



# Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

## Official Minutes of Business Meeting Monday, June 6, 2016

### Call to Order

The 2016 World Conference convened its third legislative meeting at 10:30 a.m. Monday, June 6, 2016, in the Conference Chamber of the Auditorium, Independence, Missouri. President Stephen M. Veazey was in the chair.

### Opening Hymn and Prayer

The meeting began with the hymn, "We Limit Not the Truth of God," led by Dr. Jan K. Kraybill at the organ. Cornelis (Kees) Olijnsma from the Netherlands in the Western Europe Mission Center offered the invocation.

### Welcome New Leaders to the Rostrum

President Veazey welcomed the new members of the First Presidency, Presiding Bishopric, the new presiding evangelist, and the acting president of the High Priests Quorum to the rostrum.

### Letters of Greeting

President Veazey drew the assembly's attention to letters of greeting received from U.S. Senators Claire McCaskill and Roy Blunt of Missouri and from Independence Mayor Eileen N. Weir. These were found in the Monday *Bulletin*. The chair also indicated other greetings were printed in the Monday *Bulletin*, and others would be printed as received throughout the week.

### Modified I-1a Mission, Tithing, and Priesthood Response

President Veazey indicated item I-1a Mission, Tithing, and Priesthood Response was in the Monday *Bulletin* in English and Spanish on page 58 and in French on page 56. He noted the modified proposal would be considered Wednesday afternoon.

### Announcements

World Conference Director Susan K. Naylor was recognized to make several announcements and to conduct polling on a demographic question. The results:

Number of Votes Representing Each Area	Percentage	Count
Africa/Afrique	14.57%	297
Asia	2.60%	53
Canada	3.33%	68
Caribbean/Caraïbes/Caribe	6.47%	132
América Central (incluyendo México)	1.81%	37
Europe/Europa	1.72%	35
Pacific Islands/Iles du Pacifique	4.86%	99
América del sur	1.03%	21
United States/Estados Unidos	63.61%	1,297
<b>Totals</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2,039</b>

**Statement Regarding Consideration of the Words of Counsel**

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 have 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 were defeated, yet the entire document was approved?

After discussion and prayerful consideration, the Presidency believes the historical practice of voting only 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 parliamentary device, "Consider in *Seriatim*," (consider by paragraph), which accomplishes the process of discussing each paragraph, but voting only on the document as a whole.

President Veazey relinquished the chair to President K. Scott Murphy and retired from the Conference Chamber.

President Murphy made the following statement on how the process for consideration would proceed:

1. We will receive a motion and a second for the motion "that the words of counsel from President Stephen M. Veazey, dated April 5, 2016, be approved, and that the Conference authorize their inclusion in the book of Doctrine and Covenants."
2. We will receive reports from the councils, quorums, orders, mass meetings, and caucuses.
3. Then a series of steps will occur to allow open discussion of each paragraph:
  - a. I will call up a paragraph.

- b. The paragraph will be read aloud for the delegates.
  - c. Then the floor will be open for discussion about the paragraph.
4. When there are no further comments on the paragraph or when the assembly votes to “close discussion” on that paragraph, the presider will call up the next paragraph.
5. We will follow the same process for each of the six (6) paragraphs.
  - a. There will be discussion only.
  - b. We will not vote on individual paragraphs.
6. After all the paragraphs have been discussed, we will open the floor for general discussion on the entire document.
7. Finally, we will take one vote for approval of the entire words of counsel document by approving the resolution “that the words of counsel from President Stephen M. Veazey, dated April 5, 2016, be approved as inspired counsel to the church and that the Conference authorize their inclusion in the book of Doctrine and Covenants.”

This process is in harmony with the way inspired documents were considered for more than 100 years of our history. We believe we should use a process that matches our belief about the essential unity of inspired counsel rather than seeing these words as divisible into separate paragraphs.

Therefore, as we consider the words of counsel, this will be the process that will be followed.

The First Presidency believes this not only will honor our past, it will help us move into the future together as we seek to discern God’s will for the church.

### **Special Prayers**

The chair indicated that prior to consideration of the words of counsel, it was essential to open ourselves to the presence of God’s abiding love and peace, and allow ourselves the practice of discernment. Apostles Mareva M. Arnaud Tchong and Rick W. Maupin led the assembly in prayer.

