This generosity report tells a remarkable story. It’s our sacred story...a story of a church community responding to its call and mission while facing great challenges, needs, and opportunities. It’s an inspiring story about vision, faithfulness, and generosity that makes a huge difference in the lives of people nearby and around the world.

While 2016 has started with financial challenges, we should take this opportunity to reflect on 2015 and see the positive impact on mission made possible through your generosity. The following pages hold clear evidence of the difference you make as we live the five Mission Initiatives. You will see how every day all around the world people are being led to Christ; poverty and injustices are being alleviated; broken relationships are being restored; leaders and disciples are being trained; and congregations are being strengthened as they embody and share the good news. The facts, figures, and testimonies in this report not only inform, they do so much more. The positive impact of the church is much greater than most may assume. And it’s all because of your faithful discipleship and generosity.

I challenge us to be a church that remembers with gratitude our sacred story and how far God has brought us. May we embrace our history as well as our future and courageously keep dreaming and visioning.

On behalf of those whose lives are being transformed, thank you for your faithful support as together we boldly seek to live Christ’s mission and create communities of joy, hope, love and peace.

Stephen M. Veazey, president of the church
INVITE PEOPLE TO CHRIST

My departure from jurisdictional church leadership involvement, although intentional for a period of time, spanned more than a decade when life took over with career advancements, property renovations, and the launch of a personal business.

One peaceful evening, I sat on the dock of our lake reflecting on my life. It was an idyllic moment of creation’s beauty, but as I pondered this bliss I sensed emptiness within myself. I knew the reason. In the stillness of this moment it flooded over me. Nothing I could do stopped the once-familiar “knowing” reality of God from being present with me, and there was a deep awareness that the pursuits of my life were not what I had always envisioned for myself. I was ashamed of who I was.

Despite my life’s detours, I felt the sweeping love and transforming grace of God enabling me to start afresh. My wife and I decided to move and reconnect with a congregation in Hamilton, Ontario, Canada.

Today, I openly express my story for others to know they, too, can experience this grace and recognize the capacity within their lives to respond and make a difference. The Mission Prayer of invitation is an intentional, discerning part of my every day. I share so others, too, may share, and that this sacred community may transform the world into a peaceful setting like the one I experienced on my dock.

—Kerry Richards, Stoney Creek, Ontario, Canada

Jesus and Community of Christ collided with me. I know this might sound crazy, but God has invaded the place where I buried myself. God has changed me. I love God so much, and I love this church. My son, my dad, my best friend, her daughter, and I are all baptized and confirmed.

—Sammie, Chattanooga, Tennessee, USA
2,200,000 PAGES VIEWED ON WWW.COFCHRIST.ORG

208,000 VISITORS TO WWW.COFCHRIST.ORG FROM MORE THAN 200 COUNTRIES

31,000 VISITORS TO KIRTLAND TEMPLE (95% of visitors were not current members of Community of Christ.)

11,656 VISITORS TO THE TEMPLE IN INDEPENDENCE

2,500 PEOPLE REACHED OUT ONLINE for more information about Community of Christ

67% INCREASE in followers on social-media channels

325 FIRST-TIME VISITORS to congregations in Salt Lake City and Ogden, Utah

48 NEW FAMILIES ATTENDING regularly through Restoration-heritage seeker ministry in USA
ABOLISH POVERTY, END SUFFERING

It is not enough just to care for people in their suffering. The mission includes ministries that release people from unfair or crushing conditions that cause suffering. Jesus’ mission is about restoring people to wholeness in healthy community.

So we must address the root causes of poverty, hunger, discrimination, and conflict. These conditions keep large numbers of people from realizing their potential, while others flourish.

—President Steven M. Veazey, 2011 address to the church

I love the food we get at school. We have rice, and vegetables, and even meat! We never have meat at home. We cannot afford it. My parents are also pleased because they don’t have to spend so much money on food for me and my brother. Instead, they use that money to buy books for my education.”

