

Michigan Mission Center - Adopted Conference Resolutions

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Delegate and Ex Officio Representation at Mission Center

Whereas, the Michigan Mission Center will hold conferences at least annually, and

Whereas, it is desirable to have fair and equitable representation from throughout the Mission Center and its leadership; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the voting body of Michigan Mission Center Conferences shall be as follows:
Ex officio -

- a.) The Mission Center President and two of his/her counselors, the Mission Center Financial Office and two of his/her counselors and the conference secretary shall be entitled to voice and vote and shall not be eligible to serve as delegates from any congregation.
- b.) Michigan Mission Center Volunteer Field Specialists shall be entitled to voice and vote.
- c.) Full time World Church ministers assigned to Michigan Mission Center shall be entitled to voice and vote.
- d.) "One pastor" (or designee) from each Congregation shall be entitled to voice and vote.
- e.) "One financial officer (or their designee) from each Congregation shall be entitled to voice and vote."

Delegates - Each congregation shall be allowed to elect one delegate at large. Additionally, each congregation shall be allowed to elect one delegate for every 50 members or any fraction thereof based on World Church membership records as of December 31 of the year preceding the year in which the conference is held.

RESOLVED, that each congregation shall report the name(s) of its ex officio and elected delegates to the Mission Center Office not later than four weeks prior to the opening day of the conference utilizing forms and procedures to be provided by the Mission Center.

Congregations shall be permitted to elect and report one alternate for each elected delegate.

The mission center president shall establish procedures for electing or appointing up to ten delegates from the nonresident and general category members. Any of the ten seats left open may be filled by alternates from congregations according to the Seating Alternates policy.

*Adopted 10/16/2010
Amended 11/3/2012
Amended 11/3/2018*

Initiation and Consideration of Legislation

Whereas, the Michigan Mission Center includes 94 congregations throughout the state of Michigan, Indiana, and the province of Ontario, and

Whereas, it is essential to the principle of common consent that all delegates to the Michigan Mission Center Conference have sufficient time to consider legislation that is to be considered at Mission Center conferences, and

Whereas, adequate time is provided for the preparation and communication of proposed legislation to all congregations; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That proposed legislation from the membership shall come before the Mission Center Conference only upon the approval of a congregation business meeting; and be it further

Resolved, That in order for legislation to come before the Mission Center conference, such legislation must be submitted to the Mission Center Presidency no later than sixty (60) days prior to the opening of each Mission Center Conference; and be it further

Resolved, That with the approval of the Mission Center Presidency, legislation may be submitted during the Mission Center Conference if such legislation is of an urgent nature or is required because of actions taken during the current Mission Center Conference.

Adopted 10/16/2010

Campground Hymnal Resolution

Whereas, a new hymnal, Community of Christ Sings, will be presented to the church in October 2013, and

Whereas, there is a significant discount offered for orders processed by April 30, 2013, and

Whereas, programming at the Michigan Community of Christ Campgrounds (Blue Water Campgrounds, Camp Manitou, Park of the Pines, Sanford Campground and The Woodlands) will benefit greatly from having the new hymnal available for worship and other experiences, therefore be it

Resolved, that the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center purchase pew edition hymnals and digital text files (for projection purposes) to be used at the campgrounds, and be it further

Resolved, that the funds for the hymnals/digital text files be paid from the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center Operating Fund (Mission Center Ministries Fund) prior to the April 30, 2013 pre-order discount deadline in an amount not to exceed a combined total of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000).

Adopted 11/3/2012

Seating Alternates at Michigan MC Conferences

Whereas, the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center Conference is a delegate conference, and

Whereas, delegates vote according to their own conscience rather than as a representative of a congregation, and

Whereas, the current delegate count for the MMC conference is approximately 500 persons (elected delegates and ex officio), and

Whereas, approximately 150 delegate seats were open for the 2011 conference; therefore, be it resolved

1. Following the reporting deadline for delegates and alternates to the Mission Center Office, open delegate seats may be filled with alternates from other congregations.
2. Alternates will be assigned to open delegate seats. They will be selected in a random drawing overseen by Mission Center Leadership.

Adopted 11/3/2012

Campground Evaluation

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

Campground Evaluation

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.