### **Motion to Approve the Words of Counsel to the Church**

The chair recognized Apostle Bunda C. Chibwe for a motion. Apostle Chibwe moved “Je propose la motion que les paroles de conseil du Président Stephen M. Veazey, datées du 5 Avril 2016, soient approuvées et que la Conférence autorise leur inclusion dans le livre de Doctrine et Alliance. (English: I move “that the words of counsel from President Stephen M. Veazey, dated April 5, 2016, be approved and that the Conference authorize their inclusion in the book of Doctrine and Covenants.”) The motion received a second.

### **Moment of Blessing**

The assembly paused for a moment of blessing led by Katie L. Harmon-McLaughlin and Lachlan E. Mackay.

### **Reports of Councils, Quorums, Orders, Mass Meetings, and Caucuses**

The chair called for the reports of the councils, quorums, orders, mass meetings, and caucuses. They were presented as follows.

First Presidency read by Stassi D. Cramm:

*To the World Conference:*

The First Presidency has prayerfully journeyed and engaged with the words of counsel to the church and offer our full support and affirmation for their inclusion in the Doctrine and Covenants. From our personal and collective experience, we believe these words will have tremendous blessing for the church as we grow and move into the future.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Stassi D. Cramm*  
*K. Scott Murphy*  
*For the First Presidency*

Council of Twelve Apostles read by Barbara L. Carter:

*To the First Presidency and the World Conference:*

The Council of Twelve Apostles met June 5, 2016, and considered the words of counsel from President Stephen M. Veazey, dated April 5, 2016.

The Council of Twelve has been engaged in intentional prayer and discussion since the counsel was given by Prophet-President Stephen M. Veazey in 2013. We have sensed a growing sense of God's Spirit moving the church in mission to bring Christ's peace to the world. On June 5, 2016, the council continued in prayerful discernment and shared its witness that this counsel is, indeed, the mind and will of God for the church today. The council unanimously supported including the inspired counsel in the Doctrine and Covenants. We give thanks for Steve's steadfast leadership as he humbly serves the church.

*Linda L. Booth, president*  
*Barbara L. Carter, secretary*

Quorums of Seventy read by Larry M. McGuire:

*To the First Presidency and the World Conference*

The 10 quorums of seventy have met and prayerfully considered the words of counsel presented to the church by President Stephen M. Veazey on April 5, 2016. We are grateful for the prophetic leadership offered by Brother Veazey.

We recognize the challenge before us as we embrace this counsel as the mind and will of God. The opportunity for the church to consider this counsel has provided much-needed space to engage in meaningful conversation, prayer, and listening to one another. Thank you for this gift.

The 10 quorums of seventy have given approval for the words of counsel, and we recommend the approval of the document to the World Conference and the beloved Community of Christ.

*John S. Wight, senior president*  
*Larry M. McGuire, secretary*

Quorum of High Priests read by Willem F. van Klinken:

*To the First Presidency and the World Conference:*

The Quorum of High Priests met June 4, 5, and 6 and gave consideration to the words of counsel from President Stephen M. Veazey, dated April 5, 2016.

After ample reflection and discussion, the Quorum of High Priests approved these words of counsel and recommends to the World Conference that the words of counsel be included in the Doctrine and Covenants. The quorum is very appreciative of the leadership and vision provided by our prophet-president, Stephen M. Veazey, and is challenged to live the vision set forth in this document.

*David N. Anderson, acting president  
Willem F. van Klinken, secretary*

Order of Bishops read by Diane S. Martin:

*To the First Presidency and the World Conference:*

On Saturday, June 4, 2016, the Order of Bishops began consideration of the words of counsel from President Stephen M. Veazey, dated April 5, 2016. Consideration also was given during the order's meetings Sunday, June 5, 2016, and Monday, June 6, 2016.

After prayerful reflection in each meeting, the words of counsel were considered, and affirming testimonies were shared. The order expressed much joy while reflecting on the second paragraph as it embodies the ministry of generosity.

The order was grateful for the call to stewardship and the connection between tithing and mission. As those called to serve as ministers of generosity, the Order of Bishops is committed to support the church in embracing the challenges in the whole document, but especially in the second paragraph.

With trust and assurance, the Order of Bishops gave approval of the entire document and recommends the approval of the document to the World Conference.

