



Community of Christ

Official Actions of the 2019 World Conference

Graceland University Board of Trustees

On April 8, 2019 the following were elected to the Graceland University Board of Trustees.

For a three-year term beginning 3 August 2019 and ending 5 August 2022

Heather A. Donofrio

Scott D. Ourth

For a two-year term beginning 8 August 2020 and ending 5 August 2022

John F. Glaser

John R. Sheehy

Letter of Counsel about World Church Leaders

On April 8, 2019, the Councils, Quorums, Orders, Mass Meetings, and Caucuses indicated they had given consideration to the calls in the Letter of Counsel about World Church Leaders and that all had been approved by substantial majorities.

The calls for Catherine C. Mambwe and David H. M. Nii to serve as apostles and members of the Council of Twelve Apostles, and for Jeffrey A. Naylor to serve as counselor to the Presiding Bishop and member of the Presiding Bishopric were considered individually and each was approved by the delegates in assembly.

WCR 1315 World Church Budgeting and Audit Process (Adopted April 8, 2019)

Whereas, World Conference Resolution (WCR) 1306 authorizes the World Church Finance Board to annually review and approve the World Church audit, approve the annual Worldwide Mission Budget, and make recommendations to the World Conference concerning special appropriations, and

Whereas, WCR 1306 establishes the World Church Finance Board as a 60-member body with 30 members elected by World Conference (15 elected each Conference) and nine members elected by the Order of Bishops (five being elected some years and four being elected in other years), and 21 members based on their positions on the World Church Leadership Council, and

Whereas, The only requirement to be elected is to be a church member in good standing, and

Whereas, It is common to limit the number of employed staff members on governing boards to minimize conflicts of interest, and

Whereas, An employed staff member is anyone who receives compensation (which does not include reimbursement of expenses) in the name of Community of Christ, and

Whereas, The number of non-employed bishops is limited, and the Order of Bishops gathered at World Conference is small and less representative than the World Conference, and

Whereas, the World Conference has and can continue to elect bishops who are not Community of Christ employees as members, and

Whereas, The Presiding Bishopric has received input that the size of the board is too large for effective meeting participation, and

Whereas, Having an even number of bishops elected by the Order of Bishops is easier to manage at each World Conference, and

Whereas, According to the current resolution elected members may not serve more than twelve (12) years on the board, and

Whereas, The technology used to automate elections is changing rapidly; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That WCR 1306 be amended to read as follows:

World Church Audit and Budget-development Policy

1. The World Conference shall establish a World Church Finance Board responsible for annually reviewing and approving the World Church audit, approving the annual Worldwide Mission Budget, and making recommendations to the World Conference concerning special appropriations. The board shall present projections to each World Conference for annual budgets for the next inter-Conference period. These projections shall be based on the best estimates of potential church income and expenses, but they shall not bind the World Church Finance Board in developing and approving annual Worldwide Mission Budgets should circumstances change or income vary. The World Conference shall discuss these projections, and the input gained shall be considered by the World Church Finance Board in forming and approving these annual budgets.
2. The World Conference may establish parameters for the World Church Finance Board in developing and approving annual Worldwide Mission Budgets.
3. The World Church Finance Board shall be presided over by the First Presidency and shall be composed of up to fifty-five (55) members as follows:
 - First Presidency (3)
 - Council of Twelve Apostles (12)
 - Presiding Bishopric (3)
 - President, High Priest Quorum (1)
 - Senior president of seventy (1)
 - Presiding evangelist (1)
 - Four (4) bishops elected by the Order of Bishops at World Conference to represent the order, with each elected for a six-year term. Terms would be staggered so two (2) will be elected at each World Conference.
 - Thirty (30) members elected by the World Conference to represent the church at-large, with each elected for a six-year term. Terms would be staggered so fifteen (15) would be elected at each World Conference.
4. The First Presidency is authorized to appoint board members when vacancies occur between World Conferences. These appointments must follow the same criteria for the vacancy being filled.
5. The bishops elected by the Order of Bishops as members of the World Church Finance Board shall be church members in good standing, may be current employees of Community of Christ in local or World Church jurisdictions, and may not serve more than two (2) consecutive full (six-year) terms without a three-year break in service. A term completed by a person appointed to fill an inter-Conference vacancy is not a full term.
6. Individuals elected by World Conference as members of the World Church Finance Board shall be church members in good standing, shall not be current employees of Community of Christ in local or World Church jurisdictions, and may not serve more than

