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Dear Pastors and Communications Coordinators:

The purpose of this letter is to remind and inform you about:

1. Your fall congregational business meetings to elect/sustain officers: hold by Nov. 20, with results due by Jan. 15
2. Taking attendance for all worship services in October for our annual Pastor Survey. Your CSM will call you and complete this survey on your behalf by Nov. 30.
3. Electing your delegates to our annual Mission Center Conference, Nov. 5-6, in Portland: Due Oct. 10.
4. Mission Center Conference new business: budget, allocations, sustaining of priesthood calls, your invitation to attend our Pastor's Breakfast, Sunday morning, Nov. 6, in Portland
5. Bold Moves Applications: Due Oct. 15.
6. Budgeting and fundraising for new Community of Christ hymnal, to be released in 2013.

Congregational Business Meetings to Elect/Sustain Officers

If you have not already done so, coordinate now with your Congregational Support Minister to schedule pastor elections and sustain your recorder, congregational financial officer and assistant pastors. Please contact Bill McFarlin, (360) 574-2758, wmcfarlin@cofchrist-gpnw.org, to request appointment and/or reappointment letters for recorder and CFO at least two weeks prior to your business meeting. If you are stepping down as pastor for 2011, please notify your Congregational Support Minister and me as soon as possible to identify your likely successor(s). Officer elections should occur by Sunday, November 20 (before the Advent season) to allow for sufficient 2012 planning, recruiting and budgeting. **Please notify Kim Naten and copy me with your election results by Sunday, January 15.**

Mission Center Conference convenes at 10 a.m., Saturday, Nov. 5 and ends at 12:30 p.m., Sunday, Nov. 6, at Community of Christ - Portland Congregation, 4837 NE Couch St., Portland, OR 97213.

Our conference theme is *Christ's Mission. . . Our Mission*. Mission Center Conference will include music, business, celebration of our Haiti school-raising, fun and funds for mission, table fellowship, ordinations, and worship by and for all ages. **Apostle Susan Skoor, President of Seventy Robin Linkhart, and Outreach International Representative Andrea Read will bring "The Good News."** Now is the time to promote the dates and location of Mission Center conference in your bulletins each week. You will receive additional, more detailed promotional materials later this month to share with your members closer to the dates of conference. (See attached flyer with schedule.)

Pastors, save the date for our **annual Pastor's Breakfast** at 7:30 a.m., Sunday morning, Nov. 6. You'll hear inspiring stories and practical how-tos from fellow pastors about their new mission activities, led by the Holy Spirit. President of Seventy Robin Linkhart, Western Field Mission Coordinator, will speak to "Missional Living and Congregational Life." You will receive a useful thank-you gift: a popular small-group primer for developing personal and group mission. Watch for your invitation in the mail soon, and remember to RSVP as indicated by Oct. 28.

We Proclaim Jesus Christ and Promote Communities of Joy, Hope, Love and Peace.

Elect/Report Mission Center Conference Delegates by Monday, Oct. 10

Announce by Sunday, Sept. 25, your congregational business meeting to elect conference delegates and alternates, and solicit candidates' names beforehand. This business meeting should occur no later than Sunday, Oct. 9. Any member "in good standing" with membership within the GPNW Mission Center is eligible to run for delegate. List all nominations on a prepared ballot, which also notes the number of delegates to elect from your congregation. Members may nominate others as "write-ins" during the business meeting and may vote for as many nominees as can be elected. Those receiving the most votes—up to the number of delegates allotted to your congregation—are elected. *(See attachment with your updated delegate allotment.)* Remaining nominees will serve as alternates, in descending order of votes received. Note: We often are able to change alternates into voting delegates from other congregations before conference. Immediately notify your delegates and alternates of their election. Report the names of your elected delegates and your alternates (prioritized by highest to lowest votes received) to Kim Naten, Mission Center Recorder, by Monday, Oct. 10. If you are unable to elect your full delegate allotment, inform Kim whether your delegate openings can be filled by elected alternates from a specific congregation or by any alternates. Call Kim M-F at 360-748-3562 or email her at katen@cofchrist-gpnw.org. Also, please schedule congregational time AFTER Mission Center Conference for your delegates to report action by the conference to your congregation. *(Delegate submittal form attached.)*

Share Mission Center Conference New Business with Elected Delegates and Congregation

In advance of Mission Center Conference, please share with your congregation new business being considered. At our Saturday business meeting, delegates will be asked to bring affirming testimonies and sustain the following priesthood calls, already approved by the World Church Leadership Council:

Sue Coleman, Eugene Congregation, to Evangelist

Jammie Apodaca, Ellensburg Congregation, to Seventy

If sustained, Sue's and Jammie's ordinations will take place on Sunday morning.

