

# Community of Christ

May 3, 2010

Dear Friends,

We share our testimony that the Holy Spirit moved in our midst during the 2010 World Conference, April 10-17, because of God's grace, the prayerful preparation of the 2,800 delegates, and your prayerful support. Thank you.

As an international church we are learning that discerning together unites us and sends us in God's mission to bring Christ's peace to all people. Even though some of the conference discussions revealed the wide span of understanding and belief amongst delegates, there was a spirit of gentle kindness and respect for one another. The Spirit was present, uniting us in our diversity and showing us how we can walk together into the future with God.

The church's website and the June *Herald* will give an overview of at what happened at World Conference. The following provides some specifics: Delegates overwhelmingly voted that the Counsel to the Church, given January 17, is the mind and will of God, and supported its inclusion in the Doctrine and Covenants as Section 164. This section calls us to deepen our discipleship as we live the meaning of our baptism daily and "become fully immersed in the servant life of Christ." We encourage you, your family, and congregation to prayerfully study Section 164 and live God's call to us in these inspired words.

In addition, Section 164

- Recognizes the baptismal covenant of those who were baptized in Christ in other denominations and gives them an opportunity to live out their discipleship in the Community of Christ through confirmation. More information will be provided by church leaders concerning the policies that will emerge as we better understand paragraph two.
- Provides the opportunity for a United States and other national conferences throughout the world to consider priority issues specific to those nations and

cultures. As a result, all World Conference legislation concerning same-gender relationships and ordinations was not considered.

- Asks us to live in sacred community as Christ's new creation and to not be fearful of spiritual and relational transformation that "requires whole-life stewardship dedicated to expanding the church's restoring ministries."
- Calls us to give our lives to the mission of Jesus Christ, which is what matters most for the journey ahead.

On Friday morning, members living in the United States met in worship and scripture study, testimony, and small-group dialogue. A survey was completed to see when the US conference might be held, possibly in the spring or summer of 2012, and what priority issues need to be addressed. The 2,000 plus surveys have not yet been tabulated. However, we are committed to keeping you informed about the process as it unfolds and we prepare to meet together at the US conference.

Before World Conference a US Team of apostles formed and is diligently working with other field leaders on strategic plans for mission in the US. We already feel a growing sense of God's direction moving disciples from the present focus on congregational life to witnessing of Jesus Christ and inviting others to follow him.

The US Team is also working on a process to engage the US church in preparation for a future US conference. At this time we do not know what issues will be determined a priority or what the outcome might be if the people decide that same-gender issues should be considered. However, until all of that is determined, the current policies remain in place.

As servants of Jesus Christ, we covenant with you to deepen our discipleship through daily spiritual practices, listen to one another and lift up the worth of each person, accept God's grace and generosity in our midst, and intentionally discern God's movement in our communities so that we might each meet God in mission there. We do so with the understanding and commitment that God is sending us out to those who yearn for a relationship with God and a spiritual home where they will be welcomed and supported in their discipleship formation.

We humbly walk with you, called by God to truly be the Community of Christ that embodies and lives the concerns and passions of Christ.

In Christ's peace,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda L. Booth".

Apostle Southern USA Mission Field

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jay M. Davis".

Mission Center President