—Danielle, 14, Haiti
$1,967,000 IN WORLD HUNGER GRANTS  
(spring 2013–autumn 2015)

$255,000 IN TANGIBLE LOVE GRANTS  
(spring 2013–autumn 2015)

78 PROJECTS FUNDED THROUGH WORLD HUNGER/TANGIBLE LOVE GRANTS

- USA
- Guatemala
- El Salvador
- Honduras
- Bolivia
- Chile
- England
- Haiti
- Nepal
- India
- Philippines
- Ivory Coast
- D.R. Congo
- Zambia
- Malawi

$10,000 provided to Syria for the refugee crisis

$25,000 given for Nepal earthquake aid

$5,000 provided to 270 families in Malawi after flooding
They were standing near our church facility, waiting. The mother was in her mid-40s, and her son was 15. They had contacted me by a social network, an increasingly common practice in Russia.

The boy had made eight suicide attempts because of rejection by classmates. He didn’t fit into his peer group because of his lower economic status. He believed he was nothing because they couldn’t afford cell phones or tablets.

We talked about the pain of rejection. Larisa, the mother, and I decided to start an Internet project to help others suffering from social injury, especially people who were suicide risks. In the first month, we put 1,800 people on our list. Most used nicknames because Russia views suicide as shameful.

I pray that somehow through this ministry brought about by Larisa and her son, people will realize they are of worth and too precious to take their own lives. It helps remind me that God uses our hands to do God’s will.

—Sergei Bogolepov, Novosibirsk, Russia

You are called to create pathways in the world for peace in Christ to be relationally and culturally incarnate.... Above all else, strive to be faithful to Christ’s vision of the peaceable Kingdom of God on earth. Courageously challenge cultural, political, and religious trends that are contrary to the reconciling and restoring purposes of God. Pursue peace.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:3a–b
14,000 PARTICIPANTS IN GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION IN ODISHA, INDIA

20 RECIPIENTS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PEACE AWARD (since its inception)

411 INDIVIDUALS participated in classes/events offered through the Children’s Peace Pavilion

3,893 VISITORS TO THE CHILDREN’S PEACE PAVILION

365 DAILY PRAYER FOR PEACE SERVICES OFFERED AT THE TEMPLE IN INDEPENDENCE

1,095 HOURS volunteered for daily prayer for peace
I didn’t grow up in this church, in any church. When I was a senior in college, I entered the body of Christ through the love of an aunt and uncle—in another denomination—in Des Moines, Iowa. Since then, many friends in this church have become my family, steering me along my journey.

It’s not that I was a bad person before. I respected others and treated them well. I got good grades, worked extra hard when I got a job, stayed out of trouble. But something didn’t feel right. There was a big hole, and I couldn’t fill it until some good people showed me there was something more.

I’ve been blessed to grow in my understanding of grace and what it means to know I never can do anything so wrong that I’m beyond the love of Christ. This is a belief that I hope I bring to my family and others.

To be sure, my journey is not over. I’m still learning, still faltering, still resisting. And I’m still being picked up by God’s love. The decision to join Christ was the most important of my life. Put simply: It changed everything.

—Greg Clark, Independence, Missouri, USA

As much as I had prepared for my World Service Corps mission, I still found it humbling and filled with culture shock. I chose to view differences and diversity not as sources of conflict, division, and distrust, but of strength and inspiration. These experiences will remain in my heart forever.

—Lawson C. Mushibwe, Ndola, Zambia
9,017 **VISITORS** from 97 countries to www.spiritualformationcenter.org

8,056 **HITS** to lessons and ideas on www.CofChrist.org

500 **DOWNLOADS** of Doctrine and Covenants e-book

6,254 **VOLUNTEER HOURS** given at International Headquarters worth approximately $141,033

341 **VOLUNTEERS** serving at International Headquarters and historic sites

23 **WORLD SERVICE CORPS VOLUNTEERS** from nine countries

18 **WORLD SERVICE CORPS MISSIONS** funded in 11 countries

814 **PARTICIPANTS** at 20 retreats/gatherings at Kirtland Spiritual Formation Center

168 **PARTICIPANTS** in Ministerial Education And Discipleship Studies (MEADS) classes (68 international participants)

78 **STUDENTS** in e-learning classes
EXPERIENCE CONGREGATIONS IN MISSION

The church is growing. It is moving through vulnerability with courage. I am humbled by the presence of Spirit and vision in a congregation I am working with. They have few in the pews on Sunday mornings, but they host a dinner for people who may not be able to afford eating out.

As I watch this event unfold I see Christ being present. There are hugging, smiling, stories, laughing, and handshakes. Most important, the people are forming community.

