands USA Mission Center
Disciple and Priesthood Formation Team lead

Ronald D. Harmon Jr.

Western USA Mission Field
Arizona USA Mission Center
Greater Pacific Northwest USA Mission Center
Pacific Southwest International Mission Center
Rocky Mountain USA Mission Center
Sierra Pacific USA Mission Center
USA Apostles Team lead

Leading Congregations in Mission
Pacific Southwest International Mission Center president

Richard C.N. James

Eurasia Mission Field
British Isles Mission Centre
Western Europe Mission Center
Eurasia Mission Centre
Multi-nations Apostles Team lead

Robin K. Linkhart

North Central USA Mission Field
Cedar Valley-Nauvoo USA Mission Center
Chicago USA Mission Center
Headwaters USA Mission Center
Inland West USA Mission Center
Lamoni Heartland USA Mission Center
Prairie Bluffs USA Mission Center
Restoration-heritage Seeker Ministry

Rick W. Maupin

South Central/Southeast Asia Mission Field and Caribbean Mission Field
Caribbean Mission Center
Dominican Republic Mission Center
Nepal Mission Center
South Central Asia Mission Center
Southeast Asia Mission Center
Abolish Poverty, End Suffering initiatives
Caribbean Mission Center president and South Central Asia Mission Center president

Lachlan E. Mackay

North East USA Mission Field
Chesapeake Bay USA Mission Center
Eastern Great Lakes USA Mission Center
Michigan USA Mission Center
Mid-Atlantic USA Mission Center
New England USA Mission Center
Historic Sites director
Church History and Sacred Story Ministries Team lead

Carlos Enrique Mejia

Central and South America Mission Field
Central America Mission Center
Brazil Mission Center
Southern Cone of South America Mission Center
Northwest South America Mission Center

Arthur E. Smith

Canada, Haiti, Mexico Mission Field
 Canada East Mission Centre
 Canada West Mission Centre
 Haiti Great North Mission Center
 Haiti Great South Mission Center
 Mexico-Texas Mexico/USA Mission Center
 Indigenous Peoples Ministry

Worldwide Mission Budget Projections

On June 7, 2016, the Conference approved the following budget projections, which cover the inter-Conference period from fiscal year 2018 (July 1, 2017–June 30, 2018) through fiscal year 2020 (July 1, 2019–June 30, 2020).

Worldwide Mission Budget Projections:

Fiscal Year 2018	\$17.97 million
Fiscal Year 2019	\$18.51 million
Fiscal Year 2020	\$19.07 million

WCR 1306 World Church Budgeting and Audit Process (Adopted June 7, 2016)

Whereas, WCR 1289 authorized the World Church Finance Board to approve the annual Worldwide Mission Budget; and

Whereas, An essential part of a responsible budget-approval process is for the body approving the budget also to have the authority to review and approve the report of the auditors for the account period immediately prior to the budget being considered; and

Whereas, The practice of the church since 1918 has been for the First Presidency to appoint an “auditor or auditors” (WCR 787) and for this audit to be presented to and approved by the World Conference; and

Whereas, The World Conference meets only once every three years, which means the annual report of the auditors cannot be approved in a timely manner to help in budget development and approval; and

Whereas, The World Conference of 1994 authorized the Presiding Bishopric to consolidate church funds in support of mission through creation of a Stewardship Foundation; and

Whereas, The Presiding Bishopric determined that income to the Worldwide Mission Budget generated by the Stewardship Foundation funds should be made available to the budget as an annual allocation without the necessity of the Stewardship Foundation, oversight committees (Executive Committee and Mission Support Fund Committee), and related administrative processes; and

Whereas, In 2010, The Corporate Body of the Presidency, Presiding Bishopric, and president of the Council of Twelve Apostles in consultation with the World Church Finance Board dissolved the Stewardship Foundation in accordance with the Operating Guidelines of the Stewardship Foundation; and

Whereas, The electronic response system makes it difficult to elect persons to the World Church Finance Board in groups of 15; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That WCR 1289 be amended to read as follows:

