

**Michigan USA Mission Center
Fall Business Conference – Awaken From Illusion
November 4, 2017**

The Fall Conference of the Michigan USA Mission Center met in Saginaw, Michigan at Saginaw Valley State University's Curtiss Hall, 7400 Bay Road, University Center, on November 4, 2017. The Conference was called to order by Mission Center President Team Member Dan Nowiski.

Introductions of conference officials were made: Conference Managers, Ellie Heacock and Joel Sentz; Conference Secretary, Joey Kernstock; Parliamentarian, John Wight; Head Deacon, Dick Parker; and Guest Ministers, Apostle Lachlan Mackay, Senior President of Seventy John Wight, Counselor to the Presiding Bishop Steve Graffeo, Field Support Minister Dena DeVormer, and Mission Funding Sandra Ferguson. Apostle Lachlan Mackay was recognized and brought greetings from the World Church.

Carol Husted (Mt. Pleasant Congregation) was recognized to provide the credentials committee report. As of 9:30 a.m. 357 delegates were properly registered to conduct conference business and there were 21 guests present. Carol moved that the roll of delegates submitted be the official roll of the voting members of the conference. The credentials committee report was adopted entitling 357 delegates to vote on all matters before the conference.

Parliamentarian John Wight read the proposed standing rules and moved the adoption of the standing rules of the conference as read. The standing rules were adopted. The chair declared the 2017 Michigan USA Mission Center Conference officially organized for conducting business at 10 a.m.

The chair made comments on procedure to be followed for the conference. The chair indicated that the minutes from the fall 2016 mission center conference have been approved by the review committee. Delegates were asked to submit any corrections to the secretary.

Without objection, the chair appointed Terry Brown, Dena DeVormer, and Sandi Ecker to serve on a minutes review committee to review and approve the minutes of this conference.

The chair indicated that written reports of officers, boards, teams, and committees could be found in the conference materials. The chair asked delegates to take time to read the reports submitted in the materials and share the information with their congregations.

The chair shared highlights of the Mission Center President Team's written report.

Jack Tigner, MCFO, shared highlights of his report. Jack recommended the adoption of the 2016 auditor's report. The chair referred the conference to the printed 2016 auditor's report. A second was received to adopt the 2016 auditor's report for the Michigan Mission Center. The 2016 auditor's report for the Michigan Mission Center was adopted.

Jack Tigner recommended adoption of the proposed 2018 Mission Center Operating Budget. A second was received. The budget was adopted. A moment of blessing was provided by Steve Graffeo, Counselor to the Presiding Bishop.

Rick Herr, Board President, shared highlights of the Blue Water Campground Board report. Roger Elkins, Board President, shared highlights of the Park of the Pines Board Report. Dana Thering, Board Vice President, shared highlights of the Sanford Campground Board report. Kevin White, Board President shared highlights of the Woodlands Board report. Nicole Keverne, Journey House Resident Manager and Campus Minister, shared highlights of the Journey House Campus Ministries Center Board report.

Winnie Johnston shared information about the youth camp report. Alicia Pearson shared information about the Spectacular report. John Jones and Laura Tew provided a verbal report on Youth Venture for Christ. Tim Ross shared a verbal report on the North Star youth ministry. The chair directed delegates to the written reports of the Disciple Development Fund Committee, Earth Stewardship Team, and Campground Sales Team.

Dan Nowiski relinquished the chair to Lachlan Mackay, Apostle for the Northeast USA Mission Field including the Michigan Mission Center, for the sustaining of mission center officers.

The First Presidency recommended that the conference sustain the appointment of Dan Nowiski as Mission Center President and Dan Nowiski, Adam Bouverette, and Dianna Vanderkarr as the Mission Center President Team. The appointment of Dan Nowiski, Adam Bouverette, and Dianna Vanderkarr to serve as the Mission Center President Team was sustained.

The First Presidency recommended that the conference sustain the appointment of Jack Tigner as Mission Center Financial Officer. The appointment of Jack Tigner as Mission Center Financial Officer was sustained.

