



Community of Christ

GREATER PACIFIC NORTHWEST USA MISSION CENTER

KIM NATEN, MISSION CENTER PRESIDENT

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Dear GPNW Mission Center Members and Friends:

Each year at this time, the Mission Center President has traditionally sent this letter to Pastors and Communications Coordinators to provide dates, deadlines, and reminders about Mission Center Conference and other upcoming events of which to make note. This year, my letter goes out to all and serves an additional purpose.

Traditionally, the Autumn/Winter edition of *The Chinook*, our mission center printed newsletter, is going to print right about now and would normally be in your hands by October. As **Karen Beckman Householder**, our *Chinook* editor, prepares to reduce her employment to half time beginning in January 2019, it has become clear that moving the publication dates of *The Chinook* from fall (October) and spring (April) to winter (December) and summer (June) will better balance her workload without impacting seasonal deadlines.

The Autumn/Winter *Chinook* typically provides an overview of what to expect at Mission Center Conference and an explanation of the business before the Conference. This letter will provide that information, as well as important due dates and reminders.

→ MISSION CENTER CONFERENCE

2018 GPNW-USA MISSION CENTER CONFERENCE

Saturday, November 3, 9:30 am, to

Sunday, November 4, 12:30 pm

Portland Congregation,

4837 NE Couch St., Portland OR 97213

Our conference theme is *When God Dreams*. In April of this year, President Veazey challenged us as a body of disciples to look to our future and our purpose, not only as a denomination, but as disciples and prophetic witnesses of Jesus Christ. He encouraged us to focus on building communities that embrace our enduring principles, our mission initiatives, and the experience of becoming spiritually formed in Christ. As we gather at the

most-attended event in our mission center, we have an opportunity not only to conduct the necessary business of our jurisdiction, but, as importantly, to *imagine...to wonder* what it is God dreams about and desires for his beloved children. (F.Y.I., that's us!)

Our guest ministers will be **Michele McGrath**, Community of Christ Counselor to the Presiding Bishop, and **Bill McFarlin**, Western USA Mission Field Support Minister.

Arrival & Registration

Registration will begin at **9 am** on Saturday. This is the time to pick up name tags, materials, lunch tickets, and Pastors' gifts; visit the fundraising and informational table displays in the Music Room; and check in any children with child care.

There is handicapped/limited mobility parking in the parking lot adjacent to the church. Others may park in the parking lot across the street or on the street. Parking is limited, so please plan ahead to carpool when possible and allow extra time to find parking.

Opening Worship: *Invitation to Experience God's Love*

We will begin our conference weekend with an opening worship at **9:30 am**, including our traditional congregational flag ceremony. Mission Center President **Kim Naten** will give opening remarks in this worship celebrating our gathering in community for the weekend to worship and share in fellowship and decision-making together. Included will be an opportunity for A Disciple's Generous Response.

Delegate Orientation: *Spiritually Formed in Gospel Community*

An orientation session will begin at **10:45 am**, during which the budget and resolutions will be presented and questions will be answered. You may review all conference business documents as they become available in our weekly email NewsBrief and on the mission center website at www.cofchrist-gpnw.org/conference.

Lunch Fellowship and Meetings

Our lunch break from **12-2 pm** provides time for fellowship or special group meetings. Purchase a catered boxed lunch to eat in the building, or bring your own. View the menu and reserve your lunch at www.conferencelunch2018.eventbrite.com, or contact Conference Planner **Jill Brunette** (jbrunette@cofchrist-gpnw.org, 425-207-8712) by **3 pm on Friday, October 26**.

Purchased catered lunches will be waiting at meeting rooms again for those attendees—no need to stand in line! When purchasing your lunch online, be sure to indicate which meeting you are attending for lunch delivery, in addition to responding to your meeting invitation for your group leader's planning.

Business Meeting: *United in Spirit and Mission*

During the afternoon business session, from **2-5:30 pm**, we will hear the President's annual report, sustain mission center leadership, acknowledge staff and volunteer transitions, elect delegates to World Conference, and discuss and vote on the 2019 budget and at least two resolutions. (*See linked files and explanation below.*) We will also present and vote to sustain three World Church priesthood calls: **Deborah Towner** (Crystal Springs) and **Mary Richardson** (University Place) to the office of High Priest, and **Glen Fishel** (Samish) to the office of Evangelist.