World Church Audit and Budget Development Policy

1. The World Conference shall establish a World Church Finance Board, which shall have responsibility for annually reviewing and approving the World Church audit, approving the annual Worldwide Mission Budgets, and making recommendations to the World Conference concerning 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 and income levels vary. The World Conference shall discuss these projections, and the input gained shall be considered by the World Church Finance Board in the formulation and final approval of these annual budgets.
2. The World Conference may establish parameters to be followed by the World Church Finance Board in developing and approving the 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 sixty (60) persons as follows:
 - First Presidency (3)
 - Council of Twelve (12)
 - Presiding Bishopric (3)
 - Bishops elected by the Order of Bishops (9)
 - President, High Priest Quorum (1)
 - Senior president of seventy (1)
 - Presiding evangelist (1)

Thirty (30) members elected by the World Conference to represent the church at-large, with each being elected for a six-year term with terms staggered so fifteen (15) are elected at each World Conference.
4. The First Presidency is authorized to appoint board members when vacancies occur between World Conferences.
5. Elected members of the World Church Finance Board shall be church members in good standing and may not serve more than twelve (12) years on the board.
6. Funds to cover the travel expenses of members of the World Church Finance Board shall be provided from the Worldwide Mission Budget.
7. Nominations for the members of the World Church Finance Board to be elected by the World Conference shall be made by the First Presidency in consultation with the Presiding Bishopric. These candidates shall be nominated in three groups of five positions. In addition to these nominees, each World Conference shall provide for other nominations to be made from the floor sufficiently in advance of the election to allow biographical sketches of the nominees to be made available to the World Conference prior to the election. Delegates offering a nomination from the floor shall indicate the group for which the candidate is being nominated. If more than 15 nominees are received from the floor the First Presidency is authorized to adjust this process to accommodate the nominations while still allowing the electronic response system to be used for the

election process. In the nomination process, attention shall be given to balanced representation, including such factors as vocation, geographic residence, age, gender, church leadership experience, and church jurisdiction. The five nominees receiving the most votes in each of the three groups shall be declared elected.

8. A team will be appointed by the First Presidency and shall provide the necessary preliminary preparation of the budget. This committee will be composed of World Church personnel responsible for church programming, finance, and field ministries.
9. The annual audit and budget shall be made available on the church website. An annual report on the audit and budget shall be published in the *Herald*, and a summary report shall be made to each World Conference.

Ruling on Previous Notice

On June 7, 2016, the chair made the following ruling:

Whenever a resolution requires previous notice before it can be considered, and especially if that resolution modifies something adopted previously by the World Conference, there is a requirement of previous notice. (*WCR 1290: All business must be submitted 120 days prior to the World Conference.*)

When previous notice is required, the assembly is not permitted to offer amendments that are outside the scope of the notice. This means that a delegate cannot offer an amendment that takes advantage of a slight proposed change to offer a much broader change.

The resolution now before the assembly seeks to change WCR 1289 by making four specific changes to this resolution.

Therefore, amendments to the resolution before us that do not relate to these specific changes in WCR 1289 would be outside the scope of the previous notice and would not be in order.

Please keep this in mind if you are considering amendments to this resolution. The scope of notice is between what exists now and what is proposed if the resolution is adopted. Nothing broader than this is in order by way of amendment.

Presidents of Seventy

The calls for Tanoh Assoi, Carlos A. de Carvalho, and John F. Glaser as presidents of seventy and as members of the Council of Presidents of Seventy were reviewed in a joint meeting of the Quorums of Seventy and approved by the Council of Presidents of Seventy, the Council of Twelve Apostles, and the First Presidency.

On June 8, 2016, the Conference approved each call.

Counselors to the President of the Quorum of High Priests

On June 8, 2016, the Conference approved the calls for Urbain M.P. Mbenga and Kathryn Olson Sharp as counselors to the president of the Quorum of High Priests.

Graceland University Board of Trustees

On June 8, 2016, the following were elected to the Graceland University Board of Trustees:

Two-year term, beginning in 2016 and expiring in 2018
Heather A. Donofrio.

