



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

Official Minutes of Business Meeting Saturday, June 11, 2016

Call to Order

The 2016 World Conference convened in its eighth legislative meeting at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, June 11, 2016, in the Conference Chamber of the Auditorium, Independence, Missouri. President Stassi D. Cramm was in the chair.

The assembly sang the hymn, "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus," led by Dr. Jan K. Kraybill at the organ. Alice Esang Ankoh from the Nigeria Mission Centre offered the opening prayer.

Announcements

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

Moment of Blessing

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

Mission, Tithing, and Priesthood Response (I-1A)

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

Based on what the First Presidency and Presiding Bishopric heard from the Committee of the Whole on Thursday and Friday, they prepared a newly modified proposal, I-1A, found in the Friday *Bulletin* in English on page 135, in French on page 129, and in Spanish on page 131.

The chair noted a change to the title based on several suggestions received informally overnight by the Presiding Bishopric. The new title of the modified proposal I-1B was expressed as "Mission and Tithing."

The chair read the modified proposal I-1B as printed below:

Modified I-1B Mission and Tithing

Submitted by the First Presidency and the Presiding Bishopric

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.

The chair reviewed the Committee of the Whole process up to that point. Since the report had been received from that committee, the chair indicated the assembly would move into common consent mode. During Friday’s meeting Bishops Steven E. Graffeo and Michele K. McGrath summarized what the Refinement Committee heard during discussions about the original and modified proposals. The assembly also heard how the committee had decided to adjust the proposal to create I-1B.

The chair reminded delegates of the results of the Survey of Support conducted Friday to see the assembly’s reactions to proposal I-1B. The results:

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

The chair stated the First Presidency now would ask delegates which proposal they preferred, I-1A or I-1B. The version receiving a majority of support then would move on for a final vote by the Conference.

Informal Consideration

Without objection, the assembly followed a process similar to one used Wednesday. Time was spent in small-group conversations for delegates to broaden their understanding. The groups discussed which proposal was preferable and why.

Following the small-group conversations, Carla K. Long and Bunda C. Chibwe led the assembly in singing “Kanisa Litajengwa?” (“Who Will Build the Church?”).

The chair called the assembly back to order. The floor was opened for delegates to offer brief comments on which proposal they preferred. Following this time of sharing comments and asking questions, the chair thanked the assembly for its open sharing.

Moment of Blessing

Charmaine L. Chvala-Smith and Richard W. Holmes led the assembly in a moment of blessing.

Continued Informal Consideration of the Mission and Tithing Proposals

The chair indicated the assembly was still in informal consideration. It was announced that whichever proposal received the most support would be put before the assembly for a final vote. The vote was taken, using polling devices, and the results were that I-1A received 98 and I-1B received 1,736.

The chair indicated the assembly then would consider proposal I-1B. Because a high degree of consent was important for the First Presidency and Presiding Bishopric, the chair ruled a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote would be required for the proposal to be adopted. The vote was taken, using the polling devices. The results were 1,739 (94 percent) in favor and 102 (6 percent) opposed. I-1B thus achieved the required support and was declared approved by the Conference. It was noted that this was possibly the highest level of consent ever achieved as a body.

President Cramm stated:

The chair thanks the Conference for its patience and diligence in moving through this process together. Working together on important matters such as this is part of the Blessings of Community.

The chair also wishes to thank those who served on the Common Consent Team. The process we experienced this week used some of the tools developed by this team. As we grow in how we make decisions together, we will continue to be blessed by the tools used this week and other tools developed by this team. Our understanding of common consent is that it is a philosophy of how we come together, listening and learning from each other as the body finds a proposal that can be supported. We have been blessed by the work of this team and will continue to be blessed.

May God bless the church as we faithfully implement proposal I-1B: Mission and Tithing. May we live as faithful disciples who grow in our spiritual practice of tithing. May our generous response sustain and grow Christ's mission around the world as we help bring about God's vision of Shalom.

Moment of Blessing

The assembly sang "Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow" under the leadership of Katie L. Harmon-McLaughlin, who read a selection from Philippians 4:4.

President Stephen M. Veazey assumed the chair. He thanked the Moments of Blessing Team for its ministry during the week.

Sustaining of World Church Leaders (A-2)

The chair drew attention to item A-2 Sustaining of World Church Leaders, found in the Friday *Bulletin* in English on page 132, in Spanish on page 128, and in French on page 126.

