



# Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

March 24, 2016

## **Update on the Grassroots Effort from the Acting Presiding Bishopric**

Something amazing is happening in the church. In a web interview, Prophet-President Stephen M. Veazey said, "It's happening right now, and it's continuing to build" ([www.CofChrist.org/resources?tags=English-Home-Resource#/1668/steve-veazey-interview-%E2%80%93-18-march-2016-](http://www.CofChrist.org/resources?tags=English-Home-Resource#/1668/steve-veazey-interview-%E2%80%93-18-march-2016-)).

When church members and friends heard \$6.32 million needed to be cut from the World Church budget for fiscal year 2017, they quickly responded. They sent e-mails and started Facebook conversations, asking, "How can we help so some staff reductions can be avoided?"

That grassroots question came to the acting Presiding Bishopric. We responded and sent leaders of the grassroots movement some ideas—"What Would It Take?" They shared these ideas through telephone calls, congregational meetings, e-mails, and social media around the world with remarkable results.

We are thrilled to report the results of this amazing grassroots effort and to thank each person, family, congregation, and friend who responded!

One-time Increases to world mission tithes commitments: \$ 1,071,000.

Ongoing commitments for increasing and sustaining world mission tithes beyond the \$13 million planned for calendar year 2016:

Calendar Year 2016: \$1,214,000

Calendar Year 2017: \$1,214,000

Calendar Year 2018: \$1,234,000

Calendar Year 2019: \$840,000

TOTAL one-time increases plus ongoing commitments for each year: \$5,573,000

### **Significant Impact**

The grassroots' effort of generosity significantly impacted budget planning. It:

- Saved \$950,000 in staff positions per year with a three-year projected budget based on world mission tithing commitments.

- Provided annual budget increases of 3 percent each year to maintain the same level of ministries and services in 2017, 2018, and 2019.
- Continued to rebuild the church's financial foundation. As the spirit of generosity moves through the church, we will continue to faithfully use tithing to solidify our financial situation and live Christ's mission together.

So the final impact of the grassroots effort has added nearly \$1 million in staff positions to the fiscal year 2017 budget, going from \$16.5 million to \$17.45 million. And we've planned fiscal year budgets of \$17.97 million in 2018 and \$18.51 million in 2019.

Here's a table that shows the impact the grassroots effort made in what leaders will present to the World Church Finance Board in June:

	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019
Original Tithing Estimate	\$ 13,000,000	\$ 13,000,000	\$ 13,000,000
Tithing Commitments Received			
Additional Staff Added Back	950,000	950,000	950,000
3 Percent Provision for Inflation and Cost Increases		520,000	1,060,000
Total Tithing Commitments Received*	950,000	1,470,000	2,010,000
Other Rental and Service Income	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000
Total Proposed Budget	\$ 17,450,000	\$ 17,970,000	\$ 18,510,000
* Includes provision for some unfulfilled tithing commitments			

### Thank You!

Thank you to everyone who helped in this remarkable grassroots effort. Your generous response is truly amazing and has made a difference.

### Hope for the Future

Some people and congregations were unable to commit to increasing their world mission tithes beyond the calendar year 2015 level before the March 22 deadline. Leaders hope they still will contribute to sustaining and growing the World Church budget. (See information below on how to give.)

Although the church needs to reduce its staff to balance the fiscal year 2017 budget, leaders hope the generosity being released will continue to grow. As world mission tithes grow we can meet other fiscal needs and respond to emerging opportunities for mission identified by the Council of Twelve Apostles.

Leaders understand that our staffing levels will be lower than anyone would like. We also understand we have faithful priesthood members and disciples who are leading the mission of the church in congregations and mission centers around the world.

Leaders are committed to supporting mission center leadership and congregations with all the resources provided by ongoing world mission tithes. It will take time to regain our financial foundation, but the church's response shows how we can work together to move through this difficult period and rebuild a solid financial foundation.

As President Veazey said in the web interview:

Having been awakened, the church is now responding with great generosity, which I think is going to continue. It's like we've been talking about true capacity, but we had to be disrupted in our normal patterns to see all the capacity that was there and then become agents of generosity for that capacity to flow to support the ministries of the church. That may be one of the good things to come out of this situation.

We pray God will continue to awaken the church, and the church will continue to respond. As we share Christ's peace and live Christ's mission in our neighborhoods, cities, villages, workplaces, and communities, many will be blessed. As we generously share our time, talents, testimony, and treasure, Christ's mission will move forward. For after all, Christ's mission is what matters most for the journey ahead.

How can individuals respond to the need for increased, sustainable world mission tithes? E-mail your world mission tithing plan to the Presiding Bishopric ([PresidingBishopric@CofChrist.org](mailto:PresidingBishopric@CofChrist.org)). Each tithing plan should include:

1. Contributions you are ready to make immediately. Send contributions as a check payable to Community of Christ and your tithing plan to the Presiding Bishopric at:  
Presiding Bishop of Community of Christ  
1001 West Walnut St.  
Independence, MO 64050 USA
2. How much in additional world mission tithes you plan to give in calendar year 2016.
3. How much you plan to give for the next three years: calendar years 2017, 2018, and 2019.
4. Confirmation that this tithing plan is an increase from what you gave in calendar year 2015 to world mission tithes and not a replacement for what previously was given. You should include what you originally planned to give in calendar year 2016 and what the increase is, **OR** you should identify if you are giving world mission tithes for the first time.
5. A schedule for when you will contribute world mission tithes (i.e., once a year or monthly) and how you will make the contribution (i.e., electronic direct payments, directly mailed checks, or offering envelopes).
6. Put "My World Mission Tithing Plan" in the subject line of the e-mail.

How can congregations contribute to world mission tithes?

Congregations can help meet the goal in one or more of the below ways. If your congregation decides to do one of the following, please have the pastor or congregational financial officer send a world mission tithing plan for the congregation to the Presiding Bishopric. Include the date the congregation acted on approving this plan as part of the e-mail.

- a. Donate a lump sum from reserves in the Affiliate Investment Pool A or Pool B.
- b. Allow the World Church to apply a 4-percent spending rate to the congregation's balance in the Affiliate Investment Pool A for a period of years.
- c. Set an amount in the congregation budget to donate to world mission tithes in addition to what individuals contribute.

Start dividing undesignated offerings from the second through fifth Sundays equally between local and world mission tithes.