Six-year term, beginning in 2016 and expiring in 2022
Nancy Tanner Edwards
Samuel G. Smalldon
Michelle M. Waite

Issues of (Priesthood) Morality

On June 9, 2016, the following resolution as amended by substitution was referred to the First Presidency:

Whereas, The intent of the motion G-1 was to increase meaningful and respectful dialog among members and priesthood about the morality of lifestyles and activities on the one hand, and the values lifted up in Doctrine and Covenants 164:6a–b; therefore be it

Resolved, That the First Presidency explore options and opportunities for meaningful and respectful dialog among members and priesthood of how individual, family, and congregational activities, lifestyles, and choices can be more closely and more faithfully aligned with the values and morals lifted up in the Enduring Principles and Doctrine and Covenants 164:6a–b. These discussions themselves should embody these values while we encourage each other and ourselves to live lives worthy of Zion and a priesthood of all believers; and be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency make these guidelines, options, and opportunities for meaningful and respectful dialog available to congregational and mission center leadership no later than June 7, 2018.

World Church Finance Board Members

On June 9, 2016, the following were elected to the World Church Finance Board, for six-year terms ending June 30, 2022:

Debora Ester Ulloa Castellon
Julie R. Crittenden
Tamatoa I. Mariteragi
Samuel G. Smalldon
Iniobong (Ini) N. Edet

Michael G. Giardina
Evan A. Jenkins
Joel A. Trinkle
Dan S. Whittemore
Dean T. Wight

Gilbert B. Alberti
Amy M. Hoerchler
James M. Newcom
Emma G. Pitt

Charles W. Petz

Community of Christ Seminary Advisory Committee

On June 9, 2016, the following were sustained as members of the Community of Christ Seminary Advisory Committee:

Llewellyn A. (Lew) Shepherdson, to fill an unexpired term ending 2019.
Brittany A. Longsdorf, for a six-year term ending 2022.

WCR 1307 Community of Christ Bylaws Revisions (Adopted June 9, 2016)

Whereas, The need for experimentation with field organization exists from time to time due to unusual missional opportunities or administrative and financial necessities; and

Whereas, The World Church has faced the need to reduce budget and therefore field staff, and

Whereas, Some provisions of the Bylaws of Community of Christ do not provide sufficient flexibility to allow experimentation with the new field ministry and administrative models; now, therefore, be it:

Resolved, That the World Conference approve the following proviso to be added to the Bylaws of Community of Christ from 2016 to 2019; and be it further

Resolved, That the adoption of this proviso shall require the same 60-day notice in the *Herald* and a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the World Conference as if it were an amendment to these bylaws.

Proviso

During the next inter-Conference period, field organization, including the use of various leadership models, may be adjusted to provide the flexibility to accommodate changing missional opportunities, administrative and financial necessities, or other unique situations throughout the church. The First Presidency, in consultation with the World Church Leadership Council, has the authority to temporarily adjust field organization, including various leadership models, to allow the trial of new methods of ministerial support and missional outreach. When adjustments are authorized, those parts of the Bylaws of Community of Christ that restrict these temporary adjustments shall be considered suspended.

Presidents of Seventy Assignments

Tanoh Assoi, Quorum 1

Africa Mission Field and Haiti (Apostles: Bunda C. Chibwe, Africa, and Arthur E. Smith, Haiti)

Amson Mallick, Quorum 2

South Central and Southeast Asia Mission Field (Apostle: Rick W. Maupin)

Larry M. McGuire, Quorum 3 and secretary, Council of Presidents of Seventy

Western USA Mission Field and special assignment as Arizona USA Mission Center president (Apostle: Ronald D. Harmon Jr.)

Keith E. McMillian, Quorum 4

South Central USA Mission Field and Southeast USA Mission Field (Apostles: Linda L. Booth and Barbara L. Carter)

Karin F. Peter, Quorum 5

North Central USA Mission Field and special support in Greater Pacific Northwest USA Mission Center (Apostles: Robin Linkhart and Ronald D. Harmon Jr.)