Youth & Young Adult Event

Youth and young adults will have a hosted dinner and game night Saturday at **6:30 pm** at the home of Carla & Erik Nilsen. Contact **Sean Langdon** (slangdon@cofchrist-gpnw.org, 425-293-6366,) for more information.

PREPARING FOR MISSION CENTER CONFERENCE

Register for Child Care

Child care is available for children ages 0-11 on Saturday from 9 am-5:30 pm, except during lunch (12-2 pm), and on Sunday from 9:30 am-12:30 pm. To ensure that we have adequate child care staff, please register your children by contacting Conference Planner **Jill Brunette** (425-207-8712, jbrunette@cofchrist-gpnw.org.) by **Monday, Oct. 29**.

Reserve Accommodations

The following motels are around 2.5 miles from Portland Congregation:

- Comfort Inn Portland – 1-877-424-6423
8225 NE Wasco St., Portland 97220
- Ramada Portland East – 1-800-854-9517
9707 SE Stark St, Portland 97216
- Chestnut Tree Inn – 1-888-236-5600
9699 SE Stark St., Portland 97216
- Motel 6 - Mall 205 – 1-800-466-8356
9225 SE Stark St., Portland 97216

Volunteer

USHERS are needed for all services and sessions and can be delegates or non-delegates. Contact **Dianne Webberley** (360-834-9664, dwebberley@cofchrist-gpnw.org) to volunteer.

COMMUNION SERVERS are needed for the Sunday Communion worship at 11 am. Contact Communion Coordinator **Shari Amos** (samos@cofchrist-gpnw.org, 503-674-8996) to volunteer.

FLAG BEARERS are needed for our traditional processional. Volunteer to your pastor to represent your congregation. All ages welcome!

Pastors' Breakfast: *Enlighten the Eyes of our Hearts*

Pastors and staff will gather Sunday morning for our annual Pastors' Breakfast, from **7:30-9:15 am** at the Grotto Conference Center, located near Portland Congregation at North East Sandy Boulevard and North East 85th Avenue (www.thegrotto.org). This is a time for a sharing for our guest ministry and congregations in mission (*see linked flyer for pastors*). Pastors, be sure to RSVP by **Monday, October 22**. Space is limited, so be sure to register early.

Ordination Worship: *Shape Us in the Image of Christ*

Join us Sunday morning from **10-10:45 am** back at Portland Congregation for a special ordination worship service. Upon sustaining of their calls on Saturday, **Deborah Towner** and **Mary Richardson** will be ordained to the office of High Priest, and **Glen Fishel** will be ordained to the office of Evangelist.

Communion Worship: *When God Dreams*

Our **11 am** worship service will feature **Michele McGrath** bringing the morning message and the serving of bread and wine communion. An offering to defray the costs of Mission Center Conference will be received at this service. Conference will adjourn by **12:30 pm**.

New Conference Business *Delegate Nominations For 2019 World Conference*

Delegates for 2019 World Conference will be elected during the Saturday business meeting at Mission Center Conference. Those interested in serving as a delegate to World Conference (April 6-13, 2019) should submit their name, congregation, and

contact information to **Membership Services Administrator Jill Brunette** (jbrunette@cofchrist-gpnw.org, 425-207-8712) by **Monday, October 22**.

Ballots containing the names of all delegate nominees will be prepared in advance of Mission Center Conference; however, nominations will also be taken from the floor during the business meeting. GPNW Mission Center has been allocated 81 delegates for World Conference. Find World Conference information and preparatory materials at www.cofchrist.org/2019-world-conference.

Proposed 2019 Mission Center Budget

Linked with this letter is the proposed 2019 Mission Center Budget to share and review with your delegates and congregation prior to Mission Center Conference. The proposed 2019 budget shows an overall increase of 2.5% over the 2018 budget. This year's increase is primarily due to the need to expand budgeting for a Mission Center Financial Officer to a full-time position basis. The position was previously budgeted as an interim .475 FTE (full-time-equivalent) position. This was an anticipated change for 2019 and efforts are currently underway to identify a new Financial Officer.

The impact of this significant expense increase is partially offset by reductions in three specific budget items: reduction, by request, of the Communications Administrator position from full time to half time; a reduced level available for Bold Moves Grants, reflective of requests and usage; and reduction of support for the International Youth Forum, which will not be held again in 2019. Additionally, as prescribed by conference action, the 2019 budget is supported by the 2017 Operating Surplus of \$50,105, which has been moved forward to supplement the income side of the budget.