*Stassi D. Cramm, presiding bishop  
Diane Martin, secretary pro tem*

Order of Evangelists read by Kristin D. Judd:

*To the First Presidency and the World Conference:*

The Order of Evangelists met June 5 and 6, 2016, and gave consideration to the words of counsel from President Stephen M. Veazey, dated April 5, 2016.

The Order of Evangelists approved a motion to approve the words of counsel from President Stephen M. Veazey, dated April 5, 2016, and recommend to the World

Conference that these words of counsel be approved and included in the Doctrine and Covenants.

*Jane M. Gardner, presiding evangelist  
Kris Judd, secretary*

Mass Meeting of Aaronic Priesthood read by Diana J. Hansen:

*To The First Presidency and the World Conference:*

The Aaronic Mass Meeting met June 4, 5, and 6, 2016, and considered the words of counsel from President Stephen M. Veazey, dated April 5, 2016.

The Aaronic Mass Meeting approved the words of counsel from President Veazey and recommends this document be approved by the World Conference. The Aaronic Mass Meeting also would like to extend its gratitude and continued support for the leadership of President Veazey.

*Donald Robb, president pro tem  
Diana Hansen, president pro tem  
Phyllis Gregg, secretary pro tem*

Mass Meeting of Elders read by Roxy D. Kellogg:

*To the First Presidency and the World Conference:*

Greetings:

The Mass Meeting of the Elders met June 5, 2016, and gave consideration to the words of counsel from President Stephen M. Veazey, dated April 5, 2016.

After prayerful consideration the body gave approval of the words of counsel and recommends to the World Conference that they be included in the Doctrine and Covenants.

The assembly expresses deep appreciation for President Veazey's prayerful deliberations as he seeks words to express God's will for Community of Christ today.

*Debora J. Crowley, president pro tem  
Margaret A. (Peggy) Young, president pro tem  
Roxy D. Kellogg, secretary pro tem*

Children and Youth Caucus read by Morgan A. Carlile:

*To the First Presidency and the World Conference:*

Greetings:

The Children and Youth Delegate Caucus met June 5, 2016, and considered the words of counsel from President Stephen M. Veazey, dated April 5, 2016.

After much deliberation and discussion the Children and Youth Delegate Caucus voted in support of the words of counsel. We look forward to how the words of counsel will continue to challenge and inspire members and friends of Community of Christ.

*Greg Wilson, president pro tem  
Tyler Horinga, president pro tem  
Sally Norton, secretary pro tem*

English-speaking Delegate Caucus read by V. Diane Maupin:

*To the First Presidency and the World Conference:*

Greetings:

The English-speaking Delegate Caucus met June 5, 2016, and gave consideration to the words of counsel from President Stephen M. Veazey, dated April 5, 2016.

After reading and discussing, a motion that "Stephen M. Veazey's words of counsel of April 5, 2016, be approved," the motion was passed by a significant margin, and the caucus recommends to the World Conference that it be approved and published in the Doctrine and Covenants.

*V. Diane Maupin, president pro tem  
Jared E. Sloan, president pro tem  
Laura J. Bolton, secretary pro tem*

French-speaking Caucus read by Baka Blé:

*To the First Presidency and the Conference:*

The French-speaking Caucus met June 5, 2016, to consider the words of counsel of President Stephen M. Veazey. With prayer and consideration, the caucus unanimously approved the words of counsel from President Veazey and unanimously recommended their inclusion in the Doctrine and Covenants.

*Baka Blé, president pro tem  
Steven Piehi, secretary pro tem*

Spanish-speaking Caucus read by Gonzalo A. Mejia:

*To the First Presidency and the World Conference:*

The meeting of the Spanish-speaking Caucus on June 6, 2016, was led by the temporary president of the caucus. The document was read, and a discussion of the words of counsel from our brother, Stephen M. Veazey, followed.

After a time of worship and meditation, it was discussed—paragraph by paragraph—and determined to be in suitable form. It was approved unanimously and recommended for Conference approval.

*Gonzalo Mejia, president pro tem  
Luis Vásquez, secretary pro tem*

Tahitian-speaking Caucus read by Raiarii B. Tama

*To the First Presidency and the World Conference:*

The Tahitian-speaking Caucus met June 5, 2016, at 1:30 p.m. to consider the words of counsel of President Stephen M. Veazey, dated April 5, 2016.