John S. Wight, senior president of seventy and Quorum 6

Central USA Mission Field and North East USA Mission Field (Apostles: Janné C. Grover and Lachlan E. Mackay)

Carlos A. de Carvalho, Quorum 7

Central and South America Mission Field and special assignment as Brazil Mission Center president (Apostle: Carlos E. Mejia)

John F. Glaser, Quorum 8

Caribbean Mission Field, Mexico/Texas Mission Field, and Canada Mission Field (Apostles: Rick W. Maupin, Caribbean; Arthur E. Smith, Mexico/Texas and Canada)

Adam R. Wade, Quorum 9

Pacific Mission Field and East Asia Mission Field (Apostle: Mareva Arnaud Tchong)

Larry M. McGuire, Quorum 10

Eurasia Mission Field (Apostle: Richard C.N. James)

WCR 1308 Time for Introduction of New Business (Adopted June 10, 2016)

Whereas, Ample time for study, discussion, and prayerful consideration of World Conference business is essential to being a prophetic people and making well-informed decisions by the body; and

Whereas, The current deadline to introduce business for World Conference (120 days before Conference) is still too short to provide adequate time for translations, discussion, and prayerful consideration by delegates; therefore be it

Resolved, That WCR 1290 be amended in the second resolved paragraph by substituting the words “one hundred and twenty (120) days” with “one year” so that it reads “*Resolved*, That for legislation to come before World Conference, such legislation must be submitted to the First Presidency no later than one year before the opening of each World Conference.”

WCR 1309 Supporting Indigenous Peoples (Adopted June 10, 2016)

Whereas, Indigenous peoples are distinct from other sectors of societies and subject to unjust domination; and

Whereas, The indigenous include communities, nations, and peoples who lived on the lands for generations, including before settlers “discovered” and claimed the lands as their own; and

Whereas, Indigenous peoples, as non-dominant sectors of society, resolve to preserve, develop, and transmit their ethnic identity to future generations, assuring their continued

existence as peoples in harmony with their cultural patterns, social institutions, and legal systems; and

Whereas, Community of Christ upholds the Worth of All Persons and affirms indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples and always have been; and

Whereas, Community of Christ also affirms that indigenous peoples contribute to the diversity and richness of civilizations and cultures and therefore to the common heritage of humankind; and

Whereas, We as a church affirm that doctrines, policies, and practices that promote superiority of individuals or peoples based on national origin or racial, religious, ethnic, or cultural differences are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable, and socially unjust; and

Whereas, laws, policies, and practices sanctioned by what some call the “Doctrine of Discovery” allowed the conquest and domination of original peoples through the use of genocide, taking assets, and other dehumanizing injustices still pervasive today; and

Whereas, our Mission Initiatives, from Luke 4:18–19 NRSV, call the church “to let the oppressed go free”; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the 2016 World Conference officially renounce the Doctrine of Discovery and ask the First Presidency to issue a statement to be published in official church publications, including the church website; and be it further

Resolved, That the World Conference request the First Presidency, where appropriate, to urge the governments of the world to ensure that their policies, regulations, and laws that affect indigenous peoples comply with international conventions, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the International Labour Organisation’s Convention 169; and be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency include a working group focused on global justice issues for indigenous peoples as a key priority for the World Church Human Rights Team for 2016–2019; and be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency be encouraged to contribute to ecumenical and interfaith advocacy actions in various countries based on principles in this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That actions taken by the First Presidency be done in consultation with representatives of the particular indigenous group(s) being supported by the specific advocacy activity; and be it further

Resolved, That members of Community of Christ seek opportunities for further education on the principles of this resolution and engage in local advocacy opportunities with indigenous groups.

WCR 1310 World Conference Resolution Publication (Adopted June 10, 2016)

Whereas, Due to financial constraints, the book of *Rules and Resolutions* has not been republished since 2000, and *World Conference Resolutions* was not published after the World Conferences of 2004, 2005, 2007, 2010, and 2013; and

Whereas, Several hundred World Conference resolutions are obsolete or have been rescinded or superseded by later Conference actions; and

Whereas, The World Conferences of 1934, 1936, 1952, and 1970 authorized major adjustments to *World Conference Resolutions* by removing resolutions that no longer had current force and effect; and

Whereas, It is expensive to reproduce *World Conference Resolutions* in a printed form every 10 years and to produce supplements to it after every World Conference; and

Whereas, Many existing resolutions in *World Conference Resolutions* contain language that is obsolete (i.e., references to former field organization models, use of the church's other legal name—RLDS—and related terms, as well as descriptions of processes and procedures no longer in use in the church); and

Whereas, Continuing the printing of *World Conference Resolutions* in its current form is not helpful because often individuals reading this books find WCRs that are no longer of current force and effect, which gives a false impression of current World Church policy and procedure: now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the First Presidency be requested to maintain a log of all World Conference enactments with copies maintained in the church's archives for the use of historians and researchers; and be it further

Resolved, That the World Conference request the First Presidency to make a selection of the WCRs that have current force and effect for church governance and policy making and that this selection be kept up to date following each World Conference; and be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency be authorized to update the language usage in the resolutions that have current force and effect to reflect current usage in the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the World Conference request the First Presidency to place those WCRs with current force and effect in English on the church's website by April 2017 and in French and Spanish as these become available.