The chair recognized Leonard M. Young for a motion to approve A-2. A second was received.

President Veazey relinquished the chair to Brother Young, who put item A-2 to a vote. He noted, "By action of the 1994 World Conference (April 15, 1994) the previous policy of sustaining World Church leaders individually was rescinded, and the policy established that they be sustained in a single vote." There was no debate. The vote then was taken by raised hands, and item A-2 was approved. Brother Young returned the chair to President Veazey.

Sustaining of Councils, Quorums and Orders (A-3)

President Veazey called up item A-3 Sustaining of Quorums, Councils, and Orders in the Friday *Bulletin* in English on page 133, in French on page 127, and in Spanish on page 129.

The chair read the following statement regarding the long-standing practice of having the Conference assembly vote to sustain the quorums, councils, and orders:

For many years, there has been a resolution presented to the last business meeting of each World Conference that asked for a vote to sustain all of the quorums, councils, and orders other than the World Church leaders just sustained in the previous action.

After careful consideration, it is the opinion of the First Presidency that this action has become a vote that has little real meaning. For example, what would it mean if the Conference failed to sustain all the groups listed?

What would it mean if the Quorum of High Priests or the Quorums of Seventy, or the Order of Evangelists were not sustained? It certainly would not mean that these bodies and their members were suspended from their priesthood offices and unable to function in the church in their office and calling as is the usual meaning of the motion to sustain.

The First Presidency has determined there would not be any practical effect if we continued or discontinued the practice of approving resolutions such as A-3 at each Conference, and therefore, we are suggesting to the World Conference that this practice be discontinued.

The chair indicated that without objection, the World Conference no longer would be presented with such actions. There was no objection, so the chair ruled items similar to A-3 no longer will come before World Conferences for approval.

Statement of Thanks to Staff and Volunteers

The chair read the following statement:

At this time, we have come to the end of our legislative agenda. The First Presidency wishes to offer our sincere appreciation to all those who have worked so hard to make this Conference successful. We draw your attention to the list of those whom we wish to thank, found in the Saturday *Bulletin* beginning in English on page 146 and in Spanish and French on page 140.

The chair then asked World Conference Director Susan K. Naylor and Assistant Director Tammy F. Lindle to come to the rostrum for a special statement of recognition. Emily G. Penrose-McLaughlin was not available, but the chair included her in the statement of thanks.

The assembly offered a standing ovation.

Adjournment Sine Die

The chair recognized Apostle Richard C.N. James for a motion to adjourn. Apostle James moved “that the 2016 World Conference be adjourned *sine die*.” David N. Anderson, president of the Quorum of High Priests, seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and it carried. With a rap of the gavel President Veazey declared, “This World Conference is now adjourned *sine die*.” The assembly applauded.

Announcement

The chair reminded all delegates that following the meeting and before the closing worship service they needed to return their polling devices to their device steward.

World Conference Minutes

The chair read the following statement on World Conference minutes:

We would like to remind the delegates of how the minutes of our meetings this week will be reviewed, approved, and kept for historical purposes. The World Church secretary also has been diligently keeping normal daily minutes.

Also, throughout the week a committee of five persons from the Standing High Council has been diligently making notes of our proceedings. We have provided them each day with a copy of the detailed script used by the presiding officers, as well as a copy of the daily printout from the Legislative Communications System and a copy of the printed polling results.

Following the adjournment of the Conference, the minutes will be carefully reviewed by this team and ultimately will be placed on the church's website for any who wish to read them or print them for posterity.

In addition, a copy of the minutes will be in the church's archives, and an additional copy will be bound into the book with the actual transcript of our deliberations. Of course, they also will be kept in the files of the First Presidency.

We hope any who might be concerned about loss of historical memory will realize that we are going several extra steps to assure that none of our institutional memory is lost.

The chair indicated the First Presidency had received numerous positive comments about the legislation summary printed in the daily *Bulletins*. He thanked Greg A. Clark, editor of the *Herald*, for his excellent work in covering the World Conference. The assembly offered its thanks with applause.

Closing

The chair announced the singing of the closing hymn on the business meeting followed by a 30-minute break. He indicated the closing worship service of the 2016 World Conference then would take place, including the roll call of the nations.

The assembly sang the hymn, "Lord, Who Views All People Precious," after which the World Conference legislative session concluded at 10:29 a.m.

Susan D. Sloan
World Church Secretary