Included with this letter is the **proposed 2012 Mission Center budget** to share and review with your delegates and congregation prior to Mission Center Conference. The Mission Center Council, Finance Committee and Mission Center Officers endorse a proposed budget with a twelve percent (12%) overall increase compared to last year's reduced budget. This results in only a 3% increase in congregational allocations, as is explained later in this letter. Our proposed 2012 budget reinstates a 0.5 FTE GPNW-funded position to build in succession planning and training for a future leader of Youth Camping Ministries. This is a temporary increase in staffing that may be reduced in the next few years as staff members retire. Christie Ostendorp requested an opportunity to train a new person, over time, to take this lead position so she can take on new congregational ministries in Alaska and also support youth discipleship formation within congregations. Both of these ministries are badly needed and underserved today.

Other areas with price increases, to reflect actual costs, are for copying, printing and postage; a \$1,000 increase for youth camping team training, a return to normal budget levels for ministerial leadership development; and two new budget line items for specialized mission: \$2,000 each for Peace and Justice Ministries and Young Adult Ministries. Our mission center has a fund designated for peace and justice that we have steadily depleted over the years. Most years we hired professional mediation services for internal church conflict mediation, peacekeeping, consensus building and/or peacemaking training. As the fund is now low, we felt it was more realistic to build it into our yearly budget, as part of normal operations. The new Young Adult Ministries budget line will offset annual costs of Mission Center activities for young adults, to keep their cost of participation low and maintain high quality of programming. Other portions of the budget have been trimmed responsibly, where costs can be decreased.

Sustainable GPNW Budget Returns in 2012

The 2012 budget eliminates our two years of extra draws on our principal in the Operating Investment Fund. In 2010 we budgeted an additional \$90,000 draw beyond our 6% target to cover retained ministerial positions no longer funded by the World Church. Last year our additional “one-time draw” continued, but it was reduced to \$28,000. This year we have eliminated additional draws beyond our usual 6%, which protects the mission center balance for future generations. Our congregational allocations are slightly higher (+3%). The Mission Center Finance Committee recommends that we encourage an increase in total individual giving of \$5,000 to the Mission Center Operating Fund (\$20,000 for the year), so that congregational allocations are not significantly increased. In 2010 our membership contributed almost \$15,000 to this fund. We think this stretch goal is achievable.

Proposed New Alaska Travel Fund

These proposed increases in services and mission support would not have been affordable without the generous addition of the property value of the recently closed Lincoln City (OR) Congregation and investment funds from Anchorage Congregation. Anchorage Congregation voted to sell their building a few years ago, while real estate values were still high, in an attempt to replant its declining congregation. Sadly, their congregation has continued to decline due to illness, deaths and moves of several members. Anchorage leaders notified the mission center that they were no longer operating as a congregation. Apostle Scott Murphy and Mission Center President Kathy Sharp visited Anchorage and Alaska members, followed by a second visit by Assistant to the Apostle Dave Nii and Mission Center Financial Officer Bill McFarlin. Together with other mission leaders, they brainstormed possible ministry proposals for Anchorage and Alaska members.

