



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

Official Minutes of Business Meeting Thursday, June 9, 2016

Call to Order

The 2016 World Conference convened its sixth legislative meeting at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, June 9, 2016, in the Conference Chamber of the Auditorium, Independence, Missouri. President Stephen M. Veazey was in the chair.

The assembly sang the hymn, "Kyrie Eleison," led by Diane E. Riffie at the organ. June S. Stephenson from the Australia Mission Centre offered the opening prayer.

Announcements

World Conference Director Emily G. Penrose-McLaughlin was recognized to make several announcements.

Recognition of Outstanding World Conference Service

The chair called Margaret A. (Peggy) Young to the join him on the rostrum for a special recognition. He said:

This morning we wish to pause and recognize one individual who has given outstanding service to World Conference. We call on Peggy Young, the coordinator of the Legislative Communication System, to join me on the front of the rostrum.

President K. Scott Murphy read the following citation for Recognition of Outstanding World Conference Service for Margaret A. (Peggy) Young, Legislative Communications System coordinator.

Margaret A. Young, better known to most of us as Peggy Young, has labored in obscurity during World Conferences for 30 years. Her responsibility is to coordinate the Legislative Communications Team and provide the opportunity for delegates to speak to the assembly.

In 1986, Peggy became a professional registered parliamentarian and immediately took over responsibility for the Legislative Communications System. She has done this through 15 successive World Conferences. In her role as coordinator she assists the First Presidency with recognizing speakers. This includes being sure the correct item of business is displayed, all delegates are properly entered into the queue, and removing names after they have been recognized. When she began managing the system, it was based on Windows 3.1. Since then she has shepherded the system through Windows 4, Windows 7, and now Windows 8. During this time she has been a major decider on how the system would change and what new features might be added.

In addition, she is responsible for training lectern operators to be courteous, friendly, helpful servants when everyone starts throwing cards at them.

In her role as the “booth parliamentarian,” Peggy has helped the parliamentarians and secretary on the rostrum through an audio link. When she sees an odd piece of business progressing up the queue, she calls the rostrum parliamentarian. Together they review the rules for that item to be sure everyone is prepared when it comes up.

Peggy also has served as the parliamentarian and occasionally the presiding officer for the mass meeting of elders. She remembers some tough meetings in the 1980s, but notes our delegates are the best. They approach their task with professionalism and fairness.

Professionalism, competence, fairness, and friendliness are words that equally well describe Peggy’s ministry during World Conferences. As an evangelist, she has given up attending her order’s meetings to fulfill these needed roles. She says she is looking forward to joining the order meetings at the 2019 World Conference.

Her husband, Len Young, World Church parliamentarian, said, “Peggy’s work behind the scenes at World Conference has been a major factor in making the system stable and well accepted by the delegates.”

Today, The First Presidency and the whole Community of Christ wish to recognize her for 30 years of dedicated volunteer service as coordinator of the Legislative Communications System. Peggy, to you we say, “Thanks.” Your competence set a high standard for all. This made the system better every Conference.

We couldn’t have done it without you.

The assembly showed its appreciation with a standing ovation.

President Veazey relinquished the chair to President Stassi D. Cramm.

Election of World Church Finance Board Members (B-2)

President Cramm called attention to the process of electing members of the World Church Finance Board and noted fifteen (15) positions needed to be filled. The delegates were informed the list of those nominated earlier by the First Presidency was in the Saturday/Sunday *Bulletin* beginning in English and Spanish on page 19, and in French on page 18. Those nominated from the floor were in the Thursday *Bulletin* in English on page 125, in Spanish on page 121, and in French on page 119. The nominees by vacancy were made in three (3) groups as follows:

Group A Nominees

Debora Ester Ulloa Castellon
Julie R. Crittenden
Tamatoa I. Mariteragi
Samuel G. Smalldon
Lisa Sherbourne Yen
Iniobong (Ini) N. Edet

Group B Nominees

Michael G. Giardina
Evan A. Jenkins
Joel A. Trinkle
Dan S. Whittemore

Dean T. Wight
John E. Williams Jr.

Group C Nominees

Gilbert B. Alberti
Amy M. Hoerchler
James M. Newcom
Chad D. Ormsbee
Emma G. Pitt
Charles W. Petz
David E. Glandon

The elections were conducted using the polling devices by groups. Delegates were instructed to vote for no more than five nominees in each group.