Adopted 11/3/2012

Encouraging Environmental Stewardship

Whereas, Community of Christ upholds the enduring principles of the sacredness of creation and responsible choices and states that we join with God as stewards of the care and hope for all creation, recognizing that many aspects of creation need redemption because of irresponsible and sinful human choices, and we are called to make responsible choices within the circumstances of our lives that contribute to the purposes of God; and

Whereas, Doctrine & Covenants 163:4b states, “The earth, lovingly created as an environment for life to flourish, shudders in distress because creation’s natural and living systems are becoming exhausted from carrying the burden of human greed and conflict. Humankind must awaken from its illusion of independence and unrestrained consumption without lasting consequences;” and

Whereas, Doctrine & Covenants 163:4c states, “Let the educational and community development endeavors of the church equip people of all ages to carry the ethics of Christ’s peace into all arenas of life. Prepare new generations of disciples to bring fresh vision to bear on the perplexing problems of poverty, disease, war, and environmental deterioration. Their contributions will be multiplied if their hearts are focused on God’s will for creation;” and

Whereas, The Community of Christ Earth Stewardship Team recognizes the need to foster greater sensitivity toward God’s earth through a deeper understanding of human interrelatedness to, and dependence on, the earth; seeks to promote changes that result in a sustainable environment; aims to help the church become more aware of the issues related to the environmental crises facing our world; and will recommend environmentally sound policies and procedures; therefore, be it

Resolved, That campgrounds, congregations, and groups in the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center are encouraged to eliminate the purchase and use of disposable tableware (e.g. plates, cups, utensils, table coverings, serving dishes, etc. that are made from Styrofoam, plastic, aluminum, or paper) and disposable individual serving beverage containers; and be it further

Resolved, That the boards and officers responsible for maintaining campgrounds, congregations, offices and other facilities within the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center investigate and implement all practical measures to reduce energy usage and the consumption of resources (e.g. energy audits, proper insulation, energy efficient appliances, programmable thermostats, efficient light bulbs, paper reduction); and be it further

Resolved, That paper, cardboard, plastic, aluminum, and glass recycling be implemented and encouraged in all Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center facilities where local or regional recycling programs are available; and be it further

Resolved, That a Michigan USA/Canada Earth Stewardship Team be appointed annually by the mission center president for the purpose of gathering resources, collecting data, sharing recommendations, providing educational materials, and pursuing projects that support and encourage efforts to reduce consumption and implement sustainable practices in all mission center facilities and activities.

Adopted 11/2/2013

Reclassification of Designated Ministry Funds

Whereas, when the previous four Mission Centers consolidated on January 1, 2011 to become the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center, there were designated ministry funds that were received by the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center honoring the intentions and directions of the former jurisdictions; and

Whereas, some of the designated ministry funds received from Southern Great Lakes International Mission Center included a provision of three years for initial funding with the qualifying factor that after the three year period which ended 12/31/2013, that the designated funds may be available for other ministries if the Mission Center Conference and Mission Center leaders determined that was the best use of the funds; and

Whereas, the Northern Great Lakes Mission Center (NGL) also had a designated ministry fund that has not had any activity since 2011 because the ministry it was designed to support no longer exists; and

Whereas, the Mission Center Finance Committee and Mission Center leadership have expressed their desire to continue funding ministries with similar intentions as the original designated funds that were received; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Church Plant Program Fund and Church Plant Facility Fund remain in the financial records and accounts of the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center to be used for church plant program and facility funding requests/projects and/or may be used to offset the annual Operating Fund budget of the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center as needed to support Church Plant programs and facility needs, and be it further

Resolved, That the Campus Ministry Program Fund be transferred to the Campus Ministry Center account and administered by the Campus Ministry Center to provide funding for a part-time Campus Minister to promote and support campus ministries at Journey House and across the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center, and be it further

Resolved, That the Youth Minister Fund be reclassified as a Youth Ministries Fund that will remain in the financial records and accounts of the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center that will be available to provide additional support to youth ministries such as International Youth Forum, Spectacular and other youth related expenses that may arise, and be it further

Resolved, That the Young Adult Outreach Grant (NGL) Fund be reclassified as a Young Adult Leadership Fund that will remain in the financial records and accounts of the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center that will be available to provide support to young adults to further their leadership experience.

