

**“Continuation of Local Congregational Ministries”  
Resolution to Community of Christ World Conference  
Submitted by David Goehner**

**For consideration by the Greater Pacific Northwest – USA Mission Center Conference**

**Whereas**, the participants of the church have been called by God to provide Christian ministry and to help spread the Gospel Message in each community throughout the world; and

**Whereas**, church facilities provide a very important resource as a location to offer this ministry for the members and neighborhoods in the communities where they have been long established; and

**Whereas**, many of these facilities may have served as places of worship and related church functions for the people in these communities for many decades; Let it be

**Resolved**, that, in congregations of the Community of Christ where the members of a congregation attending an official business meeting of the congregation vote by at least a 2/3 majority to formally break away from the denomination specifically due to any difference of opinion that the majority of the members of these congregations may have regarding denominational policies on standards for priesthood ordination and/or standards related to policies on marriage:

- a) that, as a first step, officially designated financial officers for the Community of Christ shall enter into good faith negotiations with these congregations to determine a mutually agreeable financial arrangement with the congregation involving a lease-to-buy option pertaining to the congregation’s established church site, building, and interior facilities;
- b) and that these negotiations take into account the amount of financial investment that local members of the congregation have donated toward the church facility over the years, as well as the singularly primary goal of maintaining a ministerial presence for the community that the local church congregation has been serving;
- c) and that any such negotiated lease or purchase require that the leased or purchased church property be used specifically and primarily for the purposes of congregational Christian ministry and worship, based on the teachings of the Bible, the Book of Mormon, and the Doctrine and Covenants;
- d) and that the local congregation be permitted to adopt its own name, identity, and unique signage during any period of leasing of a facility owned by the Community of Christ;
- e) and that any negotiated lease include an option for the congregation to vote to resume its affiliation with the Community of Christ within a period of time that is mutually agreed upon by both the denomination and the congregation. And let it further be

**Resolved**, that, if such a congregation votes to break off from the Community of Christ, all official financial accounts of that congregation shall no longer be made available for the use of that congregation immediately after the congregation votes by a 2/3 majority to break off from the denomination, unless other arrangements shall be mutually agreed to by both the denomination and by the congregation.