The results for Group A:

Nominees	Votes Received
Debora Ester Ulloa Castellon	1,391
Julie R. Crittenden	1,500
Tamatoa I. Mariteragi	1,602
Samuel G. Smalldon	1,372
Lisa Sherbourne Yen	1,316
Iniobong (Ini) N. Edet	1,470

Nominees in Group A declared elected: Debora Ester Ulloa Castellon, Julie R. Crittenden, Tamatoa I. Mariteragi, Samuel G. Smalldon, and Iniobong (Ini) N. Edet.

The results for Group B:

Nominees	Votes Received
Michael G. Giardina	1,347
Evan A. Jenkins	1,581
Joel A. Trinkle	1,589
Dan S. Whittemore	1,445
Dean T. Wight	1,466
John E. Williams, Jr.	1,311

Nominees in Group B declared elected: Michael G. Giardina, Evan A. Jenkins, Joel A. Trinkle, Dan S. Whittemore, and Dean T. Wight.

The results for Group C:

Nominees	Votes Received
Gilbert B. Alberti	1,275
Amy M. Hoerchler	1,211
James M. Newcom	1,454
Chad D. Ormsbee	1,054
Emma G. Pitt	1,260
Charles W. Petz	1,235
David E. Glandon	1,065

Nominees in Group C declared elected: Gilbert B. Alberti, Amy M. Hoerchler, James M. Newcom, Emma G. Pitt, and Charles W. Petz.

Seminary Video Presentation

The chair recognized Dr. Matthew J. Frizzell, dean of the Community of Christ Seminary, who commented about the seminary's work and ministry and introduced a new video. Brother Frizzell then moved item B-3 "Community of Christ Seminary Advisory Committee."

Community of Christ Seminary Advisory Committee (B-3)

The chair called attention to item B-3 Sustaining of Appointments to the Community of Christ Seminary Advisory Committee in the Saturday/Sunday *Bulletin* beginning in English and Spanish on page 21 and in French on page 19.

The chair read the item:

To the World Conference:

Under a memorandum of understanding between Community of Christ and Graceland University, the Community of Christ Seminary is governed by an Advisory Committee consisting of four members of the Graceland University Board of Trustees and four members appointed by the church.

The church's representatives to the Seminary Advisory Committee are appointed by the First Presidency for staggered, six-year-terms, subject to a sustaining vote of the World Conference.

The 2013 World Conference sustained Katherine R. Goheen, Matthew J. Frizzell, and David J. Howlett for six-year-terms on the seminary committee, each to expire in 2019.

Since this sustaining vote, Matthew J. Frizzell was appointed July 1, 2015, as seminary dean. The First Presidency took action to appoint Llewellyn (Lew) A. Shepherdson to fill this unexpired term through 2019.

The First Presidency appointed Brittany A. Longsdorf to fill a vacancy on the committee through 2016, and extended her service on the committee with the appointment of a six-year term to expire in 2022.

We ask the World Conference to sustain the appointments of Llewellyn (Lew) A. Shepherdson and Brittany A. Longsdorf.

The First Presidency

The chair said that, without objection, these persons would be sustained in a single vote. There was no objection, so the vote was taken, and the motion was approved.

President Cramm relinquished the chair to President Veazey.

Recess

The chair indicated the time to recess for lunch had arrived. The assembly sang the hymn, "There Is a Balm in Gilead." The assembly then stood in recess at 11:54 a.m. to reconvene at 2:00 p.m. in the Committee of the Whole.

Reconvene

The Committee of the Whole reconvened at 2:00 p.m. with Apostle Linda L. Booth in the chair, assisted by Apostle Arthur E. Smith.

Instructions

Apostle Booth reviewed the progress by the Committee of the Whole the previous day. She then shared the following statement concerning the process that would be undertaken in the current session:

Today the committee will give specific consideration to the whole proposal (I-1A, Mission, Tithing, and Priesthood Response).

In councils, quorums, orders, mass and caucus meetings, you heard the following announcement:

The First Presidency has considered the common consent process and the other resolutions on the conference agenda. In light of the selection of the modified proposal I-1A by the World Conference yesterday, which is shorter, we believe the Conference can process this resolution together in one afternoon as a Committee of the Whole. Therefore, when delegates register to vote this afternoon fifteen (15) minutes before the afternoon legislative session begins, they will be registering to speak to the whole proposal, which includes the definition of tithing and the expectation for priesthood.

We will proceed in the following manner:

First, the chair draws your attention to the Levels of Support found in the *Legislation* booklet in English on page 55, in French on page 57, and in Spanish on page 59.

Those who wish to have the opportunity to briefly speak to their level of support are asked to register with one of the lectern operators, using the Committee of the Whole cards prior to the opening of this session.

The lectern operators are still receiving cards, so if you have not submitted your Committee of the Whole card and wish to have an opportunity speak, please do so now.