Adopted 11/8/2014

Establishment of Disciple Development Fund

Whereas, the Harbor Beach Congregation closed effective January 1, 2013 and the Fargo Congregation closed effective May 1, 2013 and the assets became the responsibility of the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center upon their closing; and

Whereas, the Harbor Beach facility was sold on July 31, 2014 and the Fargo facility was sold on September 10, 2014 and each closed congregation had cash assets remaining at the time the facilities were sold; and

Whereas, there is a desire to actively engage in the Develop Disciples to Serve mission initiative by providing disciple development opportunities and experiences for individuals in the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center; therefore be it

Resolved, That half of the funds from the closed Fargo Congregation shall be allocated to the Sixth Street Congregation, and be it further

Resolved, That a new restricted/designated fund be established in the accounts and records of the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center entitled Disciple Development Fund and that all funds from the Harbor Beach and half of the funds from the Fargo closed congregations be placed into the fund, and be it further

Resolved, That the Disciple Development Fund be available to assist individuals in the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center with registration fees and travel expenses for World Church, Mission Center, and Field experiences such as, but not limited to, Conferences, Peace Colloquy, MEADS (Ministerial Education and Discipleship Studies), Community of Christ Seminary, and other trainings, and be it further

Resolved, That the Mission Center President appoint a committee to draft guidelines for eligibility, define the application and selection process, and determine fund distribution procedures for review and approval by the Mission Center Council to most effectively maximize the use of the funds for discipleship experiences for individuals in the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center.

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.

*Adopted 11/8/2014,
Amended 11/7/2015 and 11/4/2017*

Maintain and Operate Three Campgrounds

Whereas, the Michigan Campground Team (MCT) is keenly aware of the ministry of Jesus Christ and the dedicated stewardship of so many disciples that has occurred and is occurring at each one of the Michigan Mission Center Campgrounds; and,

Whereas, it is also becoming apparent that camping ministry in the Community of Christ and in other denominations is changing and it has become increasingly difficult to properly maintain these campgrounds; and,

Whereas, upon prayerful and discerning deliberation in meetings over the past two (2) years and upon evaluation of surveys of the membership, reports from the consulting firm SmithGroupJJR, a market analysis from Real Estate Professional Services, Mission Center Conference dialogs, letters, emails, and testimonies; and

Whereas, the Community of Christ Use of Net Proceeds Policy states "when a mission center disposes of a capital asset, the mission center officers, in consultation with the Apostle and mission center council, will submit to a mission center conference a resolution for the use of the net proceeds;" therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center operate and maintain three campgrounds, Blue Water, Park of the Pines, and Sanford, and sell two campgrounds, Manitou and The Woodlands; and be it further

Resolved, That the events/activities/gatherings that have occurred in the past be allowed to continue and encouraged to continue in the same and/or similar fashion at the Woodlands as they have in the past until the said campgrounds actually undergo a transfer of ownership/title; and be it further

Resolved, That the Mission Center President and/or Mission Center Financial Officer consult with the appropriate legal advisors and if needed include a clause in the purchase agreement or listing of the properties that will allow events/activities/gatherings to occur and communicate to potential buyers that the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center and its congregation's members will use the said campground until two weeks before a closing/transfer of title date is set by both the seller and buyer of said campgrounds; and be it further

Resolved, That the financial accounts and/or the methods used to pay for the events/activities/gatherings that are held by the Mission Center Financial Officer or held by campground financial officers continue to be open and functional until the actual transfer of ownership/title occurs; and be it further

Resolved, That the board that managed the facilities of the campground known as The Woodlands continue to exist and function and conduct business as described by Mission Center Campground Operating Policy until and including the day of transfer of ownership/title to a buyer of said properties; and be it further

Maintain and Operate Three Campgrounds

Resolved, That communication be provided through quarterly updates to the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center congregations regarding progress towards selling campground properties; and be it further

Resolved, That the mission center officers appoint a committee(s) with members from the mission center to handle aspects of the sale and future planning, with oversight exercised by the appropriate mission center and world church officers; and be it further

Resolved, That the net proceeds from the sale of campgrounds shall be utilized for mission needs of the worldwide church and pursuing mission through the development of campground properties and mission center camping and gathering activities, and net proceeds will initially be held in a Michigan Mission Center affiliate investment pool account(s) until mission center officers, with input from the above referenced committee(s), are able to consult with the Apostle and mission center council to propose a resolution for the use of funds for mission center conference approval in accordance with the Use of Net Proceeds Policy.

