

# WORLD CHURCH BUSINESS

## Presiding Bishopric Statement to World Conference

The Presiding Bishopric brings greetings in the peace of Jesus Christ. Thank you for your continued generosity to worldwide mission tithes amid economic disruptions and major world events including a pandemic. We know these events have impacted individual and family expenses and we are deeply grateful for your consistent support of local and worldwide mission.

We encourage your careful review of D-1 2023 World Conference Presiding Bishopric Report. The prior Presiding Bishopric has provided a concise report that provides a clear picture of our current financial condition and challenges as we look to the future. We will be highlighting a few items from the report and then take a glimpse into the future from our vantage point.

As of November 2022, we have raised \$108.3M of our \$120M Bridge of Hope Retirement Responsibility Goal. This would not be possible without the hard work of many field, mission center, and congregational leaders. We are especially grateful to the Council of Twelve for their leadership. We want to encourage the good work in progress toward field targets as we move toward January 1, 2024.

Through designated contributions, bequests, and earnings, church endowments continue to grow. This is the second goal of Bridge of Hope. In 2021, the Temple Endowment grew by over \$5.6M and the Worldwide Mission Endowment increased by over \$700,000. Once the retirement responsibility is met, we can shift our focus to growing endowments, which will increase income from investments available to fund our operating budget.

We also made significant progress toward selling investment real estate including the signing of the first phase of a contractual agreement with NorthPoint Development for 1,107 acres in Harmony in the Little Blue Valley in Eastern Jackson County Missouri. At the end of this contract the church will hold just 400 acres in Harmony as part of the church's investment real estate.

This sale and others that have occurred in recent years convert assets held in real estate to cash. This cash can then be invested in the market and over time generate income for the budget in accordance with established policies approved by the World Church Finance Board.

These are significant developments. They are part of a bigger financial picture where there is good news to share like increasing net assets but also challenges like a declining base of contributors. Before we take a glimpse at our future, we want to highlight the good occurring through worldwide mission tithes and specifically world hunger funds.

We have a long tradition of working to abolish poverty and end unnecessary suffering. Exciting stories of systematic change have been shared in the *Herald* and World Church website including the work of the Council of Twelve focused on poverty, hunger, and creating sustainable solutions for the future. These include projects like solar-powered wells for irrigation, block-building businesses, wells for clean drinking water, and educational scholarships.

As the incoming Presiding Bishopric, we want to express our deep appreciation to the prior Presiding Bishopric. They have worked skillfully and tirelessly to stabilize the church's financial situation and honor our commitment to those who have offered lives of service and ministry to advance our mission. Words are inadequate to express our appreciation for the solid foundation they have provided that will enable us to take the next faithful steps into the future.

As indicated in the 2023 World Conference Presiding Bishopric Report, World Church leaders have continued to share significant concerns about our declining contributor base and our ability to support current ministries and services beginning in 2025 and beyond. You can read more about these trends in D-1 2023 World Conference Presiding Bishopric Report.

In June and December of each year the Presiding Bishopric provides a financial update to the church that highlights our current financial condition and looks ahead to the intermediate-term needs of the church. In addition, the Presiding Bishopric continues to provide updates in the *Herald* and World Church website on our budget, contributions, Bridge of Hope progress, and annual audits. Go to [www.CofChrist.org](http://www.CofChrist.org), click on Give and then click on Financial Updates.

We are committed to financial transparency and will continue to provide frequent and clear updates to the church. It is essential we have a realistic and shared understanding of the challenges and opportunities before us and we encourage you, even plead with you to take the time to read and view these updates when they

are announced through the church's communication channels.

As we look to the future, we recognize there are significant financial and missional challenges and opportunities before us as we seek to be faithful to Christ's vision of justice and peace. From our vantage point these challenges and opportunities include:

- Engage new generations of disciples and seekers in our transforming mission including whole-life stewardship response.
- Explore and implement new sources of income to build endowments and sustain focused support of our global mission.
- Explore and implement new partnership models to share gifts of ministry, story, leadership, and finances across fields, mission centers, and congregations in a decentralized church structure.
- Increase effective utilization of all our facilities—including our headquarters facilities—for mission.
- Experiment with new ways to convey and live our principles of generosity and commitment to economic justice that offer hope for a sustainable future for all on our planet.

