

HIGH PRIEST NEWSLETTER

Spring 2016

What a Privilege!

Jane Gardner, President, High Priest Quorum



World Conference 2016 will be the final chapter in a nine-year journey we have traveled together. Where did the time go?

It has been my privilege and honor to be associated with this quorum. You have participated in and supported the unfolding evolution of what it means to be a High Priest in Community of Christ. You are generous and willing to be servantleaders. You continue to provide leadership, publically and behind the scenes, and you especially embody these words:

*God is calling for a prophetic community to emerge, drawn from the nations of the world that is characterized by **uncommon devotion** to the compassion and peace of God revealed in Jesus Christ.*

--Doctrine and Covenants 163:11a
emphasis added

I have witnessed that you exemplify this “uncommon devotion” in your living, giving, sharing, and visionary leadership. When the quorum is at its best, what an awesome, Zion-building power it is.

Introducing David Anderson



David N. Anderson, in addition to his primary role as director of Human Resource Ministries, is called to serve as president of the High Priests Quorum. As the personification of high priestly ministry revealed in Jesus Christ, Brother Anderson will motivate and equip high priests throughout the church to fulfill their calling as ministers of vision, leadership, and sacrificial servanthood. He will continue to inspire high priests to lead the church in generosity to support Christ’s mission. As president of the quorum, he also will have opportunity to shape educational experiences to prepare high priests for leadership and ministry in today’s culturally and spiritually complex world.

--From the Letter of Council, March 31, 2016

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What would my challenges to you be? Here are just a few:

- ▶ Take the new training course *Ministry of the High Priest: Ministers of Vision*. Be open to new understandings and be ready to redefine your ministry
- ▶ Make yourself available to your mission center and your apostle. Your leadership is not only needed, but it can provide the underpinning of the church's mission in your area.
- ▶ Specifically identify two or three people (at least!) that you are mentoring and preparing to assume more leadership in your area. Think especially about young adults and youth who need your encouragement.
- ▶ Spend time daily going deeper into Spirit. Without the discipline of scripture study, prayer, meditation and other spiritual practices, our ministry can become self-centered and stale. The Spirit is ready to bless you! And when this happens, God's people are also blessed.

I know with a certainty that this quorum of gifted, focused, and dedicated ministers is an essential factor in the longed-for realization of God's reign on earth. It's a big responsibility—perhaps, at times, a burden. But there we are—ministers of vision who recognize God with us. Let us name where God is at work in the world and lead others to join us, to become meaningful and memorable communities of joy, hope, love and peace.

May the peace of Jesus Christ invade your life with affirmations of your call to High Priest and may you take your place among the cloud of witnesses who are making a difference in this time, around the globe. That is my fervent prayer for you and for the church.

David Anderson serves as director of human resource ministries at Community of Christ International Headquarters. He holds the priesthood office of high priest.

David received a bachelor of science from United States Air Force Academy and a masters of international public policy from the Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, The Johns Hopkins University, Washington, DC, as well as a masters of arts in Christian ministries from Community of Christ Seminary. He was in the Olmsted Scholar program at Uppsala University, Sweden, studying peace and war research and international affairs. Additionally, he served as a fellow at the Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace at Stanford University. Currently, he is a doctorate of ministry student at Hazelip School of Theology.

Prior to full-time employment with the church, David served 30 years in the United States Air Force as a pilot, teacher and diplomat. As a church appointee, David previously held positions of apostolic assistant for the Eurasia Mission Field and mission center president for the Chesapeake Bay, Western European and Eurasia Mission Centres.

David spent 15 years living in Belgium, Italy, Japan, Korea, and Sweden. He received Sweden's Royal Order of the Polar Star as well as the Santos-Dumont Merit Award from Brazil.

E-mail Delivery

The newsletter for the High Priest Quorum is now delivered through e-mail. With less support staff and a fervent wish to save trees, we have gone electronic.

Please help us spread the word and make sure that all High Priests receive a copy.

Subscribe free online to receive the newsletter's electronic copy at:

<http://cofchrist.us1.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=35dc4dcd10932f0ebafe02d2a&id=f48ceebc2e>

RECENT ORDINATIONS

SEPTEMBER 1, 2015 TO PRESENT

<u>Name</u>	<u>Office</u>	<u>Country</u>
Arthur Woodcock Jr.	High Priest	USA
Bobbie Ann Robinson	Evangelist	USA
Dar Shepherdson	Bishop	Canada
Darcy Boles	High Priest	USA
Debbie Bartlett	High Priest	USA
Elaine Kerr-Morgan	Evangelist	Canada
Hal Davis	Evangelist	USA
Hap Frizzell	Evangelist	USA
Hazel Browne	Evangelist	USA
Jane McDonald	Bishop	USA
Jeri Grigg	Evangelist	USA
Jim Cummings II	Evangelist	USA
John R. Black	Evangelist	Canada
Larry Porter	High Priest	Canada
Linda Lewis	High Priest	USA
Linda Porter	Evangelist	Canada
Marvin Whiteaker	Evangelist	USA
Mel Crowley	Evangelist	USA
Ruth Black	Evangelist	Canada
Steve Newby	Bishop	USA
Steve Qualman	High Priest	USA
Wendy Brook	High Priest	USA

“Sing a New Song”

-David Anderson, High Priest Quorum, President Designee

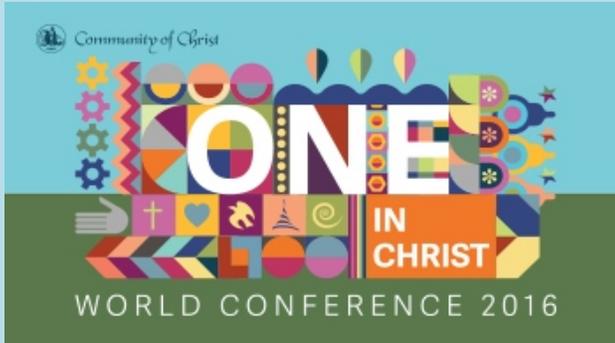
O sing to the Lord a new song, for He has done marvelous things...God has remembered God's steadfast love and faithfulness....Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises. Sing praises to the Lord with the lyre, with the lyre and the sound of melody. With trumpets and the sound of the horn make a joyful noise before the King, the Lord. Let the sea roar, and all that fills it; the world and those who live in it. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy at the presence of the Lord. God will judge the world with righteousness, and the peoples with equity.

