



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

Official Minutes of Business Meeting Friday, June 10, 2016

Call to Order

The 2016 World Conference convened its seventh legislative meeting at 8:30 a.m. Friday, June 10, 2016, in the Conference Chamber of the Auditorium, Independence, Missouri. President K. Scott Murphy was in the chair.

The assembly sang the hymn, "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," led by Kevin P. Kissinger at the organ. Takayoshi Azuma from Japan in the East Asia Mission Center offered the opening prayer.

Announcements

World Conference Director Susan K. Naylor was recognized to make several announcements.

President of Seventy Assignments

President Murphy read the following assignments for the presidents of seventy:

Tanoh Assoi, Quorum 1

Africa Mission Field and Haiti (Apostles: Bunda C. Chibwe, Africa; and Arthur E. Smith, Haiti)

Amson Mallick, Quorum 2

South Central and Southeast Asia Mission Field (Apostle: Rick W. Maupin)

Larry M. McGuire, Quorum 3, Secretary, Council of Presidents of Seventy

Western USA Mission Field and special assignment as Arizona USA Mission Center president (Apostle: Ronald D. Harmon Jr.)

Keith E. McMillan, Quorum 4

South Central USA Mission Field and Southeast USA Mission Field (Apostles: Linda L. Booth and Barbara L. Carter)

Karin F. Peter, Quorum 5

North Central USA Mission Field and special support in Greater Pacific Northwest USA Mission Center (Apostles: Robin Linkhart and Ronald D. Harmon Jr.)

John S. Wight, Quorum 6, Senior President of Seventy

Central USA Mission Field and North East USA Mission Field (Apostles: Janné C. Grover and Lachlan E. Mackay)

Carlos A. de Carvalho, Quorum 7

Central and South America Mission Field and special assignment as Brazil Mission Center president (Apostle: Carlos E. Mejia)

John F. Glaser, Quorum 8

Caribbean Mission Field, Mexico/Texas Mission Field, and Canada Mission Field (Apostles: Rick W. Maupin, Caribbean; Arthur E. Smith, Mexico/Texas and Canada)

Adam R. Wade, Quorum 9

Pacific Mission Field and East Asia Mission Field (Apostle: Mareva M. Arnaud Tchong)

Larry M. McGuire, Quorum 10

Eurasia Mission Field (Apostle: Richard C.N. James)

Following the announcement the assembly offered applause.

Time for Introduction of New Business (C-4)

The chair called the assembly's attention to item C-4 Time for Introduction of New Business, submitted by the Conference Organization and Procedures Team. The chair indicated the item was in the *Legislation* booklet in English and French on page 13 and Spanish on page 14.

The chair read the enacting resolved paragraphs. The entire text of the resolution:

Whereas, Ample time for study, discussion, and prayerful consideration of World Conference business is essential to being a prophetic people and making well-informed decisions by the body; and

Whereas, The current deadline to introduce business for World Conference (120 days before Conference) is still too short to provide adequate time for translations, discussion, and prayerful consideration by delegates; therefore be it

Resolved, That WCR 1290 be amended in the second resolved paragraph by substituting the words one hundred and twenty (120) days with one year so that it reads, "Resolved, That for legislation to come before World Conference, such legislation must be submitted to the First Presidency no later than one year before the opening of each World Conference."

The chair recognized Apostle Arthur E. Smith for a motion to approve. Apostle Smith said: "*Presidente Murphy, representando al Equipo de Organización y Procedimientos de la Conferencia, propongo la aprobación del C-4, Cronograma de introducción de nuevos negocios.*" (English: President Murphy, on behalf of the Conference Organization and Procedures Team, I move approval of item C-4 Time for Introduction of New Business.)

The chair reminded the assembly that since this item came from a body of more than one person, no second was necessary.

Gloria J. Hildman, Rocky Mountain USA Mission Center, moved an amendment to strike "one year" and insert "one hundred eighty (180) days." There was a second.

Following discussion, the chair asked the assembly if it was ready to close debate. The vote on closing debate was taken by raised hands, and it passed by the required two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote. The chair then called for the vote on the amendment to item C-4 by use of the polling devices. The vote was 508 in favor and 1,367 opposed. The amendment was lost.