*Mission and funding are inseparable!* We cannot effectively address our funding challenges without also addressing our missional challenges. Funds will be required to create the space for missional innovation in nations where Christianity has been in decline for decades.

In other nations where Christianity is growing, we will need to provide core resources and leadership development to support mission as we cultivate distinctive and contextually relevant Community of

Christ congregations that live our Enduring Principles and Mission Initiatives.

We look forward to close working relationships with our colleagues in leading quorums and across the field as we explore creative approaches to these challenges together.

The next several years will present opportunities and significant challenges. If our current trajectory continues, we will be looking at significant budget reductions in 2025. We want you to know we are not resigned to such a future. There are efforts currently underway to leverage all available assets for mission and explore new and creative approaches to funding.

We believe our divinely instilled call and vision is hopeful, exciting, and essential to a sustainable future for all of creation. We will continue our efforts to explore new ways to make a compelling case to all ages for whole-life investment in Community of Christ as a global movement of hope and transformation.

We invite you to stay tuned to updates from the Presiding Bishopric. Our next update will be in June. You won't want to miss it. It will be life changing!

The scriptures remind us that God calls those who are willing to say yes to the call to serve with whole-life stewardship—time, talent, treasure, and testimony. Our prophetic tradition will always push us to expand our true capacity as we respond wholeheartedly to God's covenant of peace in Jesus Christ.

Your response to the vision of Christ through whole-life stewardship is inspiring and life changing for so many impacted by our worldwide movement. We are grateful to be on this journey with you. May God grant us courage equal to our vision for the journey ahead...and lots of money!

# D-1 2023 WORLD CONFERENCE PRESIDING BISHOPRIC REPORT

## Introduction

The Presiding Bishopric sustained at the 2019 World Conference prepared this report. It is a summary of key financial changes during the inner conference period. More details are provided in the biannual financial updates presented to the church each year in June and December.

The latest update from December 2022 is at [CofChrist.org/news/december-2022-financial-update/](https://CofChrist.org/news/december-2022-financial-update/).

General financial information is at [CofChrist.org/financial-updates/](https://CofChrist.org/financial-updates/).

Previous updates can be found on [OurMinistryTools.org](https://OurMinistryTools.org) at [CofChristhq.sharepoint.com/sites/FinancialUpdates/SitePages/Financial-Updates.aspx#2019-updates](https://CofChristhq.sharepoint.com/sites/FinancialUpdates/SitePages/Financial-Updates.aspx#2019-updates).

## Bridge of Hope – Retirement Responsibility

At the 2019 World Conference, the Presiding Bishopric announced minimum balances on jurisdictional investment accounts around the church to ensure the church could meet its retirement responsibility. Together, the church has made excellent progress toward the \$120 million goal. To assist the church in reaching this goal, targets were created and assigned to the 12 apostolic fields and Presiding Bishopric. In 2021, each of the Council of Twelve Apostles made specific commitments. Each field will either raise the funds to meet their assigned target or they will loan funds from their investment accounts to reach their assigned target. Any loans would be provided at 0 percent interest rate.

We are pleased to report that the fields of Apostles Carlos Mejia and Barbara Carter met their targets in 2022. The Presiding Bishopric also exceeded their target.

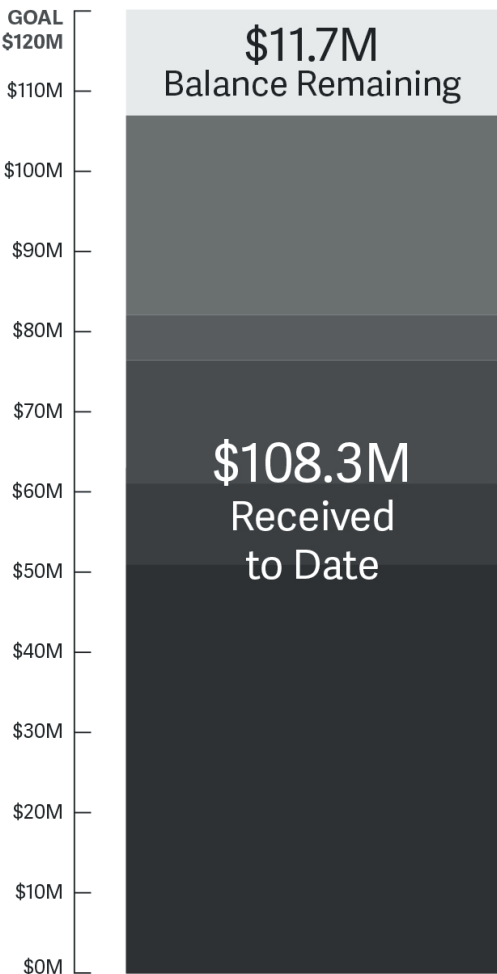
As of 15 November 2022, the church had raised \$108.3 million toward the \$120 million Bridge of Hope retirement responsibility goal. The Presiding Bishopric updates the progress two or three times each year. View the latest information at [CofChrist.org/financial-updates/bridge-of-hope-update/](https://CofChrist.org/financial-updates/bridge-of-hope-update/).

