

Kathy Sharp, Mission Center President

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September 2010

Dear Pastors and Communications Coordinators:

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

1. Your fall congregational business meetings to elect / sustain officers
2. Electing your delegates to our annual Mission Center Conference, November 6-7, in Portland
3. Mission Center Conference new business: budget, allocations, your invitation to attend our Pastor's Breakfast, Sunday morning, November 7, in Portland
4. Young Adults' VisionProject Retreat with Dave Schaal, First Presidency, November 19-21
5. Bold Moves Application reminder: Due October 15
6. New GPNW Mission Center Administrative Directories

Mission Center Conference convenes at 10 am, Saturday, November 6 and ends at 12:30 pm, Sunday, November 7, at Community of Christ - Portland Congregation, 4837 NE Couch St., Portland, OR 97213.

**"So we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another."
(Romans 12:5)**

Our conference theme is *One in Christ*. Mission Center Conference will include music, business, fun and funds for mission, table fellowship, ordinations, and worship by and for all ages. **Apostle K. Scott Murphy brings the guest ministry.** 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 8 am, Sunday morning, November 7, at Multnomah University (last year's location), just minutes away from Portland Congregation. You'll hear inspiring stories and practical how-tos from fellow pastors about their new mission activities, led by the Holy Spirit. Apostle Scott Murphy will review new Community of Christ practices for accepting Christian baptisms as a path to membership in our denomination. You will receive a useful thank-you gift to magnify your spiritual meditation and your congregation's worship. Please remember to RSVP when you receive your invitation, and let Kim Naten know if you are delegating your place at the breakfast to someone else from your congregation.

➔ Report Mission Center Conference Delegates by Monday, October 11

Announce two weeks in advance that you will be holding congregational business meeting to elect conference delegates and alternates, and solicit candidates' names beforehand. This business meeting should occur no later than Sunday, October 10. 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 delegate allotment.) Remaining nominees will serve as alternates, in descending order of votes received.

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, October 11. 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 knaten@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**

Included with this letter is the **proposed 2011 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 nine percent (9%) decrease compared to 2010. This budget reduces 0.5 FTE GPNW-funded positions (with no downsizing from current active staffing) and includes increased subsidies to traveling youth ministries: SPEC and Caravan. Transportation and participant costs for both programs have steadily increased over the years.

Two other significant changes also relate to funding youth ministry. To keep congregational allocations as low as possible, in 2011 we propose funding a portion of salary for Christie Ostendorp, Youth Camping Team Director, from carry-over designated funds for a youth minister from former jurisdictions. Mission Center members have increased their contributions to the Mission Center operating fund over the past year, so our 2011 budget anticipates this increased pattern in giving. Thank you! The Mission Center Council recommends we add another contribution line for giving to the left side of your local mission tithes envelope for Youth Ministry. This will serve as a weekly reminder that our Mission Center budget funds youth camping scholarships, the two campers for one price program (2 for 1), and underwrites youth camps and reunions that may not break even. We count on the generosity of congregations and members who are able to give more to spread this cost among many, so that all who desire may receive the ministry of Jesus Christ.

Other portions of the budget have been trimmed responsibly, where costs can be decreased. As a result, our congregational allocations will increase about four percent, on average. Anticipating your generous response to the mission center operating fund, we reduced last year's one-time draw of \$90,000 to \$28,000, to balance the 2011 budget, while the value of our Operating Investment Fund further recovers from our global economic downturn. Recent news is good. Our Pool A fund grew by nearly 12% for fiscal year 2010, as compared with two consecutive years of losses in 2008 and 2009. Recent gains do not replace significant previous losses, however. Additionally, real estate values continue to be depressed as we sell unused church properties to fund today's mission.

Refer to the enclosed congregation allocation spreadsheet to anticipate how this budget may affect your congregation. If you have additional questions about the proposed budget or your congregation's allocation, contact Bill McFarlin, Mission Center Financial Officer, by phone (360-574-2758) or by email at wmcfarlin@cofchrist-gpnw.org.

➔ **Hold Congregational Business Meetings to Elect / Sustain Officers**

Coordinate now with your Congregational Support Minister (list attached) to schedule pastor elections and sustain your recorder, congregational financial officer and assistant pastors. Please contact Bill McFarlin to request appointment and/or reappointment letters for recorder and CFO. 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 before the Advent season to allow for sufficient 2011 planning, recruiting and budgeting. **Please notify Kim Naten and copy me with your election results.**

➔ **More Options for Mission Center Services**

As a reminder, last June I announced that pastors now have greater flexibility in requesting Mission Center staff and volunteer services for special needs in their congregations. Confer with your congregational support minister or with me to be directed to additional ministry specialists for your needs.

➔ **Bold Moves—Next Submission date is October 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 Web site (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 web page, so you can supplement Bold Moves funds for bigger projects.

➔ **Vision Project Retreat for Young Adults, November 19-21, with Dave Schaal, First Presidency**

Across the world, members of the First Presidency are meeting with young adults (ages 18-35) from Community of Christ for intentional conversations about their vision for our church. This event is organized by local Young Adult leaders Sean Langdon and Rachel Mills. Host congregation is Tuality Congregation in Tigard, Oregon (near Portland). Please remind, encourage and help sponsor young adults from your congregation to attend. For more information, contact Sean at slangdon@cofchrist-gpnw.org or Rachel Mills, metroareaya@yahoo.com.

➔ **Watch for Printed Administrative Directories—Coming Soon!**

We are refining our administrative Mission Center directories to make them more portable and handy to use. They also will be available electronically. Creating the new format has taken time. We will print two directories for your congregation (as a handy phone book), and everyone who is listed in the directory also will receive a personal copy. Updating this format in 2011 will go much faster. Let us know how you like them. We are printing a few extra, available on request from Kim Naten at knaten@cofchrist-gpnw.org.

➔ **Priesthood Faithfulness Local Task Force**

As you know, several World Church committees have been considering how to magnify the effectiveness of all Community of Christ priesthood. While we wait for their resources and recommendations, we are forming a localized GPNW Priesthood Faithfulness Task Force with diverse experience and perspectives. This group will consider how best to use, train and distribute the resources prepared by the World Church. They will also consider how to customize and present these resources and recommended practices so they are practical, meaningful, accepted and useful in our own context. Mike Bessonette will recruit three groups (north, central and south) to participate. To nominate one of your priesthood members to participate on the local task force, contact Mike at mbessonette@cofchrist-gpnw.org or 541-923-3660.

Thank you for your continued, faithful ministry in the name of Jesus Christ!

Sincerely,



Kathy Sharp

Enclosures:

- MC Conference Flyer with Schedule
- MC Conference Delegate Submittal Form
- MC Delegate Allotment by Congregation
- Proposed 2011 Operating Budget
- Proposed 2011 Congregational Allocations
- List of Congregational Support Ministers, by congregation