Every paragraph has been read and has been discussed.

The caucus approved the whole document by a majority. The Tahitian-speaking Caucus recommends approval of the words of counsel and that it be included in Doctrine and Covenants.

*M. Raiarii Tama, president pro tem  
Nova Tama, secretary pro tem*

After hearing all the reports, the chair expressed thanks to the translators for all their work.

### **Consideration of Words of Counsel**

The assembly then began formal consideration of the words of counsel. Paragraphs one and two were discussed, with no vote taken on the paragraphs.

### **Recess**

The assembly recessed for lunch at 11:59 a.m. to reconvene at 2:00 p.m.

### **Reconvene**

President Murphy called the assembly back to order at 2:01 p.m. The assembly sang the hymn, “Come, Holy Spirit, Come.”

### **Moment of Blessing**

Kristin D. Judd, Charmaine L. Chvala-Smith, and Richard W. Holmes led the assembly in a moment of blessing.

### **Continued Consideration of Words of Counsel**

The assembly continued discussion on the words of counsel beginning with paragraph three.

Blair K. White, Bountiful USA Mission Center, moved to close debate on paragraph 3. There was a second. With the use of the polling devices, the vote was taken. The result was 1,468 yes and 495 no. The chair declared that the motion to close debate was adopted by the required two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote.

Discussion continued on paragraphs 4, 5, and 6.

Amanda S.V. Vanaa, French Polynesia Mission Centre, moved to close debate on paragraph 6. There was a second. With the use of the polling devices, the vote was taken. The result was 1,964 yes and 105 no. The chair declared that the motion to close debate was adopted by the required two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote.

**Recess**

The chair noted the review of each paragraph was completed. The chair then declared a 15-minute recess at 3:30 p.m.

**Reconvene**

The chair called the assembly back to order at 3:45 p.m.

The chair reminded the assembly of the time remaining in the afternoon session. There were two important pieces of business to conclude, including the conclusion of the consideration of words of counsel and the prioritization of business. The floor then was opened for consideration of the entire words of counsel.

Following discussion, Dale E. Luffman, Greater Pacific Northwest USA Mission Center, moved to close debate. There was a second. With the use of the polling devices, the vote was taken. The result was 1,680 yes and 317 no. The chair declared that the motion to close debate was adopted by the required two-thirds ( $\frac{2}{3}$ ) vote.

The chair took the vote on approving the motion “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.” The vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

The chair indicated that, as was customary, the entire assembly (delegates and visitors) would be allowed to express their will concerning the words of counsel. The vote was taken, and it prevailed.

The chair then appointed the following persons as the escort committee for President Veazey: Apostle Linda L. Booth, Bishop Michele K. McGrath, President-designate of the Quorum of High Priests David N. Anderson, and Senior President of Seventy John S. Wight. The committee left the Conference Chamber.

While the assembly awaited the return of the president, the hymn, “God of Grace and God of Glory,” was sung.

President Murphy expressed his appreciation to the assembly for its spirit, heart, and the manner of discussing the words of counsel. He said the presence of Christ-like love shapes who we are and that it was a privilege to serve the church in this way. He asked the assembly to rise and sing the hymn, “We Thank You, O God, for Our Prophets.” As the hymn was sung, the appointed committee escorted President Veazey and his wife, Cathi D. Cackler-Veazey, down the center aisle of the Conference Chamber and onto the rostrum.

President Murphy said, “President Veazey, it is my privilege to inform you the World Conference has considered the words of counsel to the church, which you have presented. Through prayer and meaningful sharing of perspectives, this World Conference has approved these words of counsel as inspired guidance to the church and authorized their inclusion in the book of Doctrine and Covenants. We are deeply grateful for your love for the church and for your prophetic leadership. As a body we offer you our heartfelt support at this important time in the life of the church.”

President Veazey then made the following statement of appreciation to the Conference:

Today I honor and respect my predecessors in this office.

I would like to thank President Murphy for presiding over consideration of the words of counsel. Also, I deeply appreciate the Conference’s expression of consent and approval for placing the words in the Doctrine and Covenants.