By 1 January 2024, when the other ten fields meet their targets through contributions, net proceeds, or loans, the church will have raised over \$120 million for the retirement responsibility. This is great news! Thanks to all who are making this possible.

## BRIDGE OF HOPE RETIREMENT RESPONSIBILITY

As of 15 November 2022

GOAL: \$120M (USD) by 1 January 2024



### \$108.3M Received to Date

\$22.7 M	Bridge of Hope Tithes
\$26.0 M	Property Sales
\$22.6 M	Budget and Earnings
\$4.2 M	Operating Endowment
\$32.8 M	Historic Assets

All amounts reported in USD

Minimum Balances and Jurisdictional Investments

Minimum balances in a field are eliminated when the field meets its target. It is anticipated that any remaining minimum balances will be removed in June 2024 after the final reconciliation of all fields is completed. Any loans taken from the jurisdictional investment accounts in a field will be repaid by future contributions to Bridge of Hope that have been pledged beyond 2024. At this time, approximately \$30 million is pledged to Bridge of Hope primarily through bequests. Funds received for Bridge of Hope from these pledges will be used to cover any loans and grow the endowments.

As a reminder, minimum balances did not affect the market returns on Affiliate Investment Pool (AIP) accounts. The returns continue to be calculated on the full balance in the account including the minimum balance. Information about the AIP historical returns, asset allocations, and investment policies is available on *OurMinistryTools.org* at *CofChristihq.sharepoint.com/sites/Investments*.

Retirement Responsibility

Through the church’s generosity and support of the retirement responsibility, the funding level of all retirement obligations has greatly improved:

Retirement Funding			
Rounded in millions			
	12/31/21	12/31/20	12/31/19
Benefit Obligation (liability)	103.7	111.2	106.1
Fair Value of Plan Assets	52.8	43.9	37.9
Available Church Assets	26.4	23.5	15.5
Unfunded Liability	24.5	43.8	52.7
Estimated Funded Percentage	76%	61%	50%

As explained in the December 2021 financial update, \$120 million likely will not fully fund the retirement responsibility based on the 2020 projections. As a reminder, the Presiding Bishopric was committed to not increasing any field targets to make up the shortfall, which is why the bishopric has been working to exceed their target to cover any additional amounts that might be needed to reach 100% funded. The ultimate goal is to annuitize or fulfill in other ways all the retirement obligations. After all fields have achieved their target, the Presiding Bishopric will continue to identify sources of additional funds such as bequests and designated gifts, that can be used to achieve this goal.

Bridge of Hope – Growing the Endowments

The church also continues to make progress on the second goal of Bridge of Hope—to build the endowments. The primary focus is on the Temple Endowment. Through designated contributions, bequests, and earnings, church endowments continue to grow. In 2021, the Temple Endowment increased by over \$5,600,000, and the Worldwide Mission Endowment increased by over \$700,000. Since the Presiding Bishopric has exceeded their retirement responsibility target, future undesigned bequests as well as the possible sale of historic assets will be used to grow the endowments. As an example, the net proceeds from the sale of the Henry Alfred Stebbins’ *Book of Commandments* in November 2022 were put in the Temple Endowment. Once the retirement responsibility targets are met in the fields and plans are in place for repaying any loans that were required, the use of net proceeds for World Church portions will shift to growing the endowments.