Adopted 4/11/2015
Amended 11/7/2015
Amended 11/4/2017

Use of Eastland Net Proceeds

Whereas, The Eastland Congregation closed effective August 26, 2012 and the assets became the responsibility of the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center upon closing;

Whereas, The church building was sold in a land contract transaction in November 2012 for \$295,000 with monthly payments including annual interest at 6% which is scheduled to mature in December 2017 with a balloon payment of \$169,531.75;

Whereas, The Eastland Sale Fund has approximately \$106,000 invested in the World Church Affiliate Investment Pool;

Whereas, The specific financial situation of the purchaser is unknown at this time but there is no reason to believe that the purchaser will default;

Whereas, the Eastland congregation at the time of closing did not provide a recommendation to the mission center officers for the use of net proceeds from the sale;

Whereas, The World Church Use of Net Proceeds Policy provides direction for the approval process regarding proceeds from closed congregations and the sale of capital assets that states that mission center officers, in consultation with the Apostle (or the Apostle's Designee) and mission center council, submit a resolution for the use of the Net Proceeds to a mission center conference; and

Whereas, Decreased funding is available from World Church for staffing and there is a desire by many congregations and individuals to continue with paid staff for administrative ministries within the mission center; therefore, be it

Resolved, That all current and future proceeds received from the sale of the Eastland church facility, whether it be the full land contract final payment or installment payments from a future refinanced land contract, be held in the Administrative Support Fund for the support of administrative ministries that will support mission in the Michigan USA/Canada Mission Center; and

Resolved, That a voluntary contribution of \$29,500 be granted to the World Ministries Endowment Fund upon the completion of the land contract as recognition for the services provided by legal and fiscal services during the sale process, along with a desire to further promote mission in other parts of the worldwide church.

Adopted 11/7/2015

Create Park of the Pines Endowment Fund

Whereas, The Michigan Mission Center operates a fund, the principal purpose of which is for the benefit of the Park of the Pines of Community of Christ;

Whereas, The income received from said fund is to be used for the benefit and behest of church related purposes;

Whereas, Said funds, principal and earnings, remain the assets of the Michigan Mission Center for the benefit of Park of the Pines; and

Whereas, The ability to enhance and accurately project income is essential to budget planning and fiscal stability; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Michigan Mission Center establish an account called Park of the Pines Endowment Fund with the Jurisdictional Endowment Fund of Community of Christ and place with the Jurisdictional Endowment Fund of Community of Christ sixteen thousand dollars (\$16,000) for investment and management of said funds; and

Resolved, That the earnings from the endowment fund will be used for the following purpose(s): Supplement the operating fund budget of Park of the Pines.

Adopted 11/7/2015
Rescinded 11/7/2020

Use of Contemporary Christian Ministries Congregation Net Proceeds

Whereas, The Contemporary Christian Ministries Congregation closed effective November 22, 2015 and the assets became the responsibility of the Michigan Mission Center upon closing;

Whereas, The church building was sold in a land contract transaction in August 2016 for \$55,000.00 with monthly payments including annual interest at 7% which is scheduled to be paid in full in August 2020;

Whereas, There were several expenses for the building, including roof repairs, insurance premiums, commissions, and closing costs totaling \$15,354.25 that were paid from the proceeds received from the sale resulting in net proceeds of \$39,645.75;

Whereas, The specific financial situation of the purchaser is unknown at this time but there is no reason to believe that the purchaser will default;

Whereas, The Contemporary Christian Ministries congregation at the time of closing provided a recommendation to the mission center officers that because of the congregation's long-standing ministry to the poor and hungry, they had a desire for a portion of the net proceeds from the sale to be used for that purpose;

Whereas, The closed congregation historically attempted to provide avenues for the youth of the congregation to participate in youth camp ministries whenever possible; and