Discussion returned to consideration of item C-4 as originally proposed.

Andrew W. Horner, Rocky Mountain USA Mission Center, asked whether the councils, quorums, and orders were able to submit legislation during the Conference. He was concerned about the timeliness when something needed to be submitted on short notice. The chair indicated WCR 1290 does not provide for councils, quorums, and orders to submit resolutions to the Conference during the sitting of the World Conference unless something of high importance arises. In such a case, a request could be made to the First Presidency, which would determine if the resolution was of such importance that the Conference might entertain it. There is no provision for those bodies to generate items of new business during Conference week other than stated above.

Paul S. McCain, Oklahoma USA Mission Center, asked whether the “one year” noted in the resolution was a round number and how long it actually would take to develop materials needed for study in the various fields. The chair said there were no graphs or statistics to display, and the date of one year comes from leaders’ experience over many years of dealing with translations, and the entire aspect of sharing information with the field.

The chair asked the assembly if it was ready to close debate on item C-4. The vote was taken by raised hands. It passed by the required two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote. The vote then was taken on item C-4 as originally proposed, using polling devices. The results were 1,741 in favor and 201 opposed. The resolution was adopted.

Supporting Indigenous Peoples (G-7)

President Murphy called up item G-7 Supporting Indigenous Peoples, submitted by the World Church Human Rights Team and found in the *Legislation* booklet in English, Spanish, and French on page 19. The chair read the enacting clauses. The entire resolution read:

Whereas, Indigenous peoples are distinct from other sectors of societies and subject to unjust domination; and

Whereas, The indigenous include communities, nations, and peoples who lived on the lands for generations, including before settlers “discovered” and claimed the lands as their own; and

Whereas, Indigenous peoples, as non-dominant sectors of society, resolve to preserve, develop, and transmit their ethnic identity to future generations, assuring their continued existence as peoples in harmony with their cultural patterns, social institutions, and legal systems; and

Whereas, Community of Christ upholds the Worth of All Persons and affirms indigenous peoples are equal to all other peoples and always have been; and

Whereas, Community of Christ also affirms that indigenous peoples contribute to the diversity and richness of civilizations and cultures and therefore to the common heritage of humankind; and

Whereas, We as a church affirm that doctrines, policies, and practices that promote superiority of individuals or peoples based on national origin or racial, religious, ethnic, or cultural differences are racist, scientifically false, legally invalid, morally condemnable, and socially unjust; and

Whereas, laws, policies, and practices sanctioned by what some call the “Doctrine of Discovery” allowed the conquest and domination of original peoples through the use of genocide, taking assets, and other dehumanizing injustices still pervasive today; and

Whereas, our Mission Initiatives, and from Luke 4:18–19 NRSV call the church “to let the oppressed go free”; therefore, be it

Resolved, that the 2016 World Conference officially renounce the Doctrine of Discovery and ask the First Presidency to issue a statement to be published in official church publications, including the church website; and be it further

Resolved, That the World Conference request the First Presidency, where appropriate, to urge the governments of the world to ensure that their policies, regulations, and laws that affect indigenous peoples comply with international conventions, including the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the International Labour Organisation’s Convention 169; and be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency include a working group focused on global justice issues for indigenous peoples as a key priority for the World Church Human Rights Team for 2016–2019; and be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency be encouraged to contribute to ecumenical and interfaith advocacy actions in various countries based on principles in this resolution; and be it further

Resolved, That actions taken by the First Presidency be done in consultation with representatives of the particular indigenous group(s) being supported by the specific advocacy activity; and be it further

Resolved, That members of Community of Christ seek opportunities for further education on the principles of this resolution and engage in local advocacy opportunities with indigenous groups.

The chair recognized Elray G. Henriksen, Western Europe Mission Center, who moved approval of item G-7. A second was received.

Georgia R. Seagraves, Sierra Pacific USA Mission Center, moved to close debate. There was a second. The vote was taken, and it passed by the required two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote.

The vote was taken on item G-7, and it was approved by 1,797 in favor and 126 opposed.