## TEMPLE ENDOWMENT FUNDS

Purpose: The purpose of the fund is to support the costs of operation, maintenance, and the program of ministry of the Temple, which is an integral part of the International Headquarters of Community of Christ.

History: In September 1990 a formal trust agreement was entered into by the First Presidency on behalf of the church and the Presiding Bishopric as trustee to establish this endowment fund for the benefit of the institution, membership, and programs of the church related to the Temple in Independence. This fund is also used to account for expendable grants related to Temple programs that are not true endowments. The 1994 World Conference allocated \$14,000,000 of a grant from IRHC Corporation, generated by the proceeds of the sale of Independence Regional Health Center, to this endowment.

### Statements of Financial Position

	September 30, 2022	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash	\$ 1,716,141	\$ 2,711,067	\$ 1,677,890	\$ 953,509
Investment in Marketable Securities	13,180,000	12,130,000	5,210,000	2,155,000
Investment in Real Estate Portfolio	14,285,000	15,780,000	18,045,000	17,345,000
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 29,181,141</b>	<b>\$ 30,621,067</b>	<b>\$ 24,932,890</b>	<b>\$ 20,453,509</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>				
Temple Operating Endowment				
Permanently Restricted	\$ 11,472,183	\$ 11,054,354	\$ 10,918,170	\$ 10,833,227
World Conference-designated	14,000,000	14,000,000	14,000,000	14,000,000
Total Principal	25,472,183	25,054,354	24,918,170	24,833,227
Accumulated Earnings	(6,355,997)	(5,145,754)	(6,169,129)	(8,589,022)
Total Temple Operating Endowment	19,116,185	19,908,600	18,749,041	16,244,205
Morden Temple Missionary Center				
Permanently Restricted	1,022,324	1,022,324	1,022,324	1,022,324
Accumulated Earnings	56,706	148,284	117,408	(37,428)
Total Morden Temple Missionary Center	1,079,031	1,170,608	1,139,732	984,897
Lifetime of Generosity				
Donor Restricted	400,000	400,000	-	-
Presiding Bishopric-designated	8,078,070	8,078,070	4,348,007	3,180,000
Total Principal	8,478,070	8,478,070	4,348,007	3,180,000
Accumulated Earnings	493,840	1,063,789	696,110	44,407
Total Lifetime of Generosity	8,971,909	9,541,859	5,044,117	3,224,407
International Peace Award				
Donor Restricted	14,358	-	-	-
Accumulated Earnings	(342)	-	-	-
Total International Peace Award	14,016	-	-	-
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 29,181,141</b>	<b>\$ 30,621,067</b>	<b>\$ 24,932,890</b>	<b>\$ 20,453,509</b>

The permanently restricted category includes all contributions and bequests designated for the endowment by donors.

## CANADIAN TEMPLE ENDOWMENT

Purpose: The purpose of the fund is to support the maintenance of the Temple in Independence, Missouri, including its library, auditorium, theater, and organ, as dedicated to education and the advancement of the religious views of the church.

History: In February of 1996 a formal trust agreement was entered into by the First Presidency on behalf of the Canadian church and the Presiding Bishopric as trustee to establish this endowment fund for the benefit of supporting the operations and ministries of the Temple in Independence, Missouri. In June of 2017 on behalf of the Canadian church, the Canadian Corporation re-established the Canadian Temple Endowment Fund to continue its support for the operations and ministries of the Temple.

### Statements of Financial Position, \$CAD

	September 30, 2022	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and Due To/Due From Endowments	\$ (4,543)	\$ 672	\$ 669	\$ 1,840
Investment in marketable securities	2,841,120	3,379,261	3,253,209	3,060,388
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,836,577</b>	<b>\$ 3,379,933</b>	<b>\$ 3,253,878</b>	<b>\$ 3,062,228</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>				
Canadian Temple Endowment				
Permanently restricted	1,992,047	1,991,617	1,990,837	1,989,847
Accumulated earnings	844,529	1,388,315	1,263,040	1,072,381
Total Canadian Temple Endowment	2,836,577	3,379,933	3,253,878	3,062,228
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,836,577</b>	<b>\$ 3,379,933</b>	<b>\$ 3,253,878</b>	<b>\$ 3,062,228</b>

The permanently restricted category includes all contributions and bequests designated for the endowment by donors. This endowment was previously reported as part of the Temple Endowment. In 2015, in response to national requirements, the Canadian Corporation deconsolidated its accounting from that of the World Church. Consequently, this endowment is now reported separately.

