



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

Official Minutes of Business Meeting Saturday, June 4, 2016

The 2016 World Conference convened its opening legislative meeting at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, June 4, 2016, in the Conference Chamber of the Auditorium, Independence, Missouri. President Stephen M. Veazey was in the chair.

Call to Order, Opening Hymn, and Prayer

The meeting began with a “Pipes and Drums for Peace” processional offered by Dorothy G. May, pipe major; Christian N. Skoorsmith, Dale D. Cleland, and Jason Huff, bagpipers; and Jon M. Donald, drummer. President Veazey called the Conference to order by reading John 17:20–21 NRSV. The assembly sang “Redeemer of Israel” accompanied by Dr. Jan K. Kraybill on the organ as the church flag entered the Conference Chamber carried by Donovan P. Toese. Catherine C. Mambwe from Zambia in the South Central Africa Mission Centre offered the invocation.

Statement to the Conference

President Veazey offered the following statement to the Conference:

It has been a little more than three years since we were together at the last World Conference in April 2013. That Conference had a profound spirit of unity and hope. The church’s call to be an agent of healing and witness in the world was given renewed focus.

Since that time, a great deal of faith, energy, and skill has been poured into the ministries and Mission Initiatives of the church. God has blessed us as we have sought to deepen our discipleship.

In like manner, we trust this Conference will be a time of empowerment for the church. An amazing amount of planning and effort has gone into making this Conference memorable and meaningful. The prayer flags encircling the Lower Auditorium Chamber and the Temple complex illustrate the contributions of prayer and support sent by many around the worldwide church. In fact, more than 2,000 prayer flags were sent to encircle this World Conference.

We once again welcome all delegates, registrants, and visitors from the nations of the world where the church is established or is being established. In addition, we greet all persons from around the world who are joining us via live video streaming on the Internet.

As we present the flags of our many nations today, may we remember that we are part of a sacred community. May the Spirit that brings us to this place unite our hearts, our minds, and our actions, as we seek to discern God’s will. May our time together this week help us become the hands and feet of Christ in our homes, on our streets, and in our world. May we unite together to become “One in Christ.”

Through the use of flags, we celebrate our diversity. Displaying them side-by-side, we celebrate our unity.

Behind me, we display the Community of Christ flag. The church flag symbolizes our unifying focus on the peace of Jesus Christ.

We honor those who claim rich heritage through tribal and ethnic communities as indigenous and aboriginal people. Often these children, women, and men are not adequately recognized by established national boundaries or by the flags that symbolize those nations. Therefore, indigenous and aboriginal peoples of the world are honored by the Earth Flag, displayed above the west lectern. For those who claim the Earth Flag, we are blessed by your presence.

The Eagle Feather Staff, displayed above the east lectern, represents the Native Peoples of this Continent. It was placed here by the Native American members of the First Peoples Community of Christ Non-geographical Congregation to signify the hosting of this World Conference on their native soil. We are honored by the presence of the Eagle Feather Staff. And we are grateful for your special blessings offered Friday afternoon for this World Conference.

Presentation of Flags

Dr. Jan K. Kraybill played a musical background on the organ as the flags of nations in which the church has been established or has a recognized presence were unfurled around the balcony of the Conference Chamber. A list of those nations where the church has members and friends working to establish the church was read:

United States of America	1830
Canada	1833
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	1837
Commonwealth of Australia	1840
French Polynesia	1844
Kingdom of the Netherlands	1869
Kingdom of Norway	1874
New Zealand	1890
Federal Republic of Germany	1914
Cayman Islands	1921
Japan	1960
Republic of Korea	1960
United Mexican States	1964
Federative Republic of Brazil	1965
Republic of Peru	1965
Federal Republic of Nigeria	1966
Republic of India	1966

Republic of the Philippines	1966
New Caledonia [Two Flags]	1968
Republic of Haiti	1968
Republic of the Fiji Islands	1968
Republic of Honduras	1972
Republic of China (Taiwan)	1976
Republic of Liberia	1976
Republic of Kenya	1977
Democratic Republic of Congo	1981
Dominican Republic	1981
Republic of Zambia	1987
Republic of Côte d'Ivoire	1988
Jamaica	1989
Republic of El Salvador	1990
Republic of Malawi	1992
Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal	1999
Plurinational State of Bolivia	2002
Republic of South Africa	2002
Aruba	2007
Republic of Chile	2007
Republic of Zimbabwe	2007
Russian Federation	2007
Ukraine	2007
Republic of the Congo	2007
Republic of Nicaragua	2007
Kingdom of Spain	2015
Republic of Sierra Leone	2016
Republic of Angola	2016
Republic of Togo	2016

The flags of those countries where the church has a recognized presence then were read:

Argentine Republic
French Republic
Republic of Colombia
Republic of Guatemala
Republic of Hungary

The chair indicated that members and friends are working to establish a foundation in the following nations:

Commonwealth of Puerto Rico
Georgia
Kingdom of Thailand
Republic of Botswana
Republic of Mozambique
Republic of Venezuela
Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka
United Republic of Tanzania

The assembly offered applause after the names of all countries were read.