The Field Apostle and President of Seventy recommended that the conference sustain the appointment of Noelle Gaffka as Mission Center Invitation Support Minister. The appointment of Noelle Gaffka as Mission Center Invitation Support Minister was approved. Lachlan Mackay returned the chair to Dan Nowiski. Lachlan Mackay and John Wight offered a prayer to set apart Noelle Gaffka to the role of Mission Center Invitation Support Minister.

The chair referred the conference to the written statement of the candidate being called to a world church minister priesthood office. The chair recognized Apostle Lachlan Mackay to speak to the call for Roger Elkins to the office of high priest. Talitha Pennington made a motion to approve the call of Roger Elkins to high priest. The chair recognized Roger to speak to his call. The call of Roger Elkins to the office of high priest was approved.

The chair indicated that Community of Christ bylaws call for "each mission center to establish a mission center council, a standing body whose primary purpose is to advise mission center officers and staff on matters affecting the core functions of the mission center." The chair indicated that a list of persons who have agreed to serve on the Mission Center Council for 2018 could be found in the conference materials and indicated that the names of Dorothy Sommer and Linda Wiley should be added to that list. The Mission Center President Team recommended sustaining the individuals listed to serve on the mission center council for 2018. Those persons listed as Mission Center Council Members for 2018 were sustained.

The chair referred the conference to the list of nominees for the Journey House Campus Ministry Center Board of Directors. The chair informed the conference that there were three positions open for election to three year terms on the board. Dave Caceres and Ben Crowley had expressed desire to be nominated. Dave Caceres and Ben Crowley were elected to three year terms on the Journey House Board.

The chair referred the conference to the list of nominees for the Blue Water Campground Board of Directors. The chair informed the conference that there were five positions open for election to three year terms on the board. Kelly Christian, Janet Hoyt, Richard Parker, Vance Herbert, and Chloe Ross had expressed desire to be nominated. Pamela Knight-Stouffer was also nominated. Kelly Christian, Vance Herbert, Janet Hoyt, Richard Parker, and Chloe Ross were elected to three year terms on the Blue Water Campground Board.

The chair referred the conference to the list of nominees for the Park of the Pines Board of Directors. The chair informed the conference that there were five positions open for election to three year terms on the board. Amy Bridson, Deb Buechner, Roger Elkins, Justin Hacker, Stephanie Marsh, and Robert Pagels had expressed desire to be nominated. Amy Bridson, Deb Buechner, Roger Elkins, Justin Hacker, and Stephanie Marsh were elected to three year terms on the Park of the Pines Board.

The chair informed the conference that there were two positions open for election to a three year term on the Park of the Pines Endowment Fund Board of Directors. Roger Elkins and Cathy Hopkins had expressed desire to be nominated. Roger Elkins and Cathy Hopkins were elected to three year terms on the Park of the Pines Endowment Fund Board.

The chair informed the conference that there were five positions open for election to three year terms on the Sanford Campground Board of Directors. Richard Hamilton and Dana Thering had expressed desire to be nominated. Katie Frye, Marlene Haines, Roger Haines, Heidi Kleinhardt, Ray Persall, Heather Peasley, and Paige Thering were also nominated. Richard Hamilton, Heidi Kleinhardt, Ray Persall, Heather Peasley, and Dana Thering were elected.

The chair informed the conference that there were five positions open for election to three year terms on the Woodlands Board of Directors. Robert Barr and Kevin White had expressed desire to be nominated. Dave Caceres, Mindy Jeffries, Robert Pagels, Chloe Ross, and Tim Ross were also nominated. Robert Barr, Dave Caceres, Mindy Jeffries, Robert Pagels, and Kevin White were elected.

Ellie Heacock shared announcements with the conference. The conference recessed at 12:05 p.m. A moment of blessing was offered by Evangelist Carol Walden.

Following a question and answer session with local and world church leaders, a prayer for peace provided by Winnie Johnston, the receiving of a disciples' generous response for the youth camp scholarship fund, recognition of SALT Graduates and SALT leaders Greg and Melissa Varner, and Bobbie Ann and Dean Robinson, the conference was called to order at 3:24 p.m. by Dan Nowiski with the number of delegates reported as 362 which includes additional registrations received after the morning credentials report was provided.