## WORLDWIDE MISSION ENDOWMENT

Purpose: The purpose of the Fund is to support the mission of the church both in the United States and outside of the United States.

History: In October of 2016 a formal trust agreement was entered into by the First Presidency on behalf of the church and the Presiding Bishopric as trustee to establish this endowment fund for to support the mission of the church around the world.

### Statements of Financial Position

	September 30, 2022	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash	\$ 290,597	\$ 365,077	\$ 148,407	\$ 81,812
Investment in Marketable Securities	115,000	113,000	450,000	190,000
Investment in Real Estate Portfolio	2,350,000	2,437,000	1,565,000	1,530,000
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,755,597</b>	<b>\$ 2,915,077</b>	<b>\$ 2,163,407</b>	<b>\$ 1,801,812</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>				
Worldwide Mission Endowment				
Permanently Restricted	\$ 1,752,705	\$ 1,752,278	\$ 1,149,216	\$ 1,082,821
Accumulated Earnings	1,002,891	1,162,798	1,014,191	718,991
Total Worldwide Mission Endowment	2,755,597	2,915,077	2,163,407	1,801,812
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 2,755,597</b>	<b>\$ 2,915,077</b>	<b>\$ 2,163,407</b>	<b>\$ 1,801,812</b>

The permanently restricted category includes all contributions and bequests designated for the endowment by donors. In fiscal year 2017, donors redesignated over \$4,000,000 of previous gifts to the Bridge of Hope project. These have thus been removed from the Worldwide Mission Endowment. Additionally, in fiscal year 2017, donor gift plans were revised so that the church is no longer required to record the value of pledges receivable on its books. Pledges to the Worldwide Mission Endowment are now reported as part of Bridge of Hope updates.

## CANADIAN MISSION ENDOWMENT

Purpose: The purpose of the fund is to support revitalization of congregations and develop new expressions of ministry in Canada and worldwide.

History: In February of 2017 and amended in June of 2017, a formal trust agreement was entered into by the Canadian Corporation on behalf of the Canadian church to establish this endowment fund to meet basic operational and ministry needs in Canada and worldwide.

### Statements of Financial Position, \$CAD

	September 30, 2022	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and Due To/Due From Endowments	\$ (64,818)	\$ (26,633)	\$ 5,841	\$ 461,086
Investment in Marketable Securities	\$4,150,120	4,834,595	4,585,854	3,751,156
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,085,302</b>	<b>\$ 4,807,962</b>	<b>\$ 4,591,695</b>	<b>\$ 4,212,242</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>				
Canadian Mission Endowment				
Permanently Restricted	3,558,820	\$ 3,523,324	\$ 3,487,080	\$ 3,414,379
Presiding Bishopric-designated	487,924	487,924	487,924	487,139
Total Principal	4,046,744	4,011,248	3,975,004	3,901,518
Accumulated Earnings	38,557	796,714	616,692	310,724
Total Canadian Mission Endowment	4,085,302	4,807,962	4,591,695	4,212,242
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,085,302</b>	<b>\$ 4,807,962</b>	<b>\$ 4,591,695</b>	<b>\$ 4,212,242</b>

The permanently restricted category includes all contributions and bequests designated for the endowment by donors. The Presiding Bishopric-designated category represents net bequests and other gifts that were unrestricted by donors and placed in the endowment by the Bishop of Canada on behalf of the Presiding Bishopric. In 2015, in response to national requirements, the Canadian Corporation deconsolidated its accounting from that of the World Church. Consequently, this endowment is now reported separately.



## CANADIAN WORLDWIDE COMMUNICATIONS ENDOWMENT

**Purpose:** The purpose of the fund is to accelerate church growth through targeted, consistent multimedia efforts that inspire and awaken congregations, members, leaders and seekers to make Christ's mission their mission.

**History:** In February of 2017 a formal trust agreement was entered into by the Canadian Corporation on behalf of the Canadian church to establish this endowment fund.