Your Congregation's Proposed Allocation

The total of congregational allocations to support the budget has been increased by 2% for 2019. This is a smaller increase than last year and represents 27.5% of the budgeted income. It should be remembered that though the overall increase is 2%, congregational allocations may vary from that through use of the allocation formula. No congregation's allocation increases or decreases more than 10% in any one year. After applying the elements of the allocation formula for 2019, about half of our congregations will see an increase in their allocations; however, none will increase by the maximum of 10%.

Community of Christ Presiding Bishopric guidelines continue to recommend an eventual reduced investment draw goal of 4%, realizing that it may take some jurisdictions some years to reach that target. Making an immediate change to that level in our budgeting would mean immediate programming and personnel reductions. Expense increases and funding element decreases place us in the position of proposing an additional investment fund draw of 2.42% for 2019. This is a reduction from the additional draw of last year's budget and is a step towards the recommended goal. The Mission Center Leadership Team and Mission Center Council concur with taking this additional draw but continue to encourage moving towards alignment with the recommended 4% goal. Our investments grew for the year ending June 30, 2018, at the rate of 7.54%; that is higher than the total anticipated draw for 2019.

Based on the proposed 2019 budget, the 2019 allocations are included with this letter and will be posted on our GPNW website at www.cofchrist-gpnw.org/mconference. This information will help you plan your 2019 congregational budget. If you have questions about the proposed budget or your congregation's allocation, contact Mission Center Financial Officer (MCFO) **Steve Pomeroy** (spomeroy@cofchrist-gpnw.org, 425-457-0739). *To keep allocations low for congregations with financial challenges, the budget assumes that generous congregations and individual members and friends will help to close the mission center budget gap with additional contributions (Congregational Generosity and Operating and Youth Contributors) to the mission center above their allocated giving.*

Resolutions

All resolutions to be considered at this Mission Center Conference must be submitted by Saturday, October 6.

A resolution is being brought before the conference this year to replenish the Alaska Travel Fund. The Alaska Travel Fund was established by conference action in 2011, with funds provided by Alaska real estate sales, to encourage participation by Alaska members in mission center and World Church events by supplementing their travel costs. The fund began with \$65,000 and was replenished with and an additional \$30,000 by conference action in 2014. That replenishment resolution called for a report on the viability of the fund to be made to the conference in 2017. That report recommended that a new replenishment resolution come

before the conference in 2018 to add an additional \$30,000 to the Alaska Travel Fund. As of the end of July 2018, the Alaska Travel Fund balance stands at \$15,700. The usage of this fund has made participation in camps, retreats, reunions, Mission Center Conferences, and World Conferences possible for all ages of Alaska members. It has also allowed for ministerial travel to Alaska, creating additional worship and missional opportunities for members there.

A second resolution before the conference this year addresses three other Alaska Funds that exist on our financial statements, seeking to combine them into one fund. The Alaska Project Fund was established a number of years ago to support the *Alaskan Golden Nugget News*, a newsletter communicating church news to members in Alaska, which is no longer produced. It has a maintained balance of just over \$2,700. The Alaska Exploration Fund was established to provide support for previous mission center and World Church efforts to explore building relationship and ministry ties between Alaska members and the wider church. It has a maintained balance of approximately \$1,200. The Alaska Mission Fund was established by the mission center to support mission center endeavors of ministry and mission in Alaska and is the primary ongoing budgetary source of support for the non-travel related costs of these efforts. It has an active balance of just over \$35,000. This resolution seeks to combine these three funds into the active Alaska Mission Fund, which would remain as the budgetary means for supporting ongoing ministry and mission in Alaska.

Mission Center Conference Delegate Elections

Any member "in good standing" with membership within the GPNW Mission Center is eligible to run for delegate to Mission Center Conference. Your congregational business meeting to elect conference delegates and alternates should occur *no later* than **Sunday, September 30**.

All nominations should be listed on a prepared ballot that 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 linked document with your updated delegate allotment.*) Remaining nominees will serve as alternates, in descending order of votes received. We often are able to change alternates

into voting delegates from other congregations before conference.

Pastors should immediately notify elected delegates and alternates and report their names (prioritized by highest to lowest votes received), contact information, and Conference materials order (print or electronic) to Membership Services Administrator Jill Brunette (jbrunette@cofchrist-gpnw.org, 425-207-8712) by Tuesday, October 2. (*Pastors, please use linked Delegate-Alternate Submittal Form to ensure that we receive all necessary information.*) If you are unable to elect your full delegate allotment, indicate on your form whether your delegate openings can be filled by elected alternates from a specific congregation or by any alternates.