Resolution 1 entitled "Designating Previous Contribution to Bridge of Hope Tithes" was submitted by the mission center officers, so neither a motion nor a second from the floor were required.

Resolved, That the Michigan Mission Center is willing and supportive of having the Presiding Bishopric change the designation of the \$29,500 contribution made from Eastland net proceeds to the Worldwide Mission Endowment Fund to Bridge of Hope Tithes.

Resolution 1 was adopted.

Resolution 2 entitled "Owosso Net Proceeds" was submitted by mission center officers, so neither a motion nor a second from the floor were required.

Resolved, That twenty percent (20%) of the Owosso Group Fund balance (\$6,692.25) be provided to the Presiding Bishopric as a voluntary contribution to Bridge of Hope Tithes;

Resolved, That forty percent(40%) of the Owosso Group Fund balance (\$13,384.52) be provided to Sanford Campground for use as determined by the Sanford Campground Board of Directors;

Resolved, That forty percent (40%) of the Owosso Group Fund balance(\$13,384.52) be provided to Journey House Campus Ministries for use as determined by the Journey House Campus Ministries Board of Directors.

Resolution 2 was adopted.

Resolution 3 entitled "Authorization to Sell Detroit Properties" was not moved at this time at the discretion of the mission center president's team.

Resolution 4 entitled "Payment of Campground Study Advance" was submitted by mission center officers, so neither a motion nor a second from the floor were required.

Resolved, That the note receivable for the Campground Study Advance in the amount of \$66,282.25 shall be expensed from the Operating Reserve Fund of the Michigan Mission Center.

Ed Clapham, Plymouth congregation, moved an amendment to strike "Operating Reserve Fund of the Michigan Mission Center" and insert "proceeds of campground sales prior to determining net proceeds for distribution." It was seconded, discussed, voted on and failed.

Resolution 4 was adopted as originally presented.

Resolution 5 entitled "Expanded Use of Disciple Development Fund" was submitted by mission center officers, so neither a motion nor a second from the floor were required.

Resolved, That the "Establishment of Disciple Development Fund" resolution previously adopted on November 8, 2014 and amended on November 7, 2015 be further amended by adding the following paragraph to the resolution:

Resolved, That the Disciple Development Fund may also be utilized by mission center officers in consultation with the mission center council for developing or purchasing materials for disciple development efforts in congregation and mission center programs, employing staff to plan, implement, or facilitate disciple development activities, supporting events that provide disciple development opportunities, supplementing the mission center operating budget for disciple development expenses, and other initiatives that further the mission initiative of developing disciples to serve.

Resolution 5 was adopted.

Resolution 6 entitled "Use of Net Proceeds from Campground Sales" was submitted by mission center officers, so neither a motion nor a second from the floor were required.

Resolved, That the Maintain and Operate Three Campgrounds resolution adopted on April 11, 2015 and amended on November 11, 2015 be amended by inserting "mission needs of the worldwide church and" after "net proceeds from the sale of campgrounds shall be utilized for,"

Resolved, That 20% of net proceeds from the sale of Camp Manitou and the Woodlands shall be contributed to the Bridge of Hope project, Worldwide Mission Tithes, or other worldwide funds as designated by the Presiding Bishopric;

Resolved, That 60% of net proceeds from the sale of Camp Manitou and the Woodlands shall be designated for the development of campground properties through capital improvement projects, which meet World Church building guidelines, submitted by campground boards and approved by the mission center officers in consultation with the combined campground executive committees; and

Resolved, That 20% of net proceeds from the sale of Camp Manitou and the Woodlands shall be designated for support of camping and gathering ministries as determined by the mission center officers in consultation with the mission center council.

Julia Bonhomme, Kalamazoo congregation, moved to amend the third Resolved to 50% (from 60%) and add after the word "designated" the words "in a revolving loan fund" and change the fourth

Resolved to 30% (from 20%) and add after the word "ministries" the words "in research, development, and marketing programming with a special interest in young family and young adult ministries." A second was received and discussion followed.

Linda Stanbridge, Blue Water emerging congregation, moved to amend the amendment to remove the phrase "in a revolving loan fund." A second was received and discussion followed.