Whereas, The World Church Use of Net Proceeds Policy provides direction for the approval process regarding proceeds from closed congregations and the sale of capital assets that states that mission center officers, in consultation with the Apostle (or the Apostle's Designee) and mission center council, submit a resolution for the use of the Net Proceeds to a mission center conference; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a voluntary contribution equal to 10% of the net proceeds (\$3,964.58) be granted to Worldwide Mission Tithes to support the Abolish Poverty, End Suffering mission initiative;

Resolved, That an amount equal to 5% of the net proceeds (\$1,982.29) be allocated for the Michigan Mission Center Youth Camp Ministries Fund with input from youth camp directors for disbursement purposes; and

Resolved, That the remaining current and future proceeds received from the sale of the Contemporary Christian Ministries church facility, be distributed equally between the Mission Center Youth Ministries Fund and the Mission Center Youth Camp Scholarship Fund to support youth in the Michigan Mission Center.

Adopted 11/5/2016

Designating Previous Contribution to Bridge of Hope Tithes

Whereas, The “Use of Eastland Net Proceeds” resolution adopted at the Nov. 7, 2015 mission center conference stated “that a voluntary contribution of \$29,500 be granted to the World Ministries Endowment Fund upon the completion of the land contract;”

Whereas, The final land contract payment for purchase of the Eastland property was received in June 2017 and a voluntary contribution to the Worldwide Mission Endowment Fund was made as stipulated in previously adopted use of net proceeds resolution; and

Whereas, The Presiding Bishopric indicated in a March 2017 Financial Update that a Bridge of Hope Project was being initiated and people who already have donated or pledged to the Worldwide Mission Endowment are being asked if they are willing to redesignate their gifts to Bridge of Hope Tithes; therefore, be it

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.

Adopted 11/4/2017

Owosso Net Proceeds

Whereas, The Owosso congregation was disorganized following the recommendation of the congregation adopted August 23, 2012 to close the congregation, list the building for sale, and establish an Owosso group within the mission center;

Whereas, The Owosso group has not been active during the past year and there are no plans for the group to become active;

Whereas, The Owosso congregation did not provide recommendations for use of net proceeds or remaining assets to mission center officers at the time of closing;

Whereas, It is known that Owosso congregation members regularly provided support and contributions to Sanford Campground and Journey House Campus Ministries; and

Whereas, The Owosso Group Fund held by the Michigan Mission Center has a balance of \$33,461.29 as of September 30, 2017 including the net proceeds from the sale of the Owosso building and other cash assets of the congregation and group; therefore, be it

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.

Adopted 11/4/2017

Payment of Campground Study Advance

Whereas, The Mission Center Conference held on Nov. 3, 2012 adopted a resolution titled Evaluation of Michigan Campgrounds, which authorized the mission center to contract with a professional agency to evaluate the five Michigan campgrounds, their purpose, and mission;

Whereas, Smith Group JJR completed a study of the five Michigan campgrounds at the direction of the Michigan Campground Team at a cost of \$66,282.25 with approval from mission center officers;

Whereas, The study was paid for with mission center reserve funds and the cost has been listed on the mission center balance sheet as a note receivable until a determination is made on which fund shall incur this expense;

Whereas, The campground study applied to all campgrounds and was used to inform all mission center delegates and members throughout the campground evaluation and sale decision making process; therefore, be it

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.

Adopted 11/4/2017

Use of Net Proceeds from Campground Sales

Whereas, The Mission Center Conference held on April 11, 2015 adopted a resolution titled Maintain and Operate Three Campgrounds authorizing the sale of Camp Manitou and the Woodlands properties;

Whereas, The Maintain and Operate Three Campgrounds states, “the net proceeds from the sale of campgrounds shall be utilized for pursuing mission through the development of campground properties and mission center camping and gathering activities;”

Whereas, The Net Proceeds Policy of Community of Christ effective July 1, 2015 states, “voluntary generosity contributions from Net Proceeds will be requested to support mission needs of the World Church as identified and approved by the Council of Twelve, the Presiding Bishopric and the First Presidency;”

Whereas, The sale of Camp Manitou closed on May 31, 2017 with net proceeds being held in an Affiliate Investment Pool B account (\$545,372.27 as of 9/30/2017) and the Woodlands property continues to be listed for sale;

Whereas, Mission Center Officers have engaged in a discernment process including dialogue with the mission center council and combined campground executive committees, reunion chat sessions, budget meeting dialogues, surveys, and invitations for input throughout 2017 to determine how to propose a resolution for the use of net proceeds from campground sales; and

Whereas, The First Presidency shared in an address to the church on September 20, 2017 the need for giving by disciples, congregations, and mission centers to fund the Worldwide Ministries Budget and Bridge of Hope project; therefore be it,

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 distributed equally to Blue Water Campground, Park of the Pines, and Sanford Campground 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.

