

# C Evaluation of the Michigan Campgrounds (1)

Submitted for consideration by the Coleman Congregation

Whereas, The Community of Christ campgrounds throughout the state of Michigan, known as Bluewater, Manitou, Park of the Pines, Sanford, and The Woodlands, have reached many individuals and enriched their Christian experiences through the variety of camping programs offered, and

Whereas, Many people, both young and old, who would not have been otherwise touched, have received ministry by these various programs, and

Whereas, The camping experience brings campers closer to God through his creation and provides a quiet, contemplative surrounding where they can seek God's will for their lives, and

Whereas, Many individuals have reached out for Christ through this medium due to the spiritual nature of the camping experience, and

Whereas, The Community of Christ in Michigan has been blessed by the generosity of its members, from both current and previous generations, in the building of these campgrounds, with the assumption that future generations would use them for God's purpose and to further the mission of the church, and with the expectation of proper stewardship over these properties, and

Whereas, Stewardship is an ethic in the Christian context that calls for wise and responsible planning and management of resources, including time, talent and assets and is based on a Biblical view that stewardship is managing everything God brings into a believer's life in a manner that honors God and impacts God's creation, and

Whereas, With the declining membership in the Michigan Mission Center and declining use of these campgrounds, it has become difficult to properly maintain these campgrounds without consuming resources, both finances as well as time and talent, that might be devoted to more effective ministries and mission, and

Whereas, The Doctrine and Covenants, Section 163:11a-b states: "God is calling for a prophetic community to emerge, drawn from the nations of the world, that is characterized by uncommon devotion to the compassion and peace of God revealed in Jesus Christ. Through divine grace and wisdom, this faith community has been given abundant gifts, resources, and opportunities to equip it to become such a people. Chief among these is the power of community in Christ expressed locally in distinctive fashions while upholding a unity of vision, foundational beliefs, and mission throughout the world. There are many issues that could easily

consume the time and energy of the church. However, the challenge before a prophetic people is to discern and pursue what matters most for the journey ahead,” now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Michigan Mission Center contract with a professional agency, in cooperation with the Presiding Bishopric, to evaluate the five Michigan campgrounds, their purpose, and mission, and be it further

*Resolved*, That the agency determine the key assets, physical characteristics, events and facilities of each campground that may contribute to the decision to retain the property or make it a preferred property to sell, and be it further

*Resolved*, That the agency determine the current land asset value of each campground property and the current market assessment and marketability of each campground property, and be it further

*Resolved*, That the agency provide data for each campground which would help the Michigan Mission Center determine which have the highest potential to serve all congregations of the Michigan Mission Center, which sites have the ability to pursue the church’s mission, and the present and future capacity needs, and be it further

*Resolved*, That the agency make recommendations regarding whether one or more campgrounds should be sold to benefit the mission of the church in Michigan by reallocating the assets and resources to either another campground, campground program, or missionary purpose, and be it further

*Resolved*, That the agency make recommendations regarding what changes and/or modifications could be made to the campground(s), if any, to increase the value of the land prior to its sale in the event that the sale of one or more campgrounds is recommended, and be it further

*Resolved*, A Michigan Campground Team be formed consisting of 15 people: Two appointed by each campground, and Five at-large members identified by the Mission Center Council plus the Presiding Bishopric and MCFO as ex officio team members, to receive input from the Mission Center at large, and be it further

*Resolved*, That the Michigan Campground Team would evaluate this input along with the information provided by the aforementioned outside firm to determine which, if any campgrounds should be sold, and be it further

*Resolved*, that the Michigan Campground Team provide at least two recommendations that would be put before a Mission Center conference with the expectation for the conference to choose one of the recommendations.