WCR 1311 Palestine and Israel (Adopted June 10, 2016)

Resolved, That Community of Christ specifically declares its belief in the love of God for Muslims and Jews, and we denounce all Islamophobia and anti-Semitism; and be it further

Resolved, That Community of Christ join with other Christian, Jewish, Muslim, ecumenical, and secular peace movements in the call for peace in Israel and Palestine. We, with other Christians, call for the right of the State of Israel to exist in secure borders; for the cessation of Israeli military occupation and illegal settlements in the West Bank; and for the recognition of the State of Palestine (in accordance with 1947 UN General Assembly Resolution 181/II, 1967 UN Security Council Resolution 242, and 1988 UN General Assembly Resolution 43/177).

Dates for the 2019 World Conference

On June 10, 2016, the Conference approved the dates of April 6–13, 2019, for the next World Conference. The dates will include the anniversary of the church’s founding and avoid the week of Easter.

WCR 1312 Opposition to Predatory Loan Practices (Adopted June 10, 2016)

Whereas, The Hebrew Bible in several instances speaks to the immorality of high usury, e.g., Nehemiah shouts out, “Let us stop this taking of interest” (Nehemiah 5:10 NRSV); and

Whereas, Genesis 7:23 (IV) says, “And the Lord called his people, Zion, because they were of one heart and of one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there were no poor among them”; and

Whereas, Doctrine and Covenants 163:4a says, “God the Eternal Creator weeps for the poor, displaced, mistreated, and diseased of the world because of their unnecessary suffering. Such conditions are not God’s will...”; and

Whereas, Doctrine and Covenants 164:6a says, “...God the Creator of all, ultimately is concerned about behaviors and relationships that uphold the worth and giftedness of all people and that protect the most vulnerable”; and

Whereas, Around the world various predatory loan practices flourish; and

Whereas, Each year predatory loans catch countless people in a “debt trap” by making short-term, high-interest loans at triple-digit interest rates, driving households into sustained poverty; therefore be it

Resolved, That Community of Christ condemns predatory lending practices as immoral and sees them as a threat for luring vulnerable individuals and families into a debt trap that often pulls them into poverty; and be it further

Resolved, That Community of Christ partner with other faith groups and community organizations to advocate for reform of short-term, high-interest loans (such as payday and title loans) at national and sub-national levels around the world; and be it further

Resolved, That Community of Christ work with other faith groups, non-profit organizations, and financial institutions to create new options for individuals and families to get affordable, small loans for justifiable emergency expenses and to develop training for these individuals to help them effectively manage their financial affairs; and be it further

Resolved, That members and friends of Community of Christ be encouraged to use their time, talents, and treasures to develop and support resources for small loans with affordable interest rates and terms and to recognize this as work that pursues the mission of Jesus Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency be requested to collect success stories from the worldwide church to be reported periodically in the *Herald* and other church media to create moral economy models for others to follow and to help members and friends recognize the blessings of ministry to those who are most vulnerable financially; and be it further

Resolved, That Community of Christ's leadership be requested to look for ways to assimilate these success stories into a model that can be replicated by congregations and communities throughout the world as appropriate.

WCR 1313 Closed Captioning (Adopted June 10, 2016)

Whereas, There are members, friends, and seekers of Community of Christ who are deaf or have difficulty hearing; and whose capacity of receiving and sharing ministry, as well as their sense of being a member of this community, is diminished by the lack of captioning of video resources; and

Whereas, There are many products and services available to allow quick and accurate captioning; some are inexpensive and easy to use by those with limited technical skills. Therefore, in the spirit of our Enduring Principles of Worth of All Persons and Unity in Diversity, be it

Resolved, That the First Presidency investigate the use of closed or open captioning and the use of an inset picture of a sign language interpreter on all church-produced videos in English, French, and Spanish with the goal of all official church videos to be captioned and request the First Presidency to investigate the cost and implement as soon as deemed feasible; and be it further

Resolved, That a call be made for volunteers with the talent, skills, and experience to help in the ministerial process of transcribing and captioning church videos.

