



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

November 18, 2016

To the church in the USA:

In the hope and peace of Jesus Christ, the First Presidency and apostles assigned to the USA fields hold the nation, its leaders, the church, and our worldwide community in prayer. The presidential election has taken a toll on our nation and the world. Political candidate allegiance has been used to justify demeaning rhetoric and action. Many have experienced anger, frustration, and hurt. We recognize that Community of Christ members stand on both sides of the debate. We are challenged to consider how we, as Community of Christ, will live in the midst of this division.

We are disciples of Christ, and it is time for Community of Christ to speak and to be faithful to whom God has called and prepared us to be in the world.

We are at the threshold of a “new community of tolerance, reconciliation, unity in diversity, and love...being born as a visible sign of the coming reign of God” (Doctrine and Covenants 164:5). We are called as disciples to model Christ’s love for all people in our homes, workplaces, schools, and congregations. It is time for respectful actions and dialogue that express the worth of each person and promote understanding of different perspectives.

This is a critical time of transition for the USA. We need to pray for those assuming leadership roles in national, state, and city governments. We must be willing to call their offices or send letters and hold them accountable as leaders. As we pray together we must act to “create pathways in the world for peace in Christ to be relationally and culturally incarnate” (Doctrine and Covenants 163:3a).

As disciples, our identity is formed in the life of Christ. Doctrine and Covenants 163:1 challenges us to embrace the full meaning of our identity and calling as Community of Christ. This means moving beyond our fear of others and recognizing our oneness and equality in Christ. We are guided by Enduring Principles that uphold the Worth of All Persons. We are called to Pursue Peace on Earth and to seek Unity in Diversity. We are invited to experience the Blessings of Community and honor the Sacredness of Creation. These principles are more than statements we display; they express who Community of Christ is called to be to in the midst of human life.

Community of Christ has been divinely led. God has helped us understand who we are and how we serve in changing circumstances around the world.

World Conference Resolution (WCR) 1226—**Human Diversity (April 10, 1992)** reminds us that the gospel of Jesus Christ reveals the unqualified love of God and the inestimable worth of all persons. When humans “fear, hate, and abuse each other because of...such factors as socioeconomic status, culture, race, gender, age, size, sexual orientation, and mental or physical disability[,] such prejudicial behavior undermines the personal and spiritual development of both abuser and abused. ...We commit ourselves to work with all persons of goodwill to promote mutual respect, appreciation, and peace in all relationships. (See *World Conference Resolutions* 2002 Edition, Herald House, for the full statement.)

WCR 1227—**Our Pursuit of Peace (April 10, 1992)** is our claim as a global community to “intensify our efforts to heal the causes of violence, war, prejudice, discrimination, greed, hunger, and oppression. ...We pledge anew to forgive, be patient, bring reconciliation, sacrifice for others, suffer with the pain of compassion, and be actively engaged in the pursuit of peace, all as taught to us by Jesus Christ.” (See *World Conference Resolution* 2002 Edition, Herald House, for the full statement.)

As a community centered in Jesus Christ, we must stand and speak against any words or actions that demean another. We must find ways to unify and bring healing, reconciliation, and wholeness to our families, neighborhoods, and congregations.

We all are called to speak the language of God’s love and grace in our words and actions of justice and peace. Let us be who God envisions us to be in the world.

In the grace and peace of Jesus Christ,

The First Presidency: Stephen M. Veazey, Stassi D. Cramm, K. Scott Murphy

USA Apostles: Linda L. Booth, Ron D. Harmon, Barbara L. Carter
Robin Linkhart, Janné C. Grover, Lach Mackay