The Saturday packet of conference materials will again only be printed for those delegates, alternates, and other attendees that request one. Please be sure to indicate on your Delegate-Alternate Submittal Form whether or not each person listed would like the mission center to print a packet for them. Alternatively, attendees may print their own packet or simply download and view it electronically on a tablet or other electronic device. An electronic link to the Saturday packet of materials will be sent directly to each Delegate and Alternate and included in each week's NewsBrief email.

Selection of Flag Bearer

Flag Bearers are needed for our traditional processional. Volunteer to your pastor to represent your congregation. All ages welcome! Pastors, please indicate this information on your Delegate-Alternate Submittal Form.

Submission of Good News

Pastors, I am requesting a short story (a couple paragraphs is sufficient) of "Good News" from the past year from your congregation for my President's Annual Report at Mission Center Conference. These can be stories about missional activities or opportunities in your neighborhoods, activities within the congregation, or stories about congregational or members' accomplishments and notable events. Submit your short story of Good News to me (knaten@cofchrist-gpnw.org) by **Monday, September 24**.

Sharing Conference Actions

Please schedule congregational time AFTER Mission Center Conference for your delegates to report action by the conference to your congregation.

→ **PASTOR SURVEY**

The purpose of this biannual survey is to track key measures of congregational life, over time, across the mission center. Pastors, please track your congregation's attendance for each regular worship service in October. Your Leadership Support Minister (LSM) will arrange a visit with you in November to discuss, interpret, receive, and report this information to the mission center. Your LSM 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 **Friday, December 28.**

→ **CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS TO ELECT/SUSTAIN OFFICERS AND APPROVE BUDGET**

Pastors, coordinate now with your LSM to schedule Pastor elections and sustain your congregational Recorder, Congregational Financial Officer (CFO), and any Assistant Pastors. Officer elections should occur by **Sunday, November 18** (before the Advent season) to allow for sufficient planning, recruiting, and budgeting. Announce this business meeting at least two weeks in advance, no later than **Sunday, November 4.** Now is the time to discuss with Congregational Financial Officers and Recorders their desire to continue to serve in those roles for 2019. Any possible changes should be communicated to Mission Center Financial Officer (MCFO) **Steve Pomeroy** (spomeroy@cofchrist-gpnw.org, 425-457-0739) at least two weeks prior to your congregation's business meeting, no later than **Sunday, November 4.**

Please report your 2019 congregational officers and their contact information using the Congregational Officers Submittal Form by Monday, December 2. (See linked form.) **Please be sure to report election results even if there are no changes.** Also, be sure to have your congregation's 2019 budget approved by **Sunday, December 30.**

→ **2019 WORLD CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS**

Save the dates! Three opportunities for local World Conference Workshops for GPNW delegates and members are coming up in early 2019! Saturday events will be held on **February 23** in Southern Oregon, **March 2** at a southwest Washington/Northern Oregon location, and **March 16** at a Puget Sound location. (See linked

flyer.) There will be something for everyone as we explore proposed legislation.

Community of Christ continues to boldly follow God's vision (sound familiar?) into the future, despite the challenges we face not only as a church body, but in so many other arenas as well. While those challenges—financial, organizational, and relational—will always be with us in some form or another, I am grateful for, and humbled by, the ways in which we face them, acknowledge them, and work to resolve them. Mission Center Conference is attended by members and friends from throughout this widespread geographic area known as the Greater Pacific Northwest-USA Mission Center. It offers a unique opportunity not only to participate in the business and decision-making of the mission center, but also to gather as a community for fellowship and learning, with a shared purpose in exploring our call to be a prophetic, visionary body of disciples devoted to creating communities of joy, hope, love and peace. I look forward to seeing you there!

With blessings and gratitude,



Kim Naten, GPNW Mission Center President

Mission Center Conference Links:

- Conference Flyer with Schedule
- Pastors' Breakfast Invitation
- Delegate Allotment and Formula
- Delegate-Alternate Submittal Form
- Proposed 2019 Operating-Missional Budget and Explanation
- GPNW MC 2017 Audit Cover Letter
- 2018 Statement of Financial Position
- Proposed 2019 Congregational Allocations and Explanation
- Replenish Alaska Travel Fund Resolution
- Combination of Alaska Ministry Funds Resolution

Additional Links:

- 2018 Pastor Reminders
- Congregational Officers Submittal Form
- 2019 World Conference Workshops Save-the-Date Flyer