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

World Conference Resolution Publication (C-6)

President Cramm called attention to item C-6 World Conference Resolution Publication, submitted by the Conference Organization and Procedures Team. It was in the *Legislation* booklet in English, Spanish, and French on page 15.

To bring the report of the Conference Organization and Procedures Team in relation to this resolution, the chair recognized Leonard M. Young, chair of the team. At the conclusion of the report, Brother Young

moved the adoption of Item C-6 World Conference Resolution Publication on behalf of the Conference Organization and Procedures Team. No second was required.

The chair read the enacting clauses. The entire resolution read as follows:

Whereas, Due to financial constraints, the book of *Rules and Resolutions* has not been republished since 2000, and *World Conference Resolutions* was not published after the World Conferences of 2004, 2005, 2007, 2010, and 2013; and

Whereas, Several hundred World Conference resolutions are obsolete or have been rescinded or superseded by later Conference actions; and

Whereas, The World Conferences of 1934, 1936, 1952, and 1970 authorized major adjustments to *World Conference Resolutions* by removing resolutions that no longer had current force and effect; and

Whereas, It is expensive to reproduce *World Conference Resolutions* in a printed form every 10 years and to produce supplements to it after every World Conference; and

Whereas, Many existing resolutions in *World Conference Resolutions* contain language that is obsolete (i.e., references to former field organization models, use of the church's other legal name—RLDS—and related terms, as well as descriptions of processes and procedures no longer in use in the church); and

Whereas, Continuing the printing of *World Conference Resolutions* in its current form is not helpful because often individuals reading this book find WCRs that are no longer of current force and effect, which gives a false impression of current World Church policy and procedure; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the First Presidency be requested to maintain a log of all World Conference enactments with copies maintained in the church's archives for the use of historians and researchers; and be it further

Resolved, That the World Conference request the First Presidency to make a selection of the WCRs that have current force and effect for church governance and policy making, and that this selection be kept up to date following each World Conference; and be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency be authorized to update the language usage in the resolutions that have current force and effect to reflect current usage in the church; and be it further

Resolved, That the World Conference request the First Presidency to place those WCRs with current force and effect in English on the church's website and in French and Spanish as these become available.

Robert D. Dobkins, Greater Pacific Northwest USA Mission Center, asked about the time limit on moving a statement. The chair said that because this was a report from the Conference Organization and Procedures Team, there was no time limit; however, speakers for or against would have a time limit.

Caroline L. Griffin, Southeast USA Mission Center, asked about the availability for print-on-demand of the materials for places where there is not Internet access. The chair indicated mission center leaders would be able to print from the Internet and provide the materials for those individuals without access to the Internet.

David E. Condit, Chesapeake Bay USA Mission Center, moved to amend the motion in the last resolved after the word “website” by adding the words “by April 2017.” There was a second. The chair said that without objection the modification to the resolution would be accepted. There was no objection.

The chair asked the assembly if it was ready to close debate on item C-6. The vote was taken on the motion to close debate by raised hands, and the chair declared it passed by the required two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote. The vote on approval for item C-6 was taken, using the polling devices. The motion was approved by 1,670 in favor and 74 opposed.

Morning Recess

The chair indicated the time for the morning recess had arrived, and said the assembly would be recessed at 10:15 a.m. for 15 minutes.

Reconvene

President Stephen M. Veazey assumed the chair and called the assembly back to order at 10:37 a.m.

Palestine and Israel (G-6)

President Veazey called the assembly’s attention to item G-6 Palestine and Israel, submitted by the World Church Peace and Justice Team and found in the *Legislation* booklet beginning in English and Spanish on page 19, and French on page 18.

The enacting clauses were read to the assembly. The entire text of the resolution:

Resolved, That Community of Christ specifically declares its belief in the love of God for Muslims and Jews, and we denounce all Islamophobia and anti-Semitism; and be it further

Resolved, That Community of Christ join with other Christian, Jewish, Muslim, ecumenical, and secular peace movements in the call for peace in Israel and Palestine. We, with other Christians, call for the right of the State of Israel to exist in secure borders; for the cessation of Israeli military occupation and illegal settlements in the West Bank; and for the recognition of the State of Palestine (in accordance with 1947 UN General Assembly Resolution 181/II, 1967 UN Security Council Resolution 242, and 1988 UN General Assembly Resolution 43/177).

