



Community of Christ

GREATER PACIFIC NORTHWEST USA MISSION CENTER

May 29, 2015

To: Members of the Greater Pacific Northwest – USA Mission Center

Dear Friends,

We are writing to you to recommend approval of the resolution to locally fund a full-time Mission Center President for the Greater Pacific Northwest Mission Center. As you know, the World Church of Community of Christ previously paid for the compensation, benefits and other expenses to support two full-time Mission Center officers. Due to a number of recent adverse financial circumstances and trends, the World Church is no longer able to do so.

As part of the World Church's efforts to downsize its employee numbers voluntarily, our current Mission Center President, Kathy Sharp, chose to take early retirement. Her final day of service is June 30. Effective July 1, Apostle Ron Harmon, Western Field, will become Interim Mission Center President until a replacement is named.

With the GPNW Finance Committee, our Council reviewed carefully the role of Mission Center President in our Mission Center and our financial assets. Within GPNW, the role and function of the Mission Center President is critical for spiritual, administrative, missional and pastoral leadership, as well as priesthood, volunteer and staff development and supervision.

Since the announcement of the loss of World Church funding, the Mission Center has begun consolidating its staff for administration and ministry. These savings, with other increases to our assets, make hiring the Mission Center President affordable and sustainable.

Finally, though we know that it will take additional voluntary generosity from individuals and congregations to make the annual budget sustainable and maintain a disciplined draw from our Operating Investment Fund, we know funding this position can be done with little or no impact on the average total cost of congregational allocations.

As your Mission Center Council, we recommend approving the resolution before you at our Special Mission Center Conference, 4 p.m., Sunday, June 28, at Lewis River Campground.

Sincerely,

Mike Bessonette, GPNW Mission Coordinator
Roschell Farnsworth, Teacher, Oregon
Jim Lloyd, High Priest, Oregon
Bill McFarlin, GPNW Financial Officer
Nancy McManus, Priest, Alaska

Jarom Mills, Priest, Oregon
Todd Sargeant, Elder, Washington
Brenda Sargent, High Priest, Washington
Kathy Sharp, GPNW President
Stacie Simmons Bates, High Priest, Washington