You were told yesterday that if your level of support is either #1—no support or #2—little support, you were to register using purpose #51.

If your level of support is # 3—tentative support, you were to register using purpose #52. If your level of support is either #4—significant support or #5—complete support, you were to register using purpose #53.

In a moment, we will end registrations, and the system automatically will choose random names from each of the three groups. Each group will have the same number of speakers.

The chair will announce these names in the order in which they will speak and ask those delegates to come to the front of the Conference Chamber, and ushers will find you a

seat in the order in which your names are called. All speeches will be made from lectern #5, which is front and center. There probably will be many more who wish to speak than time allows.

Each speaker is limited to two (2) minutes, with that length doubled to four (4) minutes if you are being translated. All speakers are timed. When two minutes for English speakers and four minutes for translated speakers are up, the microphone will be turned off automatically. Everyone will get the same amount of time—no more, no less.

This period for statements will last about 30 minutes. We hope at least three (3) persons from each of the three groups will have the opportunity to speak about their level of support.

The computer system generated the names of persons who were invited to speak to the assembly about their level of support for the definition of tithing. All persons called shared their perspective.

Recess

Apostle Booth declared the Committee of the Whole in recess for 15 minutes at 3:00 p.m.

Reconvene

Apostle Arthur E. Smith called the Committee of the Whole back to order at 3:16 p.m. He thanked the delegates for their comments and thoughts offered in good spirit. He noted that before entering into the surveying process, there would be a moment of blessing.

Moment of Blessing

Katie L. Harmon-McLaughlin and Kristin D. Judd led the assembly in a moment of blessing.

Survey of Support for Entire Proposal I-1A (Modified)

The chair drew the attention of the delegates to the printed Survey of Support statement in the *Legislation* booklet in English on page 55, in Spanish on page 59, and in French on page 57. The question was “What is your level of support for the modified proposal I-1A? The survey was taken. The results:

Level	Description	Response
Level 1	No Support —I have no support for this proposal. Major concerns cause me to believe this is not where God is calling the church to go at this time.	16%
Level 2	Little Support —I have little support for this proposal. Some concerns cause me to believe this may not be where God is calling the church to go at this time.	14%
Level 3	Tentative Support —I have tentative support for this proposal. I may have some concerns, but I believe this probably is where God is calling the church to go at this time.	32%
Level 4	Significant Support —I have significant support for this proposal. I may have a few concerns, but I believe this is where God is calling the church to go at this time.	22%
Level 5	Full Support —I have full support for this proposal. I have little or no concern and believe strongly this is where God is calling the church to go at this time.	16%

Survey of Perspectives on Definition of Tithing

The chair then called up a Survey of Perspectives on the definition of tithing, and indicated the survey asks, “Why do you hold the level of support you hold?” The chair further said that delegates should respond to the survey by choosing the primary reason for holding the level of support they hold.

The chair directed the attention of delegates to the list of perspectives regarding the definition of tithing in the Wednesday *Bulletin* in English on page 117, in Spanish on page 111, and in French on page 109.

Delegates were told these perspectives were distilled from field ministry by the Council of Twelve Apostles and other World Church leaders, and they presented a wide variety of viewpoints about the definition of tithing.

The chair informed the committee there was a perspective entitled “other,” and that if no perspective adequately explained a delegate’s level of support for the definition of tithing, then that delegate could choose “other.” If the results show that “other” is more than 10 percent, those delegates selecting “other” would be asked to go to the ushering ministry booth in the North Foyer at the end of the day’s business meeting and get an index card. On this card, delegates were instructed to write their other perspective and turn it in to the ushering ministry booth for further consideration by the First Presidency and Presiding Bishopric.

The Survey of Perspectives then was taken.

Survey of Perspective Results on Definition of Tithing

The results:

Perspectives on Definition of Tithing	Percentage Response
1. I think/believe this proposal is a needed clarification of tithing expectations	10%
2. I think/believe more study on this matter is needed before a decision is made.	17%
3. I think/believe Section 165 clearly defines tithing with no need for additional clarification.	19%
4. I think/believe this proposal may not be meaningful in my culture.	6%
5. I think/believe community giving also should be acceptable as tithing.	8%
6. I think/believe tithing should be based on 10 percent of what is left after covering just wants and needs.	11%
7. I think/believe this definition of tithing will better support our mission, Christ’s mission	14%
8. I think/believe giving to the church should be defined in two categories; tithing and general offerings.	7%
9. Other	7%

Survey of Perspectives on Priesthood Response

The chair then called up a Survey of Perspectives, which asks, “Why do you hold the level of support you hold for the statement on priesthood response?” The chair further said that delegates should respond by choosing the primary reason for holding the level of support they hold.