The chair recognized James B. Hannah, Central USA Mission Center, who offered a motion to approve. There was a second.

Charles D. Jones, Sierra Pacific USA Mission Center, moved to amend G-6 by striking out the entire second sentence in the second resolved. There was a second. Debate ensued on the amendment.

The chair then indicated the current parliamentary situation regarding speakers who had registered to speak and asked the assembly if it was ready to vote on the amendment. The vote was taken on closing debate by raised hands, and the chair ruled the motion to close debate carried by the required two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote. The vote then was taken on the amendment to the motion offered by Brother Jones by use of the polling devices. The results were 745 in favor and 1,244 opposed. The chair declared the amendment lost.

Debate continued on the main motion.

Charles P. Castorina, Gulf USA Mission Center, moved to amend by G-6 by striking the entire motion and substituting the following:

Resolved, That Community of Christ believes in the inherent Worth of All Persons. In addition the Community of Christ proclaims God's love for Muslims and Jews and has as one of its core missions the commitment to the pursuit of peace.

Resolved, That Community of Christ join other Christian, Jewish, Muslim, ecumenical and secular movements to call for Israel and Palestine to end all hostilities, actions causing human suffering, and to encourage Israel and Palestine to have peace talks to resolve issues of security, borders, and recognition of mutual statehood.

There was a second.

Alexander B. DeHaan, Central USA Mission Center, moved to amend the proposed substitute in the first resolved, after the phrase "proclaims God's love for Muslims and Jews," by inserting "and we denounce all Islamophobia and anti-Semitism." There was a second.

Discussion ensued on the amendment to the proposed substitute.

The chair asked the assembly if it was ready to close debate on the amendment to the proposed substitute. There was an objection from Charles P. Castorina, Gulf USA Mission Center, who indicated he was registered to speak for the amendment to the amendment. The chair granted Brother Castorina the opportunity to speak for the amendment to the proposed substitute.

Discussion continued.

The chair then asked the assembly if it was ready to vote on the amendment to the proposed substitute. The vote was taken on closing debate on the amendment to the proposed substitute by raised hands. The chair declared it passed by the required two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote. The vote then was taken on the amendment to the proposed substitute, using the polling devices. The results were 843 in favor and 1,030 opposed. The chair declared the amendment to the proposed substitute lost.

Debate continued on the amendment by substitution as originally proposed by Brother Castorina.

The chair noted the parliamentary situation regarding speakers who had registered to speak and asked the assembly if it was ready to close debate on the amendment by substitution only. The vote was taken on the motion to close debate on the substitution by raised hands. The chair declared it passed by the required two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote. The vote then was taken on the amendment by substitution, using the polling devices. The results were 592 in favor and 1,161 opposed. The chair declared the amendment by substitution was lost.

Lunch Recess

The chair noted the time for the end of the morning business meeting was at hand. Discussion on G-6 was suspended until the afternoon meeting, when consideration of G-6 as originally moved would continue. The assembly recessed at 12:05 p.m. to reconvene at 1:45 p.m.

Reconvene

The assembly reconvened at 1:47 p.m. with President Veazey in the chair. Under the leadership of Apostle Bunda C. Chibwe and members of the Africa/Haiti Mission Field, the assembly sang “Takwaba Uwabanga Yesu!” (“There’s No One Like Jesus!”).

Palestine and Israel (G-6) Continued

The assembly resumed discussion on item G-6 as originally proposed.

Judith K.L. Pfohl, Cedar Valley-Nauvoo USA Mission Center, moved to close debate. The chair asked the assembly if it was ready to close debate on item G-6. The vote on closing debate was taken by raised hands, and it carried by the required two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote. The chair then took the vote on item G-6, using the polling devices. G-6 as originally proposed was adopted by 1,332 in favor and 569 opposed.

President Veazey relinquished the chair to President Murphy.