- two (2) consecutive full terms (six years) without a three-year break in service. A term completed by a person appointed to fill an inter-Conference vacancy is not a full term.
7. The Worldwide Mission Budget shall provide funds to cover travel expenses as requested by World Church Finance Board members.
 8. The First Presidency, in consultation with the Presiding Bishopric, shall make nominations to the World Church Finance Board for election by the World Conference. In addition, each World Conference shall allow nominations from the floor. These nominations shall occur early enough to allow biographical sketches of the nominees to be available to the World Conference before the election. In the nomination process, attention shall be given to balanced representation, including factors such as vocation, geographic residence, age, gender, church leadership experience, and church jurisdiction. The First Presidency shall form the specific procedures to conduct voting, including use of prevailing technology as appropriate. The 15 individuals receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected. The First Presidency shall provide the specific procedure in the event of ties.
 9. The First Presidency shall appoint a team to handle preliminary preparation of the budget. This committee shall be composed of World Church personnel responsible for church programming, finance, and field ministries.
 10. The annual audit and budget shall be made available on the church website. The *Herald* shall publish an annual report on the audit and budget, and a summary report shall be made to each World Conference.

Counselor to the President of the Quorum of High Priests

On April 9, 2019, the World Conference approved the selection of Jennifer L. Killpack as counselor to the president of the Quorum of High Priests and as a member of the quorum presidency.

Statement Regarding the End of the Proviso

In 2016 the World Conference adopted a proviso to the Bylaws of Community of Christ to the effect that during the past inter-conference period, the First Presidency would be free to experiment with various field organization models.

The Presidency wishes to inform the Conference that the provisions of this proviso have been fulfilled and that we have determined that no further adjustments to the Bylaws are required at this time.

Officers of the Council of Twelve

On March 4, 2019, the Council of Twelve Apostles elected Ronald D. Harmon Jr. as president of the Council of Twelve Apostles and Richard C.N. James as secretary of the Council of Twelve Apostles.

On April 10, 2019, the World Conference approved the motion for Ronald D. Harmon Jr. as president of the Council of Twelve Apostles and Richard C.N. James as secretary of the Council of Twelve Apostles.

Council of Twelve Field Assignments for 2019–2022

Barbara L. Carter

Southeast USA Mission Field:
Bountiful USA Mission Center

Brush Creek USA Mission Center
Florida USA Mission Center
Kentucky-Indiana USA Mission Center
South Central States USA Mission Center
Southeast USA Mission Center
Western Ohio USA Mission Center
Ecumenical and Interfaith officer
SPECTACULAR and International Youth Forum

Bunda C. Chibwe

Central and West Africa Mission Field and South-Central Asia Mission Field:

Congo West Kinshasa Mission Center
Congo Katanga Mission Center
Ivory Coast and Togo Mission Center
Nigeria Mission Center
Andhra Pradesh India Mission Center
Buripadar India Mission Center
Chandragiri India Mission Center
Kaliburi India Mission Center
Kenduguda India Mission Center
Kothaghar India Mission Center
Mohana India Mission Center
Nepal Mission Center
South India Green Valley Mission Center

Janné C. Grover

Central USA Mission Field:

Central USA Mission Center
Central Missouri USA Mission Center
Far West USA Mission Center
Gateway USA Mission Center
Midlands USA Mission Center
Mid-South USA Mission Center

Director of Formation Ministries

Ronald D. Harmon Jr.

Western USA and Baja California Mexico Mission Field:

Arizona USA Mission Center
Greater Pacific Northwest USA Mission Center
Pacific Southwest International Mission Center
Rocky Mountain USA Mission Center
Sierra Pacific USA Mission Center

President of the Council of Twelve Apostles

Richard C.N. James

Eurasia Mission Field:

British Isles Mission Centre
Western Europe Mission Centre
Eurasia Mission Centre

Special Mission Project with the Multi-Nations Team of Apostles

Secretary of the Council of Twelve Apostles

Robin K. Linkhart

North Central USA Mission Field:

- Cedar Valley-Nauvoo USA Mission Center
- Chicago USA Mission Center
- Headwaters USA Mission Center
- Inland West USA Mission Center
- Lamoni Heartland USA Mission Center
- Prairie Bluffs USA Mission Center

Restoration Heritage Seeker Ministries

Lachlan E. Mackay

Northeast USA Mission Field:

- Chesapeake Bay USA Mission Center
- Eastern Great Lakes USA Mission Center
- Michigan USA Mission Center
- Mid-Atlantic USA Mission Center
- New England USA Mission Center