Psalm 98 is one of my favorite psalms. I like it because the verses remind me to rejoice, to celebrate, and to make a joyful noise in all aspects of my life. Its message provides wisdom for each one of us.

We are well aware of the wonderful things happening in our world. We feel love, witness miracles of nature, and share in joys of family and community. However, we also acknowledge and witness ugliness, messiness, chaos, pain, suffering, economic uncertainty, injustice, and violence all over the world and in our own communities and in families. Additionally, there are natural disasters, a squandering of natural resources, greed, avarice, self-aggrandizement, pride and self-centeredness. So with all of these troubling issues, how can we, as High Priests, join with others to “make a joyful noise to the Lord?” Why should we?

Our answer lies in the reaffirmation of our Christian conviction that God's steadfast love has cosmic significance. God is actively engaged in our world. We are called to bring God's presence wherever we live. This message is good news of immense love and compassion. It is a sign of hope. Our psalm reminds us of God's love and compassion now and into the future. It is this God that we, as High Priests, represent in our communities--a God of love, mercy and compassion.

WORLD CONFERENCE 2016



HIGH PRIEST QUORUM MEETING SCHEDULE

Location: Stone Church Sanctuary

All High Priests are invited to
these sessions

June 4—Saturday
1:30-3:00pm

June 5—Sunday
1:30-2:30pm

June 6—Monday
8:30-10:00am

June 7—Tuesday
8:30-10:00am

June 8—Wednesday
8:30-10:00am

June 9—Thursday
8:30-10:00am

“Sing a New Song”

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Our community believes that Zion, God’s peaceable kingdom, is coming. It is the triumph of mercy, love, justice, and peace which embraces all of God’s creation. We are called to rejoice, to live out, and to share generously the promise of God’s Shalom.

Even in the midst of the chaos and loss we experience, we lament, as the psalmists did. However, ultimately, we are called to make a joyful noise as shared in this Psalm regardless of where or how we live. Let us sound the horn and make a joyful noise! This joy, this new song, is not an escape from the pain of life; instead, it is a celebration of and response to all aspects of life—good as well as the bad.

May we exude the deep joy that comes from a celebration of what God has done and is doing in our midst and in our world and through each one of us. Sing a new song!

Quorum Meetings at a Glance

Quorum meetings will include spiritual practices, worship and time for sharing with each other. Early in the World Conference, the quorum business will include consideration of the Letter of Counsel about World Church leadership, submitted to the church on March 31, 2016, and the Words of Counsel submitted to the church on April 5, 2016. Quorum leadership changes will also occur early in the week. The President of High Priest Quorum will be set apart at the worship service, Monday night, June 6, 7:00pm in the Temple Sanctuary.

QUORUM QUESTIONS RELATED TO WORLD CONFERENCE

1. *What constitutes a quorum?*

The High Priest Quorum consists of High Priests who are not members of any other order, quorum, or council. Thus, the quorum does not include the First Presidency, bishops, evangelists, or apostles.

Trying to determine how many would need to be present for the High Priest Quorum to have a quorum in the parliamentary sense is difficult. From a strictly parliamentary point of view, it would be a majority of all ordained High Priests. The number of ordained High Priests is sufficiently large (more than 1,100), and a majority of them is not present even at World Conference. The *de facto* definition of a quorum of High Priest Quorum at World Conference has always been “those who attend.”

2. *Do High Priests in the quorum meetings at World Conference need to be delegates or can they participate based on their priesthood office?*

They do not need to be delegates. All members of a World Church quorum have voice and vote in that body’s gathering, whether they are delegates to World Conference or not. This includes the Order of Bishops, Order of Evangelists, and the High Priest Quorum.

This is different from the mass meetings of the elders and Aaronic priesthood that are not quorums. In those cases, only delegates may have voice and vote.

3. *Does the High Priest Quorum meet as a quorum for High Priests or as a World Conference body?*

The quorum meets as part of World Conference and not as a separate body. Anything different would require authorization of the First Presidency.

4. *Could an official legislative High Priest Quorum meeting be scheduled outside of World Conference?*

This is problematic. The quorum is global. It includes all High Priests throughout the world. Thus the problem would be finding a time and place with a reasonable expectation of gathering a representative body of all High Priests.

Legislative Proposals Reminders

Any proposal a quorum member would like the High Priest Quorum to consider during World Conference needs to be provided to the quorum secretary, Wim van Klinken, **by noon, Monday, June 6**. This early date in the week is to provide time for translations.

Send proposals to Wim at

wvanklinken@cofchrist.org or

by mail to: Wim van Klinken

1001 W. Walnut

Independence, Missouri 64050-3562

Procedurally, proposals to the World Conference require submission 120 days before the Conference. Accordingly, any new legislative item passed by the High Priest Quorum at a World Conference would be queued for the next World Conference (three years later).

However, at the chair’s discretion, a proposal submitted by the quorum could be called for consideration at any time. The quorum might also pass amendments for legislation that is being officially considered by the World Conference.