Retirement of World Church Employees (A-1)

The chair called attention to Item A-1 Retirement of World Church Employees found in the Tuesday *Bulletin* in English on page 91, in Spanish on page 85, and in French on page 83. President Murphy shared the following statement with the Conference:

On behalf of the First Presidency, we want to say, “thank you” to our retiring employees for all you have done for the church and mission of Christ. You have been a blessing to all of us. Know that you are remembered and held in our prayers.

I also want to acknowledge that we have many other individuals who do not have the opportunity to offer their service and ministry as full-time employees due to our financial reductions. Today, on behalf of the First Presidency, we are deeply sorry for the impact this situation has caused those employees and their families. Like our retirees, these employees also have contributed to the work and mission of the church in ways that words can never fully express. We want to also say to those employees: Thank you for the service and ministry you have provided so many in the church. We are who we are today because of what you have provided. We have been and continue to hold all of you in our prayers.

I invite the Conference to stand as an expression of our respect, profound appreciation, and love for these employees and their faithful service and ministry over the years.

The assembly offered a standing ovation.

Dates for 2019 World Conference (C-7 and C-8)

President Murphy indicated the next item of business would be considering the dates for the 2019 World Conference. He said the First Presidency was withdrawing item C-7A relating to the June dates. He said the Presidency would like to see the 2019 World Conference focus on the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Temple. It would, in the Presidency’s opinion, be more appropriate to have the Conference in April at the time of the church’s birthday and the time of the actual Temple dedication in 1994.

The chair noted two sets of April dates being recommended by the Presidency.

Item C-7 offered the dates of April 6–13, 2019 (Saturday through Saturday). Those dates included the anniversary of the church’s founding and avoided the week of Easter. That item was in the *Legislation* booklet in English and French on page 15 and in Spanish on page 16.

The second set of dates recommended by the First Presidency was item C-8, which offered the dates of April 4–10, 2019 (Thursday through Wednesday), and included the anniversary of the church’s founding, avoided Holy Week, and allowed time for delegates to return home before Palm Sunday. That item was in the Wednesday *Bulletin* in English on page 115, in Spanish on page 107, and in French on page 109.

The chair indicated that both sets of dates in April would avoid Easter on April 21, 2019, and include the April 6 anniversary of the founding of the church.

The chair said there were pros and cons to any dates selected. The idea behind the second set of dates (C-8) was to allow a full weekend for the 25th-anniversary celebration of the Temple. Item C-7 would allow less focus on the Temple anniversary.

Informal Consideration

President Murphy then directed the assembly to form small discussion groups to share perspectives about these two sets of dates. After these small-group discussions concluded, the chair opened the floor to allow members of the assembly to share brief perspectives about these dates.

At the conclusion of this time, the chair surveyed delegates to determine which item should be called up for the consideration of the assembly.

The results:

Item	Results
Those preferring item C-7 (April 6-13, 2019)	960
Those preferring item C-8 (April 4-10, 2019)	878

The chair indicated that based on the results, C-7 would be brought into formal consideration.

The chair recognized Apostle Carlos Enrique Mejia for a motion to approve this item. Apostle Mejia offered the following motion: “*El Presidente Veazey, Yo muevo la aprobación del artículo C-7, fechas para la Conferencia Mundial 2019.*” (English: President Veazey, I move the approval of item C-7, Dates for the 2019 World Conference.) There was a second. Debate followed.

The chair asked the assembly if it was ready to close discussion on item C-7. The vote on closing debate on C-7 was taken by raised hands, and it carried by the required two-thirds (2/3) vote. The chair then called for the vote on item C-7, using the polling devices. C-7 was adopted 1,450 in favor and 445 opposed.

Afternoon Recess

The chair indicated the time for the afternoon recess had arrived and indicated the assembly would be recessed at 2:50 p.m. for 15 minutes.

Reconvene

President Stassi D. Cramm called the assembly back to order at 3:08 p.m.

Opposition to Predatory Loan Practices (G-5)

President Cramm called the attention of the assembly to item G-5 Opposition to Predatory Loans, submitted by the Central USA Mission Center and found in the *Legislation* booklet beginning in English, Spanish, and French on page 18.

