



# Community of Christ

## A Time to Act!

September 20, 2017

### Key Takeaways

*President Steve Veazey shared words of calling, hope, and possibility as well as the reality of current financial issues. Key points:*

#### **A Future of Calling, Hope, and Possibility**

- Our future is related directly to our willingness to go where the Spirit is calling us.
- Gatherings can happen anywhere, anytime, not dependent on owning buildings or property. Various forms will continue, and new ones will emerge.
- We remain connected through the practices of spiritual formation, community, compassionate ministry, and action that are true to Christ's vision and mission.

#### **Church Develops the Following Plan to Fund the Retirement Responsibility**

- Currently the defined benefit trust balance is \$25 million.
- The remaining \$115 million responsibility will be funded through:
  - \$38 million in current pledges to the Bridge of Hope project.
  - New pledges to the Bridge of Hope project.
  - \$31.5 million from net proceeds of the Printer's Manuscript sale.
  - Future sales of other historic assets and property less essential to mission.
- The current defined contribution retirement plan is funded through compensation costs in the annual Worldwide Mission budget.

#### **Current Budget Situation in 2017**

- Tithing in calendar year 2017 is projected to be behind budget by \$1.5 million.
- There is time to reverse this trend before the year ends.

#### **Contributors—Now and in the Future**

- Many faithful disciples already are giving generously. Thank you!
- Priesthood members are called to embrace the stewardship principles of the church and examine their own practices so they can teach and encourage others.

- There is a need to invite new and current members and friends to support mission financially.

### **The Fiscal Year 2019 Budget (Begins July 2018) Will Be Reduced \$5 Million**

- This will be achieved through reductions in church services, resources, and staff.
- Details will be provided in mid-November 2017.

### **Future Mission-funding Model**

- New approaches to funding mission are being explored.
- Church-wide conversations will occur during 2018 about these potential new models.

## **How Can We Help?**

*President Veazey shared several concrete actions we can take to move forward:*

- 1. Pray to see clearly how the Spirit is guiding our journey as a church.**
  - a. Create a circle of prayer with your friends, family, and congregation.
  - b. Join with Tony Chvala-Smith in 30 days of prayer over the question, “What more can I personally do to help Community of Christ not limp along, but thrive!”
- 2. Encourage individuals to give this year to meet the tithing goal for 2017 and beyond.**
  - a. Make a pledge (USA and Canada) to Worldwide Mission Tithes to help close the budget deficit.
  - b. Collectively we can close the gap if all current contributors gave just \$1.50 per day between now and the end of the year. That’s \$50 per month or \$150 total.
  - c. Set up (or adjust) a recurring contribution through [eTithing](#) as a way to share regularly through Local and Worldwide Mission Tithes.
- 3. Make a congregational pledge to decrease the \$5 million budget reduction of staff and services planned for 2018.**
  - a. Determine what your congregation can pledge over the next three years.
  - b. [Fill out this pledge form](#) by December 31, 2017, so leaders can plan accordingly.
- 4. Join the worldwide conversation in preparation for the 2019 World Conference.**
  - a. Discuss how your congregation can represent the vision of Christ through spiritual formation, community, compassionate ministry, and action.
  - b. Consider what new funding models can support mission into the future.