In the end, all concur that it's time to close Anchorage Congregation. Consistent with World Church policy, a practice we have followed whenever a congregation has closed in our mission center, the assets of the closed congregation flow into its mission center for shared use and mission. Mission Center leadership proposes creation of a new Alaska Travel Fund to assist all Alaska members and seekers with travel costs to attend Community of Christ activities on the mainland. Alternatively, the fund can be used to pay the travel costs for ministry requested by Alaskans in their home state. Previously, such travel assistance was handled by the generosity of Anchorage Congregation. The fund (initially seeded with \$65,000 from the remainder of Alaska's investment fund of about \$900,000) seeks to maintain and improve Community of Christ ministry and fellowship opportunities for Alaskans, who are geographically isolated. Delegates at our fall Mission Center Conference will vote on this proposal. If it passes, it will be administered by the Mission Center Financial Officer. (*See attached Resolution for Alaska Travel Fund.*)

Meanwhile, World Church and Mission Center leadership will continue to explore with Alaskans a variety of ministry models and resources to sustain and grow them. We will propose additional expenditures in the near future to support such ministry, once members there can better shape what that looks like. As before, Alaskans are eligible to apply for Bold Moves grants twice yearly to fund special, local mission projects.

Your Congregation's Proposed Allocation—Available by Oct. 1

Due to several congregational transitions over the past year, allocations are likely to shift. Based on the proposed 2012 budget, Bill will post on our GPNW website your anticipated allocation, by congregation, if this budget passes at Mission Center Conference. Find it at www.cofchrist-gpnw.org/officers. This information will help you plan your 2012 congregational budget. If you have questions about the proposed budget or your congregation's allocation, contact Bill McFarlin, Mission Center Financial Officer, by phone at 360-574-2758 or by email at wmcfarlin@cofchrist-gpnw.org.

Pastor Surveys—Track Attendance in October

The purpose of this annual survey is to track key measures of congregational life, over time, across the mission center. Please track your congregation's attendance for each regular worship service in October. Your Congregational Support Minister will arrange a telephone call with you in November to discuss, interpret, receive and report this information to the mission center. Your CSM is responsible for the completion and submission of the survey; you only need to speak with them and provide the input. Deadline to have all Pastor Surveys completed and submitted is Nov. 30.

Bold Moves—Next Submission date is Oct. 15

The Bold Moves Grant Committee awarded new grants to several congregations last spring. Now is the time for others to start working on new grant applications, due October 15. Previous grant winners may also reapply two more times. Find information under "Ministries > Bold Moves" on our Mission Center website (www.cofchrist-gpnw.org) or contact Steve Pomeroy, spomeroy@cofchrist-gpnw.org for help. Note that links to World Church and Western Field grants for Mission and Tangible Love also can be found on this webpage, so you can supplement Bold Moves funds for bigger projects.

Fundraise Now for New Community of Christ Hymnals in 2013

As was shared with congregational leaders at last spring's Nuts and Bolts workshops, now is the time for congregations to plan and fundraise for the purchase of the new Community of Christ hymnals, to be released for the first time at the October Peace Colloquy in 2013. Orders placed in the fall of 2012 will receive a 15% discount.

Each hardbound hymnal is expected to cost about \$25, plus shipping. Budget between \$100-\$200 for auxiliary products. Among these are recorded accompaniment tracks, a three-ring bound musicians' edition with about 95% of the selections to be lifted "as is" from the hymnal, vocal recordings for "shared" hymns and songs that Community of Christ will sing in international gatherings, and more. As an example, if your congregation orders 50 hardbound hymnals and auxiliary products, you should fundraise for about \$1,600 (guessing at shipping costs.) Your congregation's CCL licensing fee is extra. Build your congregation's anticipation for the new hymnal by learning more and tracking news at www.cofchrist.org/hymnal. Specifics about "Congregational Budgeting" are linked on the left-hand menu. *(See attached flyer for more information.)*

This fall letter gives you lots to pray, think, plan, decide, and do with your congregation over the next few weeks. And, as always, call or email me with your concerns, questions and excitement. Thank you for your continued, faithful ministry in the name of Jesus Christ! I look forward to seeing you all in Portland at our Mission Center Conference and Pastor's Breakfast. Until then...

Peace be with you!



Kathy Sharp

Enclosures:

Mission Center Conference Flyer with Schedule
Mission Center Conference Delegate Allotment and Formula Fall 2011
Mission Center Conference Delegate-Alternate Submittal Form
Proposed GPNW Mission Center Budget 2012
Proposed Resolution to Establish Alaska Travel Fund
Hymnal Project Information Sheet
Visiting Ministry Schedule 4th Quarter 2011