Director of Historic Sites

Church History and Sacred Story Ministries Team lead

Catherine C. Mambwe

West, South, and East Africa Mission Field:

- Liberia and Sierra Leone Mission Center
- Zambia, Zimbabwe and South Africa Mission Center
- Malawi Mission Center
- Kenya Mission Center

Carlos Enrique Mejia

Central and South America Mission Field:

- Central America Mission Center
- Brazil Mission Center
- Southern Cone of South America Mission Center
- Northwest South America Mission Center

David H. M. Nii

South Central USA Mission Field:

- Alabama-Northwest Florida USA Mission Center
- Ark-La-Tex USA Mission Center
- Coastal Bend USA Mission Center
- Gulf USA Mission Center
- Heart of Texas USA Mission Center
- Oklahoma USA Mission Center
- Rio Grande USA Mission Center

Arthur E. Smith

Canada Mission Field, Caribbean and Mexico-Texas Mission Field:

- Canada East Mission Centre
- Canada West Mission Centre
- Caribbean Mission Centre
- Dominican Republic Mission Center

Haiti Great North Mission Center
Haiti Great South Mission Center
Mexico-Texas Mexico/USA Mission Center
Indigenous Peoples Ministry

Mareva M. Arnaud Tchong

Pacifikasia Mission Field:

Australia Mission Centre
East Asia Mission Centre
French Polynesia Mission Centre
Pacific Island Mission Centre
Philippine Mission Centre

Council of Presidents of Seventy Assignments 2019-2022

Quorum 1– Tanoh Assoi

Central and West Africa Mission Field and West, South and East Africa Mission Field
(Apostles: Bunda C. Chibwe and Catherine C. Mambwe)

Quorum 2 – Larry M. McGuire (Acting President)

South Central Asia Mission Field (Apostle: Bunda C. Chibwe)

Quorum 3 - John S. Wight

USA Mission Fields (Apostles: Barbara L. Carter, Janné C. Grover, Ronald D. Harmon, Jr., Robin K. Linkhart, Lachlan E. Mackay and David H. M. Nii)

Quorum 3 - Larry M. McGuire

Support with Quorum 3 and special assignment for *Congregational Innovation and Leadership*

Quorum 3 - Keith E. McMillian

Support with Quorum 3 and special assignment for *Restoration Heritage Seeker Ministries*

Quorum 3 - Karin F. Peter

Support with Quorum 3 and special assignment for *Restoration Heritage Seeker Ministries*

Quorum 7- John F. Glaser

Central and South America Mission Field (Apostle: Carlos Enrique Mejia)

Quorum 8 - John F. Glaser

Canada Mission Field, Caribbean and Mexico-Texas Mission Field
(Apostle: Arthur E. Smith)

Quorum 9 - Adam R. Wade

Pacifikasia Mission Field (Apostle: Mareva Arnaud Tchong)

Quorum 10 - Larry McGuire

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

Amson Mallick – Special Mission Project with the Multi-Nations Team of Apostles

Officers of the Council:

John S. Wight - Senior President of Seventy

Karin F. Peter - Secretary

Standing High Council

On April 20, 2019, the following members concluded their service on the Standing High Council.

Kathy D. Robinson (2000-2019)

Matthew J. Frizzell (2010-2019)

Valerie K. Brennan (2010-2019)

Lynn R. Wilson (2013-2019)

The following high priests were then set apart to the Standing High Council.

Mark D. Dixon, Odessa, Florida, USA

Eva M. Erickson, Berlin, Germany

Lucy N. Ibanga, Lagos, Nigeria

Joan L. Thompson, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada

WCR 1316 Priesthood Release for Cause (Adopted April 11, 2019)

Whereas, “The demands of a growing church require that [instruction given in former years] shall be evaluated and subjected to further interpretation” (Doctrine and Covenants 147:7); and

Whereas, WCR 1192, Ministerial Silences and Appeals (adopted 1986) needs to be updated to reflect current terminology and understandings; and

Whereas, The church has been given additional understanding into God’s vision for priesthood ministry; therefore, be it

Resolved, That WCR 1192 be rescinded; and, be it further

Resolved, That the World Conference affirms the following provisions for the development of policies and procedures regarding priesthood release for cause:

I. Principles

- a. All disciples “are called according to the gifts of God unto them” (Doctrine and Covenants 119:8b). Some are called to priesthood ministry as a focus of their call as disciples.
- b. The priesthood should “be made up of those who have an abiding faith and desire to serve [God] with all their hearts, in humility and with great devotion” (Doctrine and Covenants 156:8a).
- c. “Priesthood is a sacred covenant involving the highest form of stewardship of body, mind, spirit, and relationships. The priesthood shall be composed of people of humility and integrity who are willing to extend themselves in service for others and for the well-being of the faith community” (Doctrine and Covenants 163:6a).
- d. Priesthood members are expected “to continually magnify their callings through spiritual growth, study, exemplary generosity, ethical choices, and fully accountable ministry” (Doctrine and Covenants 163:6c).
- e. God “ultimately is concerned about behaviors and relationships that uphold the worth and giftedness of all people and that protect the most vulnerable. Such relationships are to be rooted in...Christ-like love, mutual respect, responsibility, justice, covenant, and faithfulness” (Doctrine and Covenants 164:6a).
- f. Church policies “provide a clear way for disciples to respond to [priesthood] calling. They also define the difference between a sense of call as potential and

the need to align one's life with principles of moral behavior and relationships that promote the well-being of the church community" (Doctrine and Covenants 165:4b).

- g. All presiding administrative church officers should uphold the "worth and giftedness" of all persons impacted by administrative actions and "protect the most vulnerable" (Doctrine and Covenants 164:6).

II. Mutual Understandings

- a. Priesthood members agree to serve according to the church's expectations for Christian and ministerial conduct and to uphold the current version of "Covenant Principles for Faithful Priesthood Ministry" as found at www.CofChrist.org/common/cms/resources/Documents/priesthood/Covenant-Principles-English.pdf.
- b. Priesthood members provide affirmative ministry consistent with current versions of the church's official documents such as the current version of *Sharing in Community of Christ*. When there is personal disagreement with a position, priesthood members are guided by *Faithful Disagreement: Definition and Principles* at www.CofChrist.org/common/cms/resources/Documents/FAITHFUL-DISAGREEMENT-PRINCIPLES.pdf.
- c. A priesthood member can be released from priesthood by presiding administrative church officers for established causes outlined below in Section III.
- d. Releasing a priesthood member for cause is an administrative action that does not affect church membership.
- e. Administrative policies and procedures should assure that a priesthood member subject to release:
 - i. Is informed of the allegations in writing. Where possible, personal contact by the presiding administrative church officer is encouraged.
 - ii. Has reasonable time to consider the allegations.
 - iii. Has opportunity to resolve the relevant issues, if possible and appropriate, before administrative action is taken.
 - iv. Has opportunity to appeal the decision to release for cause to the next-higher presiding administrative church officer.
- f. All priesthood status changes will be reported to the World Church Secretary through established procedures.

III. Causes

1. Causes for release include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Conviction of a serious crime as defined by applicable laws.
 - b. Deliberate disregard of church law as expressed through church bylaws, relevant World Conference Resolutions, First Presidency official rulings, and current World Church policies and established practices.
 - c. Deliberate disregard of the properly exercised authority, action, or direction of a presiding administrative church officer.
 - d. False, misleading, or malicious statements meant to harm the church. This includes print, broadcast, and social media (electronic) communications.
 - e. Deliberate failure to preserve confidential information given with the expectation of ministerial confidentiality, with the understanding that reporting mandated by law or when physical harm of self or others is likely are exceptions.
 - f. Such other disregard for the principles of ministerial conduct as may result in the loss of power and standing to minister effectively.
2. An additional cause is priesthood inactive status for at least three years.

And, be it further

Resolved, That the First Presidency is responsible for developing and maintaining administrative policies and procedures related to priesthood release for cause and appeal in harmony with this resolution.

World Ministries Budget Projections

On April 11, 2019 the World Conference approved \$17.3 million (USD) as the budget projection for the 2020, 2021, and 2022 annual Worldwide Mission Budgets.

WCR 1317 Domestic and Sexual Violence (Adopted April 12, 2019)

Whereas, Globally, according to the World Health Organization, about one in three women has experienced physical violence, and almost one in five has experienced sexual violence, since the age of 15 (www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/); and

Whereas, Violence in familial and domestic settings continues to be recognised world-wide as a significant public-health issue for women, men, and children; and

Whereas, Familial and domestic violence and sexual assault are crimes that cause endless and unacceptable suffering; and

Whereas, It is within our calling to support those who are acting to prevent the victimization associated with familial and domestic violence, for in Doctrine and Covenants 163:4a we read, “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. Open your ears to hear the pleading of mothers and fathers in all nations who desperately seek a future of hope for their children. Do not turn away from them. For in their welfare resides your welfare.”; and