The assembly stood and sang the hymn, “This is My Song.”

Selection of Presiding Officers

President Veazey asked who the Conference would have to preside over its meetings. Apostle Linda L. Booth moved that “the First Presidency preside over the 2016 World Conference and be authorized to complete the organization of the Conference.” Senior President of Seventy John S. Wight seconded the motion. The chair was relinquished to Apostle Booth, who put the motion to a vote. The motion was approved, and the chair was returned to President Veazey.

Legislative Procedures

The chair drew attention to the *Parliamentary Guidelines* in the *Legislation* booklet beginning in English on page 46, and in Spanish and French on page 48. He asked delegates to familiarize themselves with the information, as the Conference would use the guidelines throughout the week.

Orientation to Polling Devices

President Veazey relinquished the chair to President Becky L. Savage, who engaged the delegates in orientation to the electronic polling system. After practice and several trial responses, President Savage asked the delegates to respond to two surveys of demographics about the composition of the Conference. The results:

Age Ranges	Percent
8–20	2.54%
21–30	4.29%
31–40	7.68%
41–50	13.08%
51–60	23.10%
61–70	26.81%
71–80	16.98%
81–90	2.99%
Over 90	2.54%
Totals	100%

Your Gender Identity	Percent
Masculine	52.82%
Feminine	47.18%

The chair was returned to President Veazey.

Credentials Committee Report (C-1)

The chair referred the assembly to item C-1 Report of the Credentials Committee in the Saturday/Sunday *Bulletin* beginning in English and Spanish on page 24, and in French on page 21. World Church Secretary Susan D. Sloan moved the approval of the report with the proviso that alternates certified as delegates after the report was printed also be included as full participants in the Conference in accordance with the Bylaws of Community of Christ and the Standing Rules to be adopted by this Conference.

The chair noted the Credentials Committee would update the official list of delegates as the week went on. Questions and changes were asked to be referred to World Church Recorder Christopher Shaw. The chair also noted, as is our custom, that delegate seating was offered to First Peoples with three (3) delegates, Graceland University with nine (9) delegates, and one (1) delegate for our military chaplain.

With no discussion, a vote then was taken on the approval of the Credentials Committee Report, (C-1) and it was approved.

Standing Rules of the 2016 World Conference (C-2)

President Veazey called attention to item C-2 Standing Rules of the 2016 World Conference in the *Legislation* booklet, beginning in English and Spanish on page 6, and in French on page 5. The chair noted the standing rules had been provided in multiple languages to delegates ahead of time, and without objection, the standing rules were not read aloud. Leonard M. Young, chair of the World Conference Organization and Procedures Team, reported to the assembly on changes in the proposed standing rules. At the conclusion of the report, Brother Young moved approval of the Standing Rules on behalf of the Conference Organization and Procedures Team. With no discussion, a vote was taken. The results were 1,734 in favor and 51 opposed. The standing rules (Item C-2) were approved as printed by the required two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote.

Conference Appointments

The chair called attention to the appointments made by the First Presidency for various responsibilities throughout World Conference. The list was in the *Program* booklet beginning in English, Spanish, and French on page 5. The chair said that these individuals would serve throughout World Conference. No action was required by the Conference.

Announcement of the Official Program

President Veazey noted the official program of the Conference found in the *Schedule and Events* booklet beginning in English, Spanish, and French on page 4. The chair noted that since the Standing Rules just adopted authorized the First Presidency to “formulate and adjust the agenda daily,” this item did not require approval by the Conference.

Declaration of Organization

With a rap of the gavel, the chair declared that, with the adoption of the Report of the Credentials Committee, the approval of the Standing Rules, and the announcement of the official program, the World Conference of 2016 was “organized and ready to transact the business of the church.”

Evacuation Statement and Announcements

The chair directed the Conference's attention to the evacuation statement in the *Program* booklet on page 20 in English, Spanish, and French. World Conference Director Susan K. Naylor was recognized to explain the statement and offer several announcements.

A Disciple's Generous Response

Bishop Steven E. Graffeo gave a statement regarding A Disciple's Generous Response and a prayer of blessing over the mission tithes. Then the offering was received. The assembly sang the hymn, "We Are One in the Spirit."

Lighting of Peace Candle and Prayer of Blessing

Digna Villatoro de Altamirano from Honduras lit the peace candle, and Presiding Evangelist David R. Brock offered a prayer for peace and blessing on the Conference.

Closing Hymn, Sending Forth, and Adjournment

The assembly joined in singing "The Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning," after which President Veazey gave the sending-forth statement. The Conference adjourned at 5:19 p.m. to reconvene at 3:00 p.m., Sunday, June 5, 2016.

Susan D. Sloan
World Church Secretary