

books in English are sold through Herald House; lessons for young children, children, and youth are available online at www.CofChrist.org/reunion-resources-2015. Adult lessons in French and Spanish will be available online. These lessons focus on words of counsel presented at the 2013 World Conference. There are six lessons for each age level, but each lesson could be extended over two sessions (12 weeks).

In addition, an online spiritual formation resource (French, English, and Spanish) will be available for use 6 March–29 May 2016. This resource will encourage deeper reflection on specific segments of the words of counsel leading up to World Conference. The segments of words of counsel will also be incorporated into worship services through “One in Christ Moments.”

These preparation materials have been created for individuals, congregations, and the worldwide church to discover what it means to be one in Christ.

Michigan Mission Center

MISSION CENTER ACTIVITIES

To schedule a mission center activity, contact Noelle Gaffka at ngaffka@cofchrist.org

MISSION CENTER INFORMATION

For more detailed information regarding Mission Center news and activities, please go to the website: www.cofchristmi.org. Due to space restrictions, we cannot include all necessary information in this bulletin.

Michigan USA/Canada Mission center information

Website: www.cofchristmi.org * Toll-Free Phone: 888-853-2339
Local Phone: 517-541-2575 * Address: 223 S. Washington, Charlotte, MI 48813



Community of Christ

Michigan Mission Center

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS for the week of September 17, 2015

*Newly added items are listed in **bold italics**. This information is emailed weekly to all pastors, congregation communication liaisons and anyone who chooses to subscribe. If you have questions, call the Mission Center office at 888-853-2339.*

MICHIGAN USA/CANADA MISSION CENTER NEWS

Fall Conference Preparation & Dialogue

Stepping into Liberating Disruption

Saturday, October 3 from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Gladwin Congregation (2329 W M-61 Gladwin, MI 48624)

All are welcome! Fall conference delegates are especially encouraged to attend.

Lunch will be provided by the congregation (donations appreciated)

On the date previously scheduled for a Priesthood Convocation we will be meeting to prepare for this year's fall conference. This will allow for an opportunity to share information that will be considered at the Nov. 6-8 Fall Conference and dialogue about the many items to consider. You can also ask questions about conference procedure, Robert's Rules of Order, and check to be sure your delegates have been reported and registered for conference.

- We will share all that is known for the conference agenda by that date:
- USA Plan for Leading Mission
- 2016 Budget Proposals
- Mission Center Officer Appointments from the First Presidency
- Resolutions from Congregations
- Election of World Conference Delegates & Mission Center Board Members
- Approval of World Church Minister Callings

Official conference materials will be sent to delegates following the October 10 deadline (four weeks prior to conference) for congregation legislation and printed reports.

Updates on Staff Assignments:

Positions funded by the world ministries budget:

- Deb Crowley (Mission Center President) - Retired effective June 30
- Dena DeVormer (Mission Center Financial Officer) - Placed as an Administrative Support Minister effective Jan. 1, 2016. Will continue in current role as MCFO during 2015.
- Bobbie Ann Robinson (Disciple Formation Specialist) - Retired effective Feb. 28
- Julie Bock (Church Planter) - Will continue in current role
- Dan Nowiski (Mission Center Missionary Coordinator & Interim MCP Team) - Has not been placed in a position for 2016. Will continue in current role until Fall Conference.
- Noelle Gaffka (Young Adult Formation Specialist & Interim MCP Team) - Placed within the new USA Model effective Jan. 1, 2016. Will continue in current role during 2015.
- David McCray (Part-time Urban Minister) - Will continue in current role.
- Cathy Hopkins (Part-time Field Specialist) - Has not been placed in a position for 2016.

Positions funded by the 2015 mission center budget:

- Dianna Vanderkarr (Part-time Administrative Assistant & Interim MCP Team) - will continue during 2015
 - Brenda Villeneuve (Part-time Youth Ministries Formation Specialist) - resigned due to relocation effective Sept. 1
 - Adam Bouverette (Part-time Congregation Support Minister & MCP Team) - will continue during 2015
 - Heather Peasley (Part-time Administrative Assistant) - will continue during 2015
 - Jack Tigner (Part-time Congregation Support) - will continue during 2015
 - Cathy Hopkins (Part-time bookkeeper) - will continue during 2015
- For 2016 Julie Bock and David McCray are the ministers assigned to positions specifically within Michigan (Detroit Hope). Dena DeVormer and Noelle Gaffka will have responsibilities for ministries in multiple areas of the US. Mission center funded positions will be determined by the budget adopted at the Fall Conference. Limited funding from the world ministries budget will be available to support part-time or volunteer mission center officers to fill the MCP and MCFO roles.

Campground Operating Principles Team

The Mission Center Officers are forming a team to study and recommend a plan outlining the principles for operating our campground properties (Blue Water, Park of the Pines, and Sanford) beginning Jan. 1, 2017. This team will be charged with evaluating the current Campground Operating Policy and working with field and world church leaders to determine the best approach to campground operations given coming changes in church leadership and administrative procedures. The committee is asked to complete its work by May 31, 2016 to allow time for approval by mission center, field, and world church leaders and dissemination prior to the 2016 Fall Mission Center Conference where board members would be elected in alignment with the recommended operating principles.

Each of the five campground boards currently in place will select two individuals to serve on this team. The application available at the link below will be used by the mission center officers in consultation with the mission center council to select five additional at-large team members to bring the total team membership to fifteen. The MCP and MCFO will also serve as ex-officio

team members.

Applications are due by September 30, 2015.

Visit this page to access a printable application or submit your information online - cofchristmi.org/blog/2015/09/10/campground-operating-principles-team/

Fall Conference Information

Michigan Mission Center Fall Conference - Liberating Disruption

Date: November 6-8

Location: Saginaw Valley State University

Registration will begin on Friday evening from 7-9 pm and Saturday morning.

We need people with computer skills to help with registration at Fall conference this year.

Please register at www.cofchristmi.org

"Ministry of the Priest" Temple School Class Offered through eLearning

Temple School will offer a pilot of the new course "Ministry of the Priest" as an 8-week online class through the new Community of Christ eLearning. A limit of 25 students will participate in this pilot.

Class: Ministry of the Priest (pilot)
Dates: October 3 through November 27, 2015
Registration: Begins September 3 at 8:00am (Central Time) and ends October 9

To be eligible, students need to:

- Have access to a computer or tablet with high-speed Internet access
- Be able to dedicate 1.5 hours each week (8 weeks) to the class
- Pay the reduced pilot fee of \$15 (credit or debit card) by calling Herald House Customer Service at 800-767-8181

Leading Mission in the USA

The USA Apostles have released an updated plan for leading mission in the USA starting January 1, 2016. This plan outlines significant changes for how the USA Field will be organized and how World Church Employees will be assigned to roles in the USA in 2016. Additional information about the plan will be shared in the Herald and at the fall mission center conference.

Prepare Now for World Conference

World Conference is only a year away! Individuals, small groups, and congregations around the world are invited to make preparations.

Beginning in September, congregations are encouraged to use the Live, Love, Share...Visibly One in Christ lessons for all ages. Adult