### Statements of Financial Position, \$CAD

	September 30, 2022	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash and Due To/Due From Endowments	\$ (13,751)	\$ 2,130,967	\$ 2,063,655	\$ 2,013,333
Investment in marketable securities	3,277,239	1,403,388	1,316,282	1,184,274
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,263,488</b>	<b>\$ 3,534,355</b>	<b>\$ 3,379,937</b>	<b>\$ 3,197,607</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>				
Canadian Worldwide Communications Endowment				
Permanently restricted	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000
Accumulated earnings	763,488	1,034,355	879,937	697,607
Total Canadian Worldwide Communications Endowment	3,263,488	3,534,355	3,379,937	3,197,607
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 3,263,488</b>	<b>\$ 3,534,355</b>	<b>\$ 3,379,937</b>	<b>\$ 3,197,607</b>

The permanently restricted category includes all contributions and bequests designated for the endowment by donors. In 2015, in response to national requirements, the Canadian Corporation deconsolidated its accounting from that of the World Church. Consequently, this endowment is now reported separately.

## GENERAL OPERATING ENDOWMENT

**Purpose:** The purpose of the fund is to support the basic costs of church programs of ministry including ministerial personnel, resource production, program development for mission outreach, International Headquarters operation, jurisdictional budget supplements, and institutional support.

**History:** In September 1990, a formal trust agreement was entered into by the First Presidency on behalf of the church and the Presiding Bishopric as trustee to establish this endowment fund for the support of the World Ministries Fund, now known as the Worldwide Mission Budget. It was hoped that this fund would provide future fiscal stability for the operations of the church.

This fund also is used to account for expendable grants related to the operations of the church that are not true endowments. The 1994 World Conference allocated \$10,000,000 of a grant from IRHC Corporation generated by the proceeds of the sale of the Independence Regional Health Center to this endowment. The Conference also allocated \$1,000,000 from the same grant to this endowment restricted for missionary projects as determined by the Council of Twelve. An additional \$8,000,000 from IRHC Corporation plus earnings of \$1,000,000 were allocated by the 1996 World Conference to this endowment.