The enacting clauses were read to the assembly. The entire text of the resolution:

Whereas, The Hebrew Bible in several instances speaks to the immorality of high usury, e.g., Nehemiah shouts out, “Let us stop this taking of interest” (Nehemiah 5:10 NRSV); and

Whereas, Genesis 7:23 (IV) says, “And the Lord called his people, Zion, because they were of one heart and of one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there were no poor among them”; and

Whereas, Doctrine and Covenants 163:4a says, “God the Eternal Creator weeps for the poor, displaced, mistreated, and diseased of the world because of their unnecessary suffering. Such conditions are not God’s will...”; and

Whereas, Doctrine and Covenants 164:6a says, “...God the Creator of all, ultimately is concerned about behaviors and relationships that uphold the worth and giftedness of all people and that protect the most vulnerable”; and

Whereas, Around the world various predatory loan practices flourish; and

Whereas, Each year predatory loans catch countless people in a “debt trap” by making short-term, high-interest loans at triple-digit interest rates, driving households into sustained poverty; therefore be it

Resolved, That Community of Christ condemns predatory lending practices as immoral and sees them as a threat for luring vulnerable individuals and families into a debt trap that often pulls them into poverty; and be it further

Resolved, That Community of Christ partner with other faith groups and community organizations to advocate for reform of short-term, high-interest loans (such as payday and title loans) at national and sub-national levels around the world; and be it further

Resolved, That Community of Christ work with other faith groups, non-profit organizations, and financial institutions to create new options for individuals and families to get affordable, small loans for justifiable emergency expenses and to develop training for these individuals to help them effectively manage their financial affairs; and be it further

Resolved, That members and friends of Community of Christ be encouraged to use their time, talents, and treasures to develop and support resources for small loans with affordable interest rates and terms and to recognize this as work that pursues the mission of Jesus Christ; and be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency be requested to collect success stories from the worldwide church to be reported periodically in the *Herald* and other church media to create moral economy models for others to follow and to help members and friends recognize the blessings of ministry to those who are most vulnerable financially; and be it further

Resolved, That Community of Christ's leadership be requested to look for ways to assimilate these success stories into a model that can be replicated by congregations and communities throughout the world as appropriate.

The chair recognized Garland H. Land, Central USA Mission Center, who moved the motion to approve. There was a second.

Following debate, the chair indicated the parliamentary situation regarding those who had registered to speak and asked whether the assembly was ready to close debate on item G-5. The vote was taken on the motion to close debate by raised hands, and the chair ruled it carried by the required two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote. The vote then was taken on G-5, using the polling devices. Item G-5 was approved by 1,624 in favor and 301 opposed.

President Cramm relinquished the chair to President Murphy.

Closed Captioning (G-2)

President Murphy called attention to item G-2 Closed Captioning, submitted by the South Central States USA Mission Center and found in the *Legislation* booklet beginning in English and Spanish on page 17, and French on page 16.

The enacting clauses were read to the assembly. The entire text of the resolution:

Whereas, There are members, friends, and seekers of Community of Christ who are deaf or have difficulty hearing; and whose capacity of receiving and sharing ministry, as well as their sense of being a member of this community, is diminished by the lack of captioning of video resources; and

Whereas, There are many products and services available to allow quick and accurate captioning; some are inexpensive and easy to use by those with limited technical skills. Therefore, in the spirit of our Enduring Principles of Worth of All Persons and Unity in Diversity, be it

Resolved, That the First Presidency investigate the use of closed or open captioning on all church-produced videos in English, French, and Spanish with the goal of all official church videos to be captioned and request the First Presidency to investigate the cost and implement as soon as deemed feasible; and be it further

Resolved, That a call be made for volunteers with the talent, skills, and experience to help in the ministerial process of transcribing and captioning church videos.

The chair recognized Theodore L. Tinsman, South Central USA Mission Center, to move the motion. There was a second.

After debate, the chair indicated the parliamentary situation and asked if the assembly was ready to close debate on item G-2. The vote was taken on the motion to close debate by raised hands, and it carried by the required two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote.

Rebekah L. Henze, Michigan USA Mission Center, used the parliamentary action "appeal" to gain the floor and asked to move an amendment to G-2. The chair indicated the assembly already had closed debate, and that another amendment was not in order.