*Adopted 11/4/2017
Amended 11/3/2018*

Valley Center Net Proceeds

Whereas, The Valley Center congregation was disorganized following the recommendation of the congregation on April 9, 2017 to close the congregation and list the building for sale;

Whereas, The Valley Center congregation recommended that the remaining balance from congregation investments to be transferred to Blue Water Campground for any use determined by the campground board, the remaining balance from the checking account be transferred to the congregation where the pastor transfers his membership, and proceeds from sale of the building to be transferred to the mission center for the camping scholarship fund;

Whereas, The total net assets from the Valley Center congregation following the sale of the building and payment of all expenses is \$36,009.71; and

Whereas, The Community of Christ net proceeds policy in effect on April 9, 2017 states that voluntary generosity contributions from net proceeds will be requested to support mission needs of the World Church; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the net proceeds from the Valley Center congregation in the amount of \$36,009.71 shall be dispersed by providing \$1,000.00 to the Wadhams Grove congregation, \$2,000 to the Sixth Street congregation for support of the special needs camp at Sanford Campground, \$5,000.00 to Blue Water Campground, \$12,009.71 to the Michigan Mission Center Youth Camp Scholarship Fund, and \$16,000.00 to the Bridge of Hope project outlined by the Presiding Bishopric.

Adopted 11/3/2018

Jurisdiction Contributions to Worldwide Mission Tithes

Whereas, Doctrine and Covenants 165:2c states, “A basic discipleship principle is growing Christ’s mission through local and world mission tithes according to true capacity;”

Whereas, Doctrine and Covenants 165:2e states, “Stewardship as response to the ministry of Christ is more than individual giving. It includes the generosity of congregations and jurisdictions that give to worldwide ministries of the church to strengthen community in Christ in all nations;”

Whereas, Doctrine and Covenants 165:2f states, “Sharing for the common good is the spirit of Zion;” and

Whereas, The Michigan Mission Center operating budget for 2018 ended with a net income of \$8979.70; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Michigan Mission Center contribute \$9000 from the Operating Reserve Fund to worldwide mission tithes;

Resolved, That any net income from the 2019 Michigan Mission Center operating budget be contributed to worldwide mission tithes; and

Resolved, That congregations in the Michigan Mission Center be encouraged to contribute any undesignated net income from 2019 operating budgets to worldwide mission tithes.

Adopted 11/2/2019

Mission Center Diversity Team

Whereas, Community of Christ upholds enduring principles including Worth of All Persons, All are Called, Pursuit of Peace (Shalom), Unity in Diversity, and Blessing of Community; and

Whereas, It is stated in Community of Christ Doctrine & Covenants section 162:4b, “It is for divine purpose that you have been given the struggles as well as the joys of diversity,” and

Whereas, World Conference Resolution 1226 adopted an “Affirmation of Human Diversity” statement including the acknowledgement that “we accept the responsibility to resist fear and hate in all forms and to strive continuously to eliminate expressions of prejudice and discrimination,” and

Whereas, The Community of Christ World Church Diversity and Inclusion Team offers direction and resources to support the church on its journey to becoming more inclusive and just, including a guide for creating and operating a local diversity team in a mission center or congregation; and

Whereas, The Mission Center President in recent years has organized and supported the work of a team called Naming, Claiming and Acting the Change with a declaration to help the church name exclusion and oppression where it is present, claim and repent of our own roles in perpetuating and ending it, and promote action for reconciliation and peace building; therefore, be it

Resolved, That a Michigan Mission Center Diversity Team be appointed annually by the mission center president for the purpose of gathering resources, collecting data, sharing recommendations, advising mission center staff and ministry leaders, providing educational materials, and pursuing projects that support and encourage efforts to enhance and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in mission center ministries and congregations.

