

Kathy Sharp, Mission Center President

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September 2009

Dear Pastors and Communications Coordinators:

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

1. Your invitation to attend our Pastor's Breakfast, Sunday morning, November 8, in Portland
2. Electing your delegates to our annual Mission Center Conference, November 7-8, in Portland
3. Mission Center Conference new business: budget, allocations and Bend Resolution
4. The nominations process for 2010 World Conference Delegates (to be elected at Mission Center Conference)
5. Your fall congregational business meetings to elect/sustain officers
6. October *Making a Difference* gatherings in Washington and Oregon

Mission Center Conference 2009 convenes at 10 am, Saturday, November 7 and ends at 12:30 pm, Sunday, November 8, at Community of Christ - Portland Congregation, 4837 NE Couch St., Portland, OR 97213.

Our conference theme is *We Share*, building on themes within our shared heritage, identity, mission and message. Mission Center Conference will include fun, live music, fellowship and worship by and for all ages, including children and youth. **Guest ministry will be provided by Seventy Stephen Hatch (Assistant to Apostle Susan Skoor), and Apostle Dale Luffman.** Get ready for inspiring preaching! Now is the time to promote the dates and location of Mission Center conference in your bulletins each week. A Conference flyer you can post is included. You will receive additional, more detailed promotional materials later this month to share with your members closer to the dates of conference.

Pastors, save the date for our **annual Pastor's Breakfast** on Sunday morning, November 8, at Mission Center Conference. Watch for your formal invitation with more details to follow. Please remember to RSVP.

➔ Elect Mission Center Conference Delegates by Monday, October 12

Please announce two weeks in advance your congregational business meeting to elect conference delegates and alternates. This business meeting should occur no later than Sunday, October 11. Any member "in good standing" is eligible to run for delegate. Solicit names of members who wish to run for delegate in advance of your business meeting. List them on a prepared ballot, which also notes the number of delegates to elect. Members may nominate others as "write-ins" during the business meeting. 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.

Please notify your elected delegates and alternates immediately. Send 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 12.** If you are unable to elect your full delegate allotment, inform Kim if you would like to offer your delegate openings to elected alternates from a specific congregation or to any alternates. Contact Kim M-F at 360-748-3562 or by email at knaten@cofchrist-gpnw.org. Please use her attached form to submit names.

➔ Share Mission Center Conference New Business with Elected Delegates and Congregation

Included with this letter is the **Proposed 2010 Mission Center Budget** to share and review with your delegates and congregation prior to Mission Center Conference. The Mission Center Council, Mission Center Finance Committee and Mission Center Officers endorse a **proposed budget with a one point six percent (1.6%) increase over 2009.** This budget increase covers two ½ time ministry positions, previously paid for by the World Church and our mission center. The 2010 proposed mission center budget absorbs the World Church portion of these salaries locally since World Church funding was lost during its recent downsizing. Other portions of the budget have been trimmed responsibly, where costs can be

decreased. As a result, our total congregational allocations will remain the same as last year. Extra funding to sustain these positions comes from a larger than usual draw from our Operating Investment Fund, from our typical 6% to 9.3%. This larger draw may be necessary for two years before the value of our Operating Investment Fund recovers from our global economic downturn.

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, at 360-574-2758 or by email at wmcfarlin@cofchrist-gpnw.org.

Other New Business for Mission Center Conference (*enclosures*)

- ➔ **World Conference Delegate Elections** — Please notify your members each week before Mission Center Conference that **now is the time** to submit their names for nomination as GPNW Mission Center delegates to World Conference, April 10-17, 2010 in Independence, MO. Members can submit their names and home congregations directly to Kim Naten, 360-748-3562 or knaten@cofchrist-gpnw.org. Names received by Saturday, October 31, will be printed on the ballot. Members also may have their names added as write-in candidates during the Saturday afternoon business session at Mission Center Conference when the election of delegates will take place.

- ➔ **Bend Congregation's Resolution for Short-term Loan** — For more than five years, Bend Congregation has engaged in vision and mission to plan and implement a phased-in "Signal Community" development project on its 29-acre property. They expect to be annexed into the City of Bend soon, at which time they will be able to close an existing offer on part of their property. As part of this project, they are hiring a full-time minister for outreach ministry and to manage the site-development. The enclosed resolution, supported by the Mission Center Council, asks mission center delegates to approve a short-term transition loan.

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

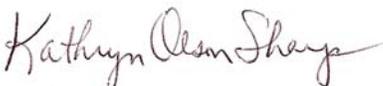
Coordinate now with your Congregational Support Minister to schedule pastor elections. Additionally, during that business meeting or a subsequent one, be sure to sustain your recorder, congregational financial officer (CFO) and counselors/assistant pastors. Prior to sustaining your recorder and CFO, request a letter of appointment for each of those individuals from Bill McFarlin, Mission Center Financial Officer. If you are stepping down as pastor for 2010, please notify your Congregational Support Minister and me as soon as possible to identify your likely successor. Officer elections should occur before the Advent season to allow for sufficient 2010 planning, recruiting and budgeting. **Please notify Kim Naten and copy me with your election results at ksharp@cofchrist-gpnw.org.**

➔ **Thanks for Hosting/Attending/Promoting *Making a Difference* gatherings in October!**

Apostle Susan Skoor and Assistant to the Apostle Stephen Hatch invite you to join them in a series of October congregational gatherings in Washington and Oregon called "Making a Difference." To be held October 9-11 at multiple congregations, the events offer information, interactive participation, witness and celebration as they share how members' local and World Church giving is "making a difference" in the lives of real people. Enclosed is a flyer you can post to help you encourage your members to attend. Special thanks to those pastors hosting these events!

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

Sincerely,



Kathy Sharp

Enclosures:

Conference Poster
Conference Delegate Allotment and Formula
Conference Delegate/Alternate Submittal Form
Proposed 2010 Mission Center Operating Budget
Proposed 2010 Congregational Allocations
Bend Resolution
Making a Difference Poster