WCR 1314 Mission and Tithing (Adopted June 11, 2016)

The following resolution was achieved at World Conference by using the new common consent procedure.

Community of Christ has agreed that "tithing is a spiritual practice that demonstrates willingness to offer every dimension of one's life to God" (Doctrine and Covenants 165:2d).

Therefore, it is proposed, as these words find expression in the church, the following affirmations guide us:

Stewardship is whole-life response to God's grace and the ministry of Jesus Christ.

One way stewardship is expressed is through the spiritual practice of tithing.

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.

All disciples are called to live as faithful stewards who tithed.

Furthermore, it is proposed the First Presidency and Presiding Bishopric provide resources to support priesthood and leaders in developing disciples who understand faithful tithing as part of the six principles of A Disciple's Generous Response.

Sustaining of World Church Leaders

On June 11, 2016, the following leaders were sustained.

First Presidency

Stephen M. Veazey, K. Scott Murphy, Stassi D. Cramm

Presiding Bishopric

Stassi D. Cramm, Steven E. Graffeo, Michele K. McGrath

Council of Twelve Apostles

Linda L. Booth, president

Barbara L. Carter, secretary

Mareva M. Arnaud Tchong

Bunda C. Chibwe

Janné C. Grover

Ronald D. Harmon Jr.

Richard C.N. James

Robin K. Linkhart

Lachlan E. Mackay

Rick W. Maupin

Carlos Enrique Mejia

Arthur E. Smith

Presidents of Seventy

John S. Wight, senior president

Tanoh Assoi

Carlos A. de Carvalho

John F. Glaser

Larry R. McGuire

Keith E. McMillan

Amson Mallick

Karin F. Peter

Adam R. Wade

Presiding Evangelist

Jane M. Gardner

President of Quorum of High Priests

David N. Anderson

World Church Secretary

Susan D. Sloan

Sustaining of Councils, Quorums, and Orders

On June 11, 2016 the chair read the following statement to the Conference regarding the long-standing practice of having the Conferences vote to sustain the quorums, councils, and orders.

For many years, there has been a resolution presented to the last business meeting of each World Conference that asked for a vote to sustain all of the quorums, councils, and orders other than the World Church leaders just sustained in the previous action.

After careful consideration, it is the opinion of the First Presidency that this action has become a vote that has little real meaning. For example, what would it mean if the Conference failed to sustain all the groups listed?

What would it mean if the Quorum of High Priests or the Quorums of Seventy, or the Order of Evangelists were not sustained? It certainly would not mean that these bodies and their members were suspended from their priesthood offices and unable to function in the church in their office and calling as is the usual meaning of the motion to sustain.

The First Presidency has determined that there would not be any practical effect if we continued or discontinued the practice of approving resolutions such as A-3 at each Conference, and therefore, we are suggesting to the World Conference that this practice be discontinued.

There was no objection to this procedure, and the chair ruled that items similar to this no longer would come before the World Conference for approval.

Statement on World Conference Minutes

We would like to remind the delegates of how the minutes of our meetings this week will be reviewed, approved, and kept for historical purposes. The World Church secretary has been diligently keeping normal daily minutes.

Also, throughout the week a committee of five persons from the Standing High Council has been diligently making notes of our proceedings. We have provided them each day with a copy of the detailed script used by the presiding officers as well as a copy of the daily printout from the Legislative Communications System and a copy of the printed polling results.

Following adjournment of the Conference, the minutes will be reviewed carefully by this team and ultimately will be placed on the church's website for any who wish to read them or print them for posterity.

In addition, a copy of the minutes will be in the church's archives, and an additional copy will be bound into the book with the actual transcript of our deliberations. Of course, they also will be kept in the files of the First Presidency.

We hope any who might be concerned about loss of historical memory will realize that we are going several extra steps to assure that none of our institutional memory is lost.