Earl Watt, Rose Lake congregation, moved the previous question on the amendment to the amendment and a second was received. The required two-thirds vote was received by the conference that they were ready to vote. The vote on the amendment to the amendment failed. (Yes 164; No 186).

Discussion continued on the amendment. Chuck Anderson, Brighton congregation, moved to amend the amendment to strike the 50% and 30% changes (which returns the resolution to the 60% and 20% of the original resolution) but leave the other text changes. A second was received.

Harold Hough, Capital Area Center congregation, moved the previous question on all pending questions and a second was received. The required two-thirds vote was received by the conference that they were ready to vote. The vote on the amendment to the amendment was approved. (Yes 217; No 132).

The vote was then taken on the amendment as amended and it was approved. (Yes 203; No 144).

The vote on the original Resolution 6 as amended was taken and it was approved. (Yes 249; No 99).

For clarification purposes, the approved Resolution 6 entitled "Use of Net Proceeds from Campground Sales" is as follows:

Resolved, That the Maintain and Operate Three Campgrounds resolution adopted on April 11, 2015 and amended on November 11, 2015 be amended by inserting "mission needs of the worldwide church and" after "net proceeds from the sale of campgrounds shall be utilized for,"

Resolved, That 20% of net proceeds from the sale of Camp Manitou and the Woodlands shall be contributed to the Bridge of Hope project, Worldwide Mission Tithes, or other worldwide funds as designated by the Presiding Bishopric;

Resolved, That 60% of net proceeds from the sale of Camp Manitou and the Woodlands shall be designated in a revolving loan fund for the development of campground properties through capital improvement projects, which meet World Church building guidelines, submitted by campground boards and approved by the mission center officers in consultation with the combined campground executive committees; and

Resolved, That 20% of net proceeds from the sale of Camp Manitou and the Woodlands shall be designated for support of camping and gathering ministries in research, development and marketing programming with a special interest in young family and young adult ministries as determined by the mission center officers in consultation with the mission center council.

A moment of blessing was offered by Evangelist Loretha Smith.

Resolution 7 entitled "Amend the Previously Adopted 'Maintain and Operate Three Campgrounds' Resolution to Sell Sanford and Maintain The Woodlands" was moved by Kevin White, West Branch congregation, and there was a second.

Resolved, That the resolution titled Maintain and Operate Three Campgrounds previously adopted at the April 11, 2015 conference and amended at the November 7, 2015 conference be further amended by

- 1) Striking "Sanford" and inserting "The Woodlands" in the list of campgrounds to be operated and maintained, and
- 2) Striking "The Woodlands" and inserting "Sanford Campground" in the list of campgrounds to be sold and in the paragraph authorizing the campground board to continue functioning until transfer of title/ownership.

Sally Hager, Richmond congregation, moved to amend point 1 by striking the words "Striking 'Sanford' and" and in point 2 striking the words "and inserting 'Sanford Campground.'" This would change the resolution so that Sanford and The Woodlands would both be maintained and operated. It was seconded and followed by discussion.

Tim Ross, Hastings congregation, made a motion to refer Resolution 7 to the Mission Center President Team with a recommendation that the Mission Center President Team organize and constitute a "Mission Center Gathering Ministries Futures Team" to study the future of gathering ministries in the mission center and that the committee, if created, report back to this body no later than the fall 2019 mission center conference. A second was received and discussion followed.

The previous question was moved on the motion to refer, a second was received, and the required two-thirds vote was received indicating the conference was ready to proceed to the vote on the motion to refer. The motion to refer failed (Yes 112; No 206). Discussion continued on the amendment.

Steve Levine, Beaverton congregation, moved the previous question on all pending questions. A second was received and the required two-thirds vote was received to proceed to the vote. The vote on the amendment was taken and the amendment failed. (Yes 111; No 221) The vote on the original Resolution 7 was taken and it failed. (Yes 110; No 221)

Announcements were made by Ellie Heacock.

The conference adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Joey Kernstock, Conference Secretary

Minutes approved by the Minutes Review Committee consisting of Terry Brown, Dena DeVormer, and Sandi Ecker.