



Community of Christ

A Time to Act!

September 20, 2017

Key Takeaways

President Steve Veazey shared words of calling, hope, and possibility as well as the reality of current financial issues. Key points:

A Future of Calling, Hope, and Possibility

- Our future is related directly to our willingness to go where the Spirit is calling us.
- Gatherings can happen anywhere, anytime, not dependent on owning buildings or property. Various forms will continue, and new ones will emerge.
- We remain connected through the practices of spiritual formation, community, compassionate ministry, and action that are true to Christ's vision and mission.

Church Develops the Following Plan to Fund the Retirement Responsibility

- Currently the defined benefit trust balance is \$25 million.
- The remaining \$115 million responsibility will be funded through:
 - \$38 million in current pledges to the Bridge of Hope project.
 - New pledges to the Bridge of Hope project.
 - \$31.5 million from net proceeds of the Printer's Manuscript sale.
 - Future sales of other historic assets and property less essential to mission.
- The current defined contribution retirement plan is funded through compensation costs in the annual Worldwide Mission budget.

Current Budget Situation in 2017

- Tithing in calendar year 2017 is projected to be behind budget by \$1.5 million.
- There is time to reverse this trend before the year ends.

Contributors—Now and in the Future

- Many faithful disciples already are giving generously. Thank you!
- Priesthood members are called to embrace the stewardship principles of the church and examine their own practices so they can teach and encourage others.

- There is a need to invite new and current members and friends to support mission financially.

The Fiscal Year 2019 Budget (Begins July 2018) Will Be Reduced \$5 Million

- This will be achieved through reductions in church services, resources, and staff.
- Details will be provided in mid-November 2017.

Future Mission-funding Model

- New approaches to funding mission are being explored.
- Church-wide conversations will occur during 2018 about these potential new models.

How Can We Help?

President Veazey shared several concrete actions we can take to move forward:

- 1. Pray to see clearly how the Spirit is guiding our journey as a church.**
 - a. Create a circle of prayer with your friends, family, and congregation.
 - b. Join with Tony Chvala-Smith in 30 days of prayer over the question, “What more can I personally do to help Community of Christ not limp along, but thrive!”
- 2. Encourage individuals to give this year to meet the tithing goal for 2017 and beyond.**
 - a. Make a pledge (USA and Canada) to Worldwide Mission Tithes to help close the budget deficit.
 - b. Collectively we can close the gap if all current contributors gave just \$1.50 per day between now and the end of the year. That’s \$50 per month or \$150 total.
 - c. Set up (or adjust) a recurring contribution through [eTithing](#) as a way to share regularly through Local and Worldwide Mission Tithes.
- 3. Make a congregational pledge to decrease the \$5 million budget reduction of staff and services planned for 2018.**
 - a. Determine what your congregation can pledge over the next three years.
 - b. [Fill out this pledge form](#) by December 31, 2017, so leaders can plan accordingly.
- 4. Join the worldwide conversation in preparation for the 2019 World Conference.**
 - a. Discuss how your congregation can represent the vision of Christ through spiritual formation, community, compassionate ministry, and action.
 - b. Consider what new funding models can support mission into the future.