Whereas, the challenges brought to the church in WCR 1195 (1986), WCR 1235 (1992), WCR 1250 (1996) and WCR 1276 (2002) remain, and require revisiting in order to be met with renewed vigor, therefore, be it

Resolved, That

1. The 2019 World Conference express its solidarity with and show active support for those organizations and community groups that currently aim to eradicate familial and domestic violence wherever it occurs.
2. Congregations world-wide be called upon anew to prioritize with urgency the admonitions found in WCR 1195, 1235, 1250 and 1276.
3. The conference requests that the First Presidency develop or make available culturally appropriate study materials regarding domestic and sexual violence and abuse with the intent that such material will become part of the required course curriculum for all current priesthood members and candidates for priesthood office.

WCR 1318 Terminating the General Operating Endowment Fund of the Community of Christ (Adopted April 12, 2019)

Whereas, the Presiding Bishopric is responsible for determining the overall current and long-term strategic financial direction for the church; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishopric’s ongoing strategic financial review has included examining the role and purpose of the church’s three main types of endowment funds: the

General Operating Endowment Fund, the Temple Endowment Funds, and the Worldwide Mission Endowment Fund; and

Whereas, the purpose of the General Operating Endowment Fund of the Community of Christ (Fund) is to support through net annual earnings the basic costs of World Church ministry programs, including ministerial personnel, resource production, program development for mission outreach, International Headquarters operation, jurisdictional budget supplements, and institutional support; and

Whereas, the review has identified certain similarities in role and purpose of the General Operating Endowment Fund to the more specific Temple Endowment Funds and Worldwide Mission Endowment Fund; and

Whereas, these similarities provide an opportunity to streamline the church's long-term financial management and reporting responsibilities and aid direction of future fund-raising efforts by reducing the number of endowment funds; and

Whereas, the Presiding Bishopric sees greater long-term strategic benefit to the church in maintaining the more purpose-specific Temple and Worldwide Mission Endowment Funds; and

Whereas, the First Presidency is committed to meeting the church's retirement responsibility, described in D-1 Presiding Bishopric Report, by establishing the goal of raising \$115 million (USD) by January 2022; and,

Whereas, the First Presidency has said all church assets will be considered in meeting this goal; and,

Whereas, it would be consistent with the purpose of the Fund to redeploy its assets to help meet the church's retirement responsibility; and,

Whereas, the World Conference has the authority to remove World Conference-designated assets previously added to this Fund, but not donor-designated contributions to the Fund; therefore be it

Resolved, that the 2019 World Conference approves removing the World Conference-designated assets from the Fund and re-designating them to the Bridge of Hope Fund and by this action understands that any previous actions by the World Conference to designate assets to the General Operating Endowment Fund are rescinded; and be it further

Resolved, that the 2019 World Conference supports the Presiding Bishopric's plan to take legal steps to 1) terminate the Fund and 2) move all donor-designated assets in the Fund to the Bridge of Hope Fund; and be it further

Resolved, that once the retirement responsibility is met, any remaining assets in the Bridge of Hope Fund will be transferred to the Temple Endowment Funds and Worldwide Mission Endowment Fund as determined by the Presiding Bishopric; and be it further

Resolved, that the Presiding Bishopric will include information on the status of these actions in ongoing financial updates.

WCR 1319 Nonviolence (Adopted April 12, 2019)

Whereas, the call of Jesus Christ has led Community of Christ to learn from acts of violence in its early history and to seek to embody the peace of Christ in the world; and

Whereas, any discussion on the ethics of violence in the current political and social context can polarize people and provoke worries, concerns, and strong emotions; and

Whereas, Community of Christ has declared itself to be a peace church in the Restoration tradition, affirming the Worth of All Persons and lifting up the cause of Zion; and

Whereas, Community of Christ independently and ecumenically already is exploring different positions on the use of violence; be it therefore

Resolved, that, over the next three years Community of Christ members and leaders discuss the role nonviolence plays in the pursuit of "peace on and for the Earth" (Doctrine and Covenants 165:1d) and in the life and mission of the church; be it further

Resolved, that, scriptural, theological, and historical discussion resources on the principles of nonviolence be produced and suggested for members and friends of Community of Christ as part of our continued commitment to peace education and advocacy; and be it further

Resolved, that, the position of Community of Christ on nonviolence be referred to the First Presidency for a report and/or statement to be presented to the 2022 World Conference.

World Church Finance Board

On April 13, 2019 the following persons were elected to the World Church Finance Board.