The person who knows me best is my wife, Cathi. On May 24 we celebrated our 30th anniversary. Cathi has seen me struggle and agonize over a number of issues and my own sense of inadequacy as I have tried to respond to the responsibilities I have been given. Her loving support, encouragement, and confidence in me have been a blessing on numerous occasions. Also, she has had to sacrifice so much, including giving up her own career as a full-time minister and church staff member, so I can serve in this role.

In terms of these words of counsel, the greater challenge is still before us. How will these words be enfolded in our lives, families, interpersonal relationships, congregations, and worldwide church? I pray and hope that one day the words of counsel we have received and accepted will describe who we are more than who we are called to become.

As Geoff Spencer wrote in his hymn, “The Living Word of Scripture” (*Community of Christ Sings* 65):

That [the] story is not ended, for still God’s voice is heard through all who bear the calling to be the living word.

Each of us is divinely called to be the Living Word! Thank you.

**Reports of World Church Teams**

President Veazey asked the delegates to note the reports of World Church teams printed in the *Legislation* booklet beginning in English and Spanish on page 21, and in French on page 20.

Informational Reports	English Page #	Spanish Page #	French Page #
H-1 Diversity Team	21	21	20
H-2 Earth Stewardship Team	23	23	22
H-3 Ecumenical and Interfaith Ministries Team	26	26	26
H-4 Health and Wholeness Team	27	28	28
H-5 Human-rights Team	29	30	30
H-6 Ministry and Priesthood Team	31	31	31
H-7 Theology Formation Team	32	33	33
H-7a Theology Formation Team: Report on WCR 1301	35	36	36
H-8 World Church Peace and Justice Team	39	40	41
H-9 World Hunger/Tangible Love Team	42	43	44

The chair drew special attention to the First Presidency report in the Saturday/Sunday *Bulletin* and the Report of the Theology Formation Team on WCR 1301 “Baptism and Membership.” The chair said that to fully understand the depth of the review conducted, the assembly should turn to the report of the Theology Formation Team found in the *Legislation* booklet in English on page 35, and in Spanish and French on page 36.

### **Prioritization of Conference Business**

The chair recognized Debora J. Crowley, co-chair of the Common Consent Team, and asked her to lead the assembly through prioritizing business.

The assembly was asked to turn in the Conference materials to the prioritization list found in the Monday *Bulletin* in English and Spanish on page 60, and in French on page 58. She reminded the assembly that on the previous day delegates had been asked to complete the prioritization worksheet by identifying which items of business were more important and timely for consideration by this World Conference. It was indicated the results of the priority poll would be used by the First Presidency as it “formulates and adjusts” the agenda each day, as specified in the Conference Standing Rules.

After a few moments for the delegates to further consider the items of business, the prioritization poll was taken. The results:

1. Issues of (Priesthood) Morality (G-1)
2. Time for Introduction of New Business (C-4)
3. Supporting Indigenous Peoples (G-7)
4. World Conference Resolution Publication (C-6)
5. Palestine and Israel (G-6)
6. Opposition to Predatory Loan Practices (G-5)
7. Closed Captioning (G-2)

	<b>Items of Business</b>	<b>Weighted Votes</b>	<b>Prioritization Ranking</b>
<b>A</b>	Time for Introduction of New Business (C-4)	8,729	2
<b>B</b>	World Conference Resolution Publication (C-6)	7,983	4
<b>C</b>	Issues of (Priesthood) Morality (G-1)	11,115	1
<b>D</b>	Closed Captioning (G-2)	7,002	7
<b>E</b>	Opposition to Predatory Loan Practices (G-5)	7,133	6
<b>F</b>	Palestine and Israel (G-6)	7,815	5
<b>G</b>	Supporting Indigenous Peoples (G-7)	8,620	3

The chair noted that the following day the report of the Presiding Bishopric would be received. The assembly was encouraged to read the *Financials* booklet to better understand the oral report that would be shared. The chair further indicated there would be time for questions from the assembly.

### **Closing Hymn and Prayer**

President Veazey announced the singing of the closing hymn, “There’s an Old, Old Path,” after which the closing prayer was given by S. Tristan Ward and Tyler S. Ward from the Gulf USA Mission Center. The assembly adjourned at 4:42 p.m. to meet again at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, June 7, 2016.

Susan D. Sloan  
World Church Secretary