



# Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

March 31, 2016

To Mission Center Officers, Pastors, and Congregations in the USA:

In September 2015, congregations and members were informed of a change in the USA Field configuration identified as Leading Mission in the USA. Under the leadership of apostles assigned to the USA, a new vision and model of leading mission was implemented January 1, 2016.

Since the announcement of the recent world mission budget reduction for fiscal year 2017, the apostles assigned to the USA and First Presidency have reflected on how to best support mission and the church in the USA. With fewer full-time leaders in the field, the apostolic team and Presidency knew critical decisions had to be made, requiring changes in the USA field model.

Beginning March 31, 2016, the USA will be structured into six fields with an apostle assigned to each. With the elimination of the mission support leader positions, USA apostles will work directly with mission center officers and priesthood members in their assigned field. This will allow the apostolic call and function for leading mission to occur in partnership with mission center leaders while having administrative responsibility for a designated field.

The new fields in the USA and the apostolic assignments:

**Central USA Mission Field—Janné Grover, apostle designate**

**Mission centers:** Central, Central Missouri, Far West, Gateway, Midlands

**Functional assignment:** Disciple and Priesthood Formation Ministries

**North Central USA Mission Field—Robin Linkhart, apostle designate**

**Mission centers:** Cedar Valley-Nauvoo, Inland West, Chicago, Headwaters, Lamoni Heartland, Prairie Bluffs

**Functional assignment:** Latter-day seeker ministry

**Northeast USA Mission Field—Lachlan Mackay, apostle designate**

**Mission centers:** Chesapeake Bay, Eastern Great Lakes, Mid-Atlantic, Michigan, New England

**Functional assignment:** Historic Sites, sacred story

**South Central USA Mission Field—Linda Booth, apostle**

**Mission centers:** Rio Grande, Heart of Texas, Coastal Bend, Oklahoma, Ark-La-Tex, Mid-South

**Functional assignment:** Communications, president of the Council of Twelve Apostles

**Southeast USA Mission Field—Barbara Carter, apostle**

**Mission centers:** Alabama-Northwest Florida, Brush Creek, Florida, Gulf, Kentucky-Indiana, Southeast, South Central States, Bountiful, Western Ohio

**Functional assignment:** secretary of the Council of Twelve Apostles, Ecumenical and Interfaith Ministries

**West USA Mission Field—Ron Harmon, apostle**

**Mission centers:** Greater Pacific Northwest, Sierra Pacific, Arizona, Rocky Mountain, Pacific, Southwest International

**Functional assignment:** president, Pacific Southwest International Mission Center; USA Team lead, Leading Congregations in Mission

On March 31 Robin Linkhart will be released from her current assignment as president of seventy to serve as apostle designate. Janné Grover and Lachlan Mackay will continue in their current assignments in addition to serving as apostle designates. All three will be assigned by the First Presidency to provide leadership and supervision to an apostolic field under the guidance of the director of Field Ministries. They will participate in Council of Twelve meetings and other World Church leadership gatherings according to their assignments and responsibilities.

I recognize this changes the direction we were moving with respect to field organization in the USA. Although we are moving back into fields to be more responsive with limited staff, we remain committed to the organizing principle that led to the USA Model for Mission—a focus on freeing disciples, priesthood, and leaders for mission. Apostolic team members are committed to working together across field boundaries to support mission opportunities emerging across the USA. In the coming weeks, you will receive more information from the apostolic team regarding other adjustments to leadership positions.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we all work together to support the church and mission opportunities in the USA.

In the spirit of peace,

K. Scott Murphy  
First Presidency  
director of Field Ministries