Adopted 11/5/2022

Park of the Pines Dining Hall Loan Approval

Whereas, The dining hall at Park of the Pines is over 50 years old, requires frequent costly repairs to be operable and maintain code compliance, is not energy efficient, and has an upper floor deemed unusable by inspectors;

Whereas, It has been estimated by an architect that a new dining hall with seating capacity up to 99 with restroom facilities would cost approximately \$750,000; and

Whereas, The Park of the Pines holds over \$300,000 in building funds raised for a new dining hall and may request use of development funds from previous campground sales (over \$100,000 allocated to Park of the Pines is undesignated to date); therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Mission Center Conference grants approval for the Park of the Pines Board of Directors to borrow up to \$750,000 from the Community of Christ Houses of Worship Revolving Loan Fund (HWRF) to replace the existing dining hall with the project to include demolition of the existing dining hall, architectural drawings and permits, site development and infrastructure improvements, and construction of a new dining hall.

Adopted 11/5/2022

Bridge of Hope Community Gift

Whereas, Northeast USA Field leaders hope to achieve 100% participation from congregations and mission centers contributing community gifts from a local account or Affiliate Investment Pool account to the Bridge of Hope initiative by 1/1/2024; and

Whereas, \$1,217,521 was still needed as of June 27, 2023 to reach the Northeast USA Field goal of \$6,720,000 for the first phase of the Bridge of Hope initiative; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Michigan Mission Center gift \$100,000 from the Operating Investment Fund to the Bridge of Hope project; and

Resolved, That after the initial Bridge of Hope funding goal is met congregations are encouraged to make gifts from reserves, surplus income, bequests, property sale net proceeds, special offerings, or other income sources when possible to replenish and grow the Michigan Mission Center Operating Investment Fund to provide principal that can generate earnings to support the annual operating budget into the future.

Adopted 11/4/2023

Move Mission Center Conference

Whereas, In the recent years since the Michigan Mission Center moved the annual conference to the Blue Water Campground in southeastern Michigan, attendance has dropped because of limitations in venue capacity and the time and distance it takes to drive from northern and western Michigan to the campground, and many attendees are only able to participate through virtual Zoom connection, rather than in person;

Whereas, The National Institute of Health has studies on the benefits and disadvantages of virtual and in-person conferences, studies have shown that accessibility, flexibility and lower costs are some of the benefits with virtual conferences; additionally, without the need for travel, they can be more inclusive and potentially leave a lower carbon footprint; virtual conferences also can save costs, as they can be cheaper, both for the attendees and the sponsoring organization, since there is no venue, food, or printed material; virtual conferences enable a person to participate from different locations which creates the opportunity for more participation and exchange of ideas;

Whereas, On the other hand, there are several downsides to virtual conferences, such as the audience engagement can be negatively impacted; although video feeds may increase connectivity, it is not possible to determine how many people are actively tuned in at the time of the event or paying attention and engaged with the conversation; responding or asking questions virtually is more impersonal and there may be less engagement between speaker and audience; additionally, technical aspects of joining remotely can be challenging for participants that have poor internet connections or are not experienced in the technology of virtual conferences; there is also less opportunities for networking and collaboration, or for meeting with a friend or colleague (<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC9338835/>);

Whereas, In-person meetings can facilitate more open and honest discussion because of better communication between the audience and the speaker; when people are meeting in person, they are more likely to better understand each other's perspectives, opinions, and emotions, as well as be more actively engaged with the conference agenda; and

Whereas, Community of Christ Enduring Principal on Blessing of Community states that, "We are called to create communities of Christ's peace in our families and congregations and across villages, tribes, nations, and throughout creation," and that opportunities to meet in person with other members and friends from congregations around the state of Michigan helps to strengthen and build our communities through the fellowship with others, and that in-person meetings offer a unique opportunity for members and friends to connect with each other in a way that virtual meetings are not able to replicate; to clasp someone's hand in a passionate hand shake, and being able to look someone in the eye while they are speaking, is an experience of love and appreciation that cannot be experienced virtually; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Michigan Mission Center consider moving the annual conference to a larger facility that is centrally located in the state, and which is able to accommodate a body of members and friends that would be consistent from previous years when the conferences were centrally located.