The chair directed the attention of the delegates to the list of perspectives regarding the statement of priesthood support in the Thursday *Bulletin* in English on page 126, in Spanish on page 122, and in French on page 120.

Delegates were told these perspectives had been distilled from field ministry by the Council of Twelve and other World Church leaders, and they presented a broad array of viewpoints about the statement on priesthood response.

The chair informed the committee there was a perspective entitled “other.” If no perspective adequately explained a delegate’s level of support for the statement on priesthood response, that delegate could choose “other.” If the results show that “other” is more than 10 percent, those delegates selecting “other” would be asked to go to the ushering ministry booth in the North Foyer at the end of the day’s business meeting to get an index card. On the card, delegates were instructed to write their other perspective and turn it in to the ushering ministry booth for further consideration by the First Presidency and Presiding Bishopric.

The Survey of Perspectives was then taken.

Survey of Perspective Results on Priesthood Response

The results:

Perspectives on Statement of Priesthood Response	Percentage Response
1. I think/believe scripture supports the expectation that priesthood members should tithe.	10%
2. I think/believe tithing expectations should apply to all disciples	46%
3. I think/believe my personal experiences support the expectation that priesthood members should tithe	8%
4. I think/believe contributing tithing does not guarantee an effective priesthood member.	9%
5. I think/believe a requirement for priesthood to contribute tithing may prevent initiation of priesthood calls.	6%
6. I think/believe the tracking of tithing contributions may conflict with personal privacy laws.	2%
7. I think/believe regular tithing should be required of priesthood members.	10%
8. I think/believe every priesthood member may not have the capacity to contribute tithes.	7%
9. Other	2%

Apostle Linda L. Booth resumed the chair and thanked the delegates for the information provided in the surveys just taken. She said the hope was that this information would continue to assist the delegates in discerning God’s guidance in this matter. If another modified proposal were to be developed, it would be printed in the Friday *Bulletin*.

Adjournment of Committee of the Whole

The chair invited the delegates to take a 15-minute break while the presiding officers changed positions. The assembly would reconvene under the leadership of the First Presidency. The Committee of the Whole adjourned at 3:00 p.m. for the final time.

Reconvene

The Conference assembly reconvened at 3:18 p.m. with President Stephen M. Veazey in the chair. The assembly sang the hymn, “Crown Him with Many Crowns,” led by Dale G. Rider at the organ.

G-1 Issues of (Priesthood) Morality (as Amended by Substitution)

The chair called the attention of the Conference to item G-1 as amended, found in the Thursday *Bulletin* in English on page 124, in Spanish on page 120, and in French on page 118. The resolved paragraphs were read. The chair said:

According to our parliamentary authority (*Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised*), after a version of a resolution has been substituted for another, the substituted resolution cannot be further amended except by adding something that does not modify the substitute's existing content (page 155, lines 22–25).

The chair further noted that the queue from the previous day was not saved because the rules indicate a delegate cannot speak more than once on the same question on the same day. Everyone's speaking rights would start again on this second day of debate on this item. Discussion continued on item G-1as amended.

Apostle Linda L. Booth moved to refer all pending matters relating to G-1 Issues of (Priesthood) Morality, to the First Presidency. There was a second. The chair indicated any discussion on the motion to refer would be limited to the advisability to referral, the appropriateness of the body to which the referral was being made, and any necessary instructions.

Anita Kay Smith, Cedar Valley-Nauvoo USA Mission Center, asked about the appropriateness of the date in the last resolved of June 7, 2018, being one year before the next World Conference. She wondered if the date should be one year before April 6, if that is when the next Conference would be held. The chair indicated the date in the resolved was close enough for the intent of the resolution to be fulfilled.

Judith K.L. Pfohl, Cedar Valley-Nauvoo USA Mission Center, moved to close debate. There was a second. The chair took the vote on the motion to end debate by raised hand. The motion passed by the required two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote.

The vote was taken on the motion to refer to the First Presidency by use of the polling devices. The results were 1,559 in favor and 476 opposed. The motion to refer was approved.

Community of Christ Bylaws Revisions (A-4)

The chair called up for consideration item A-4 Community of Christ Bylaws Revisions, submitted by the First Presidency and found in the *Legislation* booklet in English and Spanish on page 5, and in French on page 4. The chair read the enacting paragraphs to the assembly. The entire text of the resolution:

Whereas, The need for experimentation with field organization exists from time to time due to unusual missional opportunities or administrative and financial necessities; and

Whereas, The World Church has faced the need to reduce budget and therefore field staff; and

Whereas, Some provisions of the Bylaws of Community of Christ do not provide sufficient flexibility to allow experimentation with the new field ministry and administrative models; now, therefore, be it:

Resolved, That the World Conference approve the following proviso to be added to the Bylaws of Community of Christ from 2016 to 2019; and be it further

Resolved, That the adoption of this proviso shall require the same 60-day notice in the *Herald* and a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the World Conference as if it were an amendment to these Bylaws.