To a six-year term to the World Church Finance Board beginning 1 December 2019 and ending 30 November 2025.

Valerie K. Brennan
John D. Chatburn
Eric L. Cox
Carolina de la Rosa Sánchez
Raphael Asiko Diang'A
Kathryn J. Haines
Kathleen E. Hnatyshyn
Judith C. Jackson
Kimberly I. Lubbers
Mark E. Megee
Rocio Del Pilar Paz Carlos
Joel C. Ross
Ronald A. Viera Lopez
Michael A. Wellington
Shelby J. Williams

To a three-year term to the World Church Finance Board beginning 1 December 2019 and ending 30 November 2022 to fill an unexpired term.

Sam Zokar Zota, Jr.

WCR 1320 Dates for Future World Conferences (Adopted April 13, 2019)

Whereas, Community of Christ Bylaws state, "These conferences meet at the call of the responsible administrative officers, at times and places determined by the bodies concerned, or without such provisions at time and places set by the responsible administrative officers," (Article III, Section 6); and

Whereas, The First Presidency presides over the World Conference and traditionally has proposed dates for the next World Conference based on a unique understanding of the logistics, finances, staffing, and scheduling that would impact dates, and

Whereas, WCR 1288 provides that "Conferences be scheduled to meet every three years;" and

Whereas, It is difficult for delegates to be aware of many factors impacting the scheduling of a World Conference; and

Whereas, Consideration of future World Conference dates can be time consuming; and

Whereas, World Conference legislative time should be focused on issues and proposals that matter most for the ongoing development of the church; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the World Conference authorize the First Presidency to set the dates and locations for future World Conferences in compliance with WCR 1288; and be it further

Resolved, That the dates for each World Conference be announced by the First Presidency at the preceding World Conference.

2022 World Conference Dates

The next World Conference will be held on June 3 to 11, 2022.

Sustaining of World Church Leaders

On April 13, 2019 the following leaders were sustained.

First Presidency

Stephen M. Veazey, K. Scott Murphy, Stassi D. Cramm

Presiding Bishopric

Stassi D. Cramm, Steven E. Graffeo, Jeffrey A. Naylor

Council of Twelve Apostles

Ronald D. Harmon, Jr., president

Richard C. N. James, secretary

Mareva M. Arnaud Tchong

Barbara L. Carter

Bunda C. Chibwe

Janné C. Grover

Robin K. Linkhart

Lachlan E. Mackay

Catherine C. Mambwe

Carlos Enrique Mejia

David H. M. Nii

Arthur E. Smith

Presidents of Seventy

John S. Wight, senior president

Karin F. Peter, secretary

Tanoh Assoi

John F. Glaser

Larry M. McGuire

Keith E. McMillan

Amson Mallick

Adam R. Wade

Presiding Evangelist

Jane M. Gardner

President of Quorum of High Priests

David N. Anderson

Standing High Council

Kent G. Bradford
David M. Byrn
Dennis R. Clinefelter
Mark D. Dixon
Eva M. Erickson
Gwendolyn E. Hawks-Blue
Lucy N. Ibanga
Sharon M. Kirkpatrick
Marilee A. Martens
Scott A. Roberson
Warwick (Rick) Sarre
Joan L. Thompson
World Church Secretary
Susan D. Sloan

Official Actions of the Priesthood and Caucus Meetings of the 2019 World Conference

Statement of Concern from the High Priest Quorum

9 April 2019

To The First Presidency:

We affirm that God is the Creator of all life and that God called all life “good” (Gen. 1:31). We uphold such Enduring Principles as the Sacredness of Creation and our role as stewards; the Worth of All Persons and our need to challenge unjust systems; the Pursuit of Peace; and Responsible Choices.

This “Statement of Concern” stems from the recent jarring announcement on October 8, 2018 from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, the UN body that assesses and provides scientific information on climate change for governments). They drastically revised their forecasts needed to keep climate change under control. Their new forecast is that humanity must keep temperature increases within 1.5° Celsius [2.7° F] by 2030, an alarmingly tighter timeline than its previous 2° Celsius [3.6° F] by 2050. We feel this Statement cannot wait until next Conference since it would be 25% of the time to 2030.

Therefore, we respectfully implore the First Presidency to task the Earth Stewardship Committee and the Human Rights Committee to clarify for the church, the nature of this IPCC revision, and as appropriate throughout the next inter-conference period, inform the church of the best understandings and whatever actions may be needed to help us “be on the side of life and its fulfillment” (McFague).