Adopted 11/4/2023

Reduce Carbon Through Food Choice and Waste Reduction at Gatherings

Whereas, Community of Christ upholds the enduring principles “Sacredness of Creation” and “Responsible Choices;”

Whereas, World Conference Resolution 1325 states that Community of Christ joins others in declaring a climate emergency and encourages mission centers to take responsibility for reducing carbon emissions resulting from Church activities;

Whereas, Multiple academic studies and United Nations reports indicate that plant-based diets require less carbon to sustain than those including animal products, with beef being the highest carbon producer;

Whereas, Experts agree that a significant proportion of greenhouse gas emissions is caused by food waste; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Earth Stewardship team provide resources to educate congregations and individuals about the carbon cost of food choices including production, transportation, packaging, and waste;

Resolved, That people planning menus for Michigan Mission Center events such as camps, retreats, and other gatherings be encouraged to consider carbon output of food choices and take steps to reduce carbon;

Resolved, That camp and event directors be encouraged to consult with the Earth Stewardship Team to make a specific goal and plan to reduce carbon each year.

Adopted 11/2/2024

Become a One Home One Future Campaign Partner

Resolved, That the Michigan Mission Center become a partner in the One Home One Future campaign.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The Community of Christ World Conference has declared a climate emergency and encourages mission centers to support those organizations and community groups that peaceably raise awareness of climate change and/or peaceably take action to limit global warming (WCR 1325).

Community of Christ is charged to identify and act on ways that it may, in socially responsible ways, respond to the climate change emergency and that it encourages its members, at an individual, congregational, and regional level, to do likewise (WCR 1336).

One Home One Future is a coalition effort of United States faith denominations and organizations for visible and collective creation care and climate action by faith leaders to educate, activate, and support clergy, congregants, youth, and all spiritual people – progressing beyond the climate activists – in meaningful and just climate solutions at the local, regional and national level designed to offer fulfilling, positive, and accessible pathways for education, engagement and action on creation care.

The One Home One Future campaign is supported by the Blessed Tomorrow program of ecoAmerica. There is no cost to be a One Home One Future campaign partner. Campaign partners are expected to share campaign resources in their organizations, promote training & events, and send a representative to partner meetings. More information about the One Home One Future campaign is available online here: <https://www.onehomeonefuture.org>.

Local congregations are encouraged to individually join the One Home One Future campaign. Campaign participants will receive free congregational toolkits with a banner to hang in front of their house of worship. They will also gain free access to training and guides, a library of worship and educational resources, action sheets, webinars, retreat resources, programming opportunities, events, and an online community of practice to connect and collaborate within and across faith traditions.

One Home One Future offers you several inspiring pathways to engage, to meet you where you are and help your congregation, including:

- Build Thriving Congregations
- Support Leaders and Youth
- Engage & Strengthen Local Communities
- Work Toward Justice
- Restore Healthy Creation
- Strengthen Preparedness
- Finance Creation Care

Adopted 11/8/2025

Resolution 2 - Provide Job Descriptions

Resolved, That the mission center officers provide job descriptions for all positions.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The current mission center officers interpret this resolution as submitted to be a request that the officers provide written job descriptions for all staff employed directly by the mission center officers and paid with mission center funds at the time of the conference (11/8/2025). This currently includes four mission center positions: president, financial officer, project coordinator, and camping coordinator. Summarized 2025 job descriptions for these four positions are provided on the following pages. Complete job descriptions can be found online:

<https://cofchristmi.org/2025/10/29/2025-mission-center-staff-position-descriptions>.

The four year plan for use of the conference designated camping and gathering ministries fund in 2022-2025 previously approved by mission center officers in collaboration with the mission center council to offset the costs of a camping coordinator position will end in 2025. Without this funding, a paid camping coordinator position is not planned for 2026. Pending adoption of the proposed 2026 mission center operating budget, the staff positions planned for 2026 are president (full-time), financial officer (full-time), and communications and project coordinator (part-time). Draft position descriptions for 2026 are also available at the link above.