Proviso

During the next inter-Conference period, field organization, including the use of various leadership models, may be adjusted to provide the flexibility to accommodate changing missional opportunities, administrative and financial necessities, or other unique situations throughout the church. The First Presidency, in consultation with the World Church Leadership Council, has the authority to temporarily adjust field organization, including various leadership models to allow the trial of new methods of ministerial support and missional outreach. When adjustments are authorized, those parts of the Bylaws of Community of Christ that restrict these temporary adjustments shall be considered suspended.

The chair reminded the assembly of the scope-of-notice issue discussed earlier in relation to item D-4 and read the following ruling:

As mentioned earlier, whenever a resolution requires previous notice before it can be considered—and especially if that resolution modifies something adopted previously by the World Conference—there is a requirement of previous notice. (*WCR 1290: All business must be submitted 120 days prior to the World Conference.*)

When previous notice is required, the assembly cannot offer amendments that are outside the scope of the notice. This means that a delegate cannot offer an amendment that takes advantage of a slight proposed change to cover a much broader change.

The item now before us seeks to add a temporary provision to the bylaws allowing for experimentation in field organization and in leadership models during the next triennium. Therefore, amendments that seek to broaden this provision to include specific items to be experimented with or to try to amend other parts of the bylaws would be outside the scope of the previous notice and would not be in order.

Please keep this in mind when you are considering amendments to this resolution. The scope of notice is between what exists now in the bylaws and what is proposed if the resolution is adopted. Nothing broader than this is in order by way of amendment.

The chair recognized Apostle Ronald D. Harmon Jr. to move approval of the motion. There was a second.

Charles D. Jones, Sierra Pacific USA Mission Center, asked if, when a bylaw is suspended temporarily, all bylaws were suspended during the inter-Conference period. The chair indicated the resolution specified only that parts of bylaws that conflicted with experimentation proposals approved by the First Presidency would be suspended.

James R. Trinkle, Lamoni-Heartland USA Mission Center, asked if the current bylaws restrict the assembly from taking actions provided for in the resolution's proviso. The chair said the current bylaws indicate specifically that there should be a mission center president and a mission center financial officer. The First Presidency had observed some modification was occurring in the field and so felt it was important to bring it to the World Conference, so everything would be in order without question.

Roger L. Swick, Central USA Mission Center, asked when the report referenced in the first resolved would be due in 2019. The chair indicated the First Presidency would submit a report to the 2019 World Conference and any additional action required by the Conference would be considered at that time.

Warwick T. (Rick) Sarre, Australia Mission Centre, asked whether the second resolved paragraph was redundant since there had been notice in the *Herald* regarding the proviso. The chair said this reference was only for clarification and information.

Thomas L. Webber, Greater Pacific Northwest USA Mission Center, asked why the summary stated that field organization experiments would be evaluated with a report to the next World Conference, yet nowhere in the proviso was the requirement noted. The chair said it was the intent of the First Presidency to bring a report to the next World Conference.

Gonzalo A. Mejia, Central America Mission Center, asked if the proviso would create the possibility for changing mission center structures. The chair indicated he was hesitant to respond to possible or hypothetical situations. The proviso would provide flexibility for areas to make proposals that would need to be reviewed and discussed by the field apostle, who then would bring such proposals to the Council of Twelve for discussion and then to the First Presidency.

Following further discussion on item A-4, the chair asked the assembly if it was ready to vote on A-4. The vote on the motion to close debate was taken by raised hands, and it was adopted by the required two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote.

The vote on the approval of A-4 was taken by raised hands and was adopted by the required two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote.

The chair announced the assembly needed additional time to complete the business before the Conference. Therefore the afternoon business meeting Friday would convene at 1:30 p.m. rather than at 2:00 p.m. as previously announced. Also it was noted the afternoon business meeting might extend until 5:00 p.m. rather than 4:30 p.m. as previously announced.

Closing Hymn and Prayer

The assembly sang the hymn, "Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love." Olivier P. Gatata of the French Polynesia Mission Centre offered the closing prayer.

The assembly adjourned for the day at 4:28 p.m. to meet again at 8:30 a.m. Friday, June 10, 2016.

Susan D. Sloan
World Church Secretary