The chair then called for the vote on item G-2, using the polling devices. G-2 was approved by 1,825 in favor and 78 opposed.

The chair said this concluded the legislative items for the afternoon.

Moment of Blessing

Katie L. Harmon-McLaughlin and Richard W. Holmes offered a moment of blessing.

Reconsideration of Item G-2

The chair indicated there remained a motion in the electronic queue to reconsider item G-2 and made the body aware the amendment was the one that Sister Henze had attempted to make after the motion to close debate had been adopted. The amendment was in the first resolved to amend G-2 by inserting after the phrase *use of closed or open captioning* the words *and the use of an inset picture of a sign language interpreter*.

The chair said that without objection, the First Presidency would accept this amendment informally without the need for a formal reconsidering of G-2. The body did not object, so the words proposed earlier by Sister Henze were included in the approved G-2. The assembly applauded their assent.

President Murphy relinquished the chair to President Cramm.

Common Consent Process

The chair called the attention of the assembly to item I-1A, entitled Mission, Tithing, and Priesthood Response, submitted by the First Presidency and Presiding Bishopric. The chair noted it was in the Monday *Bulletin* beginning in English on page 58, in Spanish on page 58, and in French on page 56.

The chair recognized Apostles Linda L. Booth and Arthur E. Smith, the chairs of the Committee of the Whole, to present the report of the Committee.

Apostle Booth reported the Committee of the Whole had under consideration Item I-1A “Mission, Tithing, and Priesthood Response.” Regarding the Definition of Tithing the committee took a survey of the level of support. The results were in Friday’s *Bulletin* in English on page 134, in French on Page 128, and in Spanish on page 130. The results:

Level of Support	Percent
No Support	16%
Little Support	14%
Tentative Support	32%
Significant Support	22%
Full Support	16%

Apostle Smith reported the committee also took a survey of perspectives about the Definition of Tithing, found in the Friday *Bulletin* in English on page 134, in Spanish on page 130, and in French on Page 128. Apostle Smith further reported the committee also took a survey of perspectives regarding Priesthood Response. The results of this survey were in the Saturday *Bulletin* in English on page 134, in French on Page 129, and in Spanish on page 131.

The chair then drew the assembly’s attention to the newly modified proposal item I-1B from the First Presidency and Presiding Bishopric, printed in the Friday *Bulletin* in English on page 134, in French on page 128 and in Spanish on page 130. The chair then called on Bishops Steven E. Graffeo and Michele K. McGrath for a report. The complete text of item I-1B:

Community of Christ has agreed that “tithing is a spiritual practice that demonstrates willingness to offer every dimension of one’s life to God” (Doctrine and Covenants 165:2d).

Therefore, it is proposed, as these words find expression in the church, the following affirmations guide us:

Stewardship is whole-life response to God’s grace and the ministry of Jesus Christ.

One way stewardship is expressed is through the spiritual practice of tithing.

Although tithing literally means a tenth, giving generously to one’s true capacity is the spirit of tithing.

Tithing of time, talent, treasure, and testimony supports local and worldwide church ministries in pursuit of Jesus Christ’s mission.

All disciples are called to live as faithful stewards who tithe.

Furthermore, it is proposed the First Presidency and Presiding Bishopric provide resources to support priesthood and leaders in developing disciples who understand faithful tithing as part of the six principles of A Disciple’s Generous Response.

A survey was taken on where the assembly was in its level support of the modified proposal I-1B as found in the Friday *Bulletin*. The results:

Level of Support	Percent
No Support	6%
Little Support	3%
Tentative Support	13%
Significant Support	37%
Full Support	42%

The chair thanked the assembly for its feedback and indicated that the common consent process would continue Saturday.

President Cramm relinquished the chair to President Murphy, who made an announcement reminding delegates to return the polling devices to their delegation steward at the conclusion of the Conference.

Closing Hymn and Prayer

The assembly sang the hymn, “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow,” led by Dr. Jan K. Kraybill at the organ. Nora E. Mejia from Bolivia in the Northwest of South America Mission Center offered the closing prayer.

The Conference adjourned at 4:36 p.m. to meet again at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, June 11, 2016.

Susan D. Sloan
World Church Secretary