Being missional is responding to our discipleship, not with an agenda for creating megachurches or extravagant programs, but for living into the movements of God around and through us in our communities and contexts. The missional church courageously moves forward with a powerful, stubborn hope in a culture full of doubt, anxiety, and fear.

I certainly understand the complexities and difficulties, but I am not concerned with numbers or budget. I am empowered and inspired by Christ’s mission and encouraged by hope.

—Zac Harmon-McLaughlin, Walnut Creek, California, USA

When we decided to start the Jesus and Me outreach program, our congregation no longer became a congregation that was really concerned because of participation. Now we have a purpose. It is redefining what we think church is and when we think church is.

—Heather Donofrio, Pensacola, Florida, USA

Photos by Wayne Gassmann; Dave Wheaton; Jaylene O’Keefe; Jude Vickery; Wayne Rowe; aradaphotography | Dollar Photo Club
163,000 visits to worship resources on website
44,630 weekly worship services

11,190 individuals attended reunions, camps, or retreats
1,643 paid or volunteer pastors
101 congregations in the USA, British Isles, Canada, and Australia participating in Leading Congregations in Mission
765 individuals participating in Leading Congregations in Mission
24 leading congregations in mission retreats

300 French and English versions of Community of Christ Sings distributed in Eastern Africa
69 reunions held around the world using Live, Love, Share...Resources
30 congregational mission projects shared in Herald magazine
FUNDING FOR MISSION

Calendar year 2015 presented significant financial challenges as the world church experienced budget reductions. Then calendar year 2016 began with more difficulties as leaders determined that another budget reduction was necessary. Fall 2015 and spring 2016 were very difficult as gifted, committed staff were let go. Our staff levels are lower than anyone would like, and we are working to find new ways to support the church in living Christ’s mission.

In the midst of this difficult time, the church continued to respond generously. We are grateful for the $13 million shared by the church in calendar year 2015 as described in this annual report. Then as leaders struggled with additional budget reductions in spring 2016, the church supported a grassroots effort to increase tithing commitment above the $13 million planned level for calendar year 2016. Based on the one-time contributions and the commitments received for increased tithing for calendar years 2016–2019, almost $1 million of positions were saved. Based on these commitments, we have made preliminary budget plans to be able to maintain this staff level through fiscal year 2019.

We are called to be generous disciples by giving to our true capacity in every phase of life—receiving God’s grace and love every day through Christ and then sharing Christ in tangible ways as we serve others and help build God’s vision of Shalom. Through your generous contributions, we are building a strong financial foundation with several funding strategies. Your ongoing Worldwide Mission Tithes are supporting our annual World Church budget. At the 2016 World Conference we will introduce a USA and two mission funding campaigns to develop endowments to strengthen our financial future. Additionally, families continue to support mission beyond their lifetimes by designating gifts through their wills or estates.

God is with us and is already setting the stage for our continued faith journey. Be assured that your generosity is making a difference in helping the church continue to be a transforming presence in the places we live and serve. All of us—priesthood, members, friends, disciples of Christ—are invited and challenged to join in this divinely led mission.

Stassi Cramm,
acting presiding bishop

Steve Graffeo,
member of Acting
Presiding Bishopric

Michele McGrath
member of Acting
Presiding Bishopric
$13,000,000 GIVEN in Worldwide Mission Tithes in 2015

2016 GOAL
$15,100,000 ($1,260,000 per month)

$197,500 CONTRIBUTED on Giving Tuesday, December 1, 2015

10,025 CONTRIBUTORS to Worldwide Mission Tithes

1,374 NEW OR RE-ENGAGED CONTRIBUTORS to Worldwide Mission Tithes

FOUR WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT MISSION

- **Offertory Envelopes** (available from your congregation’s financial officer)
- **Online** (contributing at www.CofChrist.org/give)
- **PAT Pre-authorized Transfer** (find the form at www.CofChrist.org/give)
- **Legacy Giving** (give a gift through your will or estate, missionfunding@CofChrist.org)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Jesus Christ, the embodiment of God’s shalom, invites all people to come and receive divine peace in the midst of the difficult questions and struggles of life. Follow Christ in the way that leads to God’s peace and discover the blessings of all of the dimensions of salvation.

—Doctrine and Covenants 163:2a