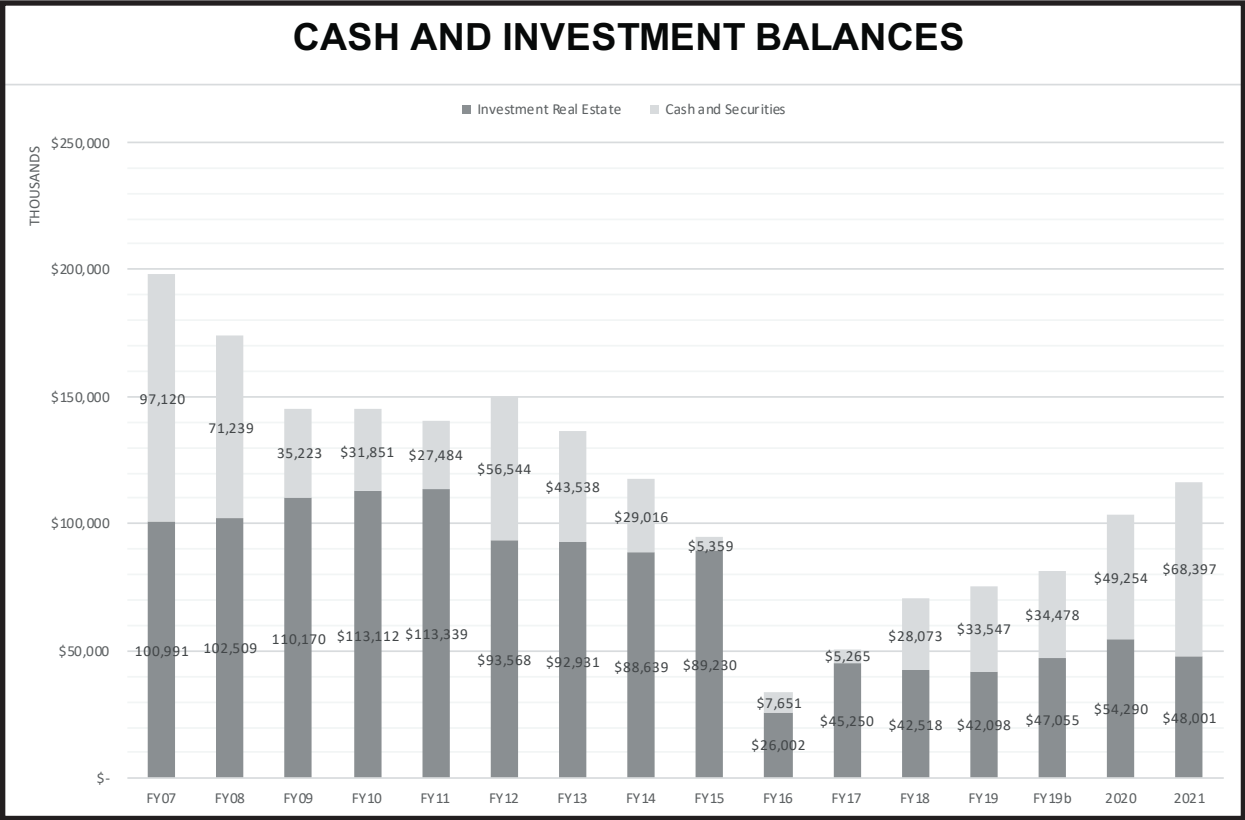
### Statements of Financial Position

	September 30, 2022	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020	December 31, 2019
<b>Assets</b>				
Cash	\$ 93,030	\$ 240,012	\$ 331,185	\$ 194,375
Contributions Receivable	-	-	-	21,646
Investment in Marketable Securities	-	-	1,025,000	435,000
Investment in Real Estate Portfolio	4,805,000	4,950,000	3,550,000	3,510,000
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,898,030</b>	<b>\$ 5,190,012</b>	<b>\$ 4,906,185</b>	<b>\$ 4,161,021</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>				
General Operating Endowment				
Permanently Restricted	\$ 3,400,480	\$ 3,379,906	\$ 3,378,806	\$ 3,292,885
World Conference-designated	14,832,866	14,832,866	14,832,866	14,832,866
Total Principal	18,233,346	18,212,771	18,211,672	18,125,751
Accumulated Earnings	(14,114,159)	(13,851,373)	(14,088,956)	(14,642,635)
Total General Operating Endowment	4,119,187	4,361,398	4,122,715	3,483,116
Missionary Projects Endowment				
World Conference-designated	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000
Accumulated Earnings	(412,932)	(375,417)	(409,445)	(489,016)
Total Missionary Projects Endowment	587,068	624,583	590,555	510,984
Leading Congregations in Mission				
Original Funding	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000
Net Activity	(1,308,224)	(1,295,970)	(1,307,085)	(1,333,078)
Total Congregational Leaders Support	191,776	204,030	192,915	166,922
<b>Total Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 4,898,030</b>	<b>\$ 5,190,012</b>	<b>\$ 4,906,185</b>	<b>\$ 4,161,021</b>

The permanently restricted category includes all contributions and bequests designated for the endowment by donors.

Converting Investment Real Estate

In 2015 and 2016, the vast majority of the church’s assets was held in investment real estate (chart). In 2016, the church had a significant paper loss when the property in Eastern Jackson County known as Harmony had a significantly reduced appraised value.



Since 2016, the church has not used the endowment funds managed in the USA to provide income to the Worldwide Mission Budget because of the limited amount of liquid assets available in the funds.

Significant progress has been made in selling investment real estate for values equal to or greater than the value recorded in the church’s assets. The most significant progress occurred in June 2022 with the signing of the first phase of a contractual agreement with North Point for 1,107 acres in Harmony in the Little Blue Valley in Missouri.

When this contract is complete, the total value of the sale will be at least \$38 million, which is about 38 percent above the book value as of 31 December 2021. The contract has the potential to exceed this amount depending on what the market indices do over time. At the end of this contract, the church will hold just over 400 acres in Harmony as part of the church’s investment real estate.

This contract allows the church’s assets held in the various funds—but especially the endowments—to be converted from investment real estate to investments in the market. This means it mostly converts investment real estate held directly by the church whose value is already listed in the church’s assets to cash, which can be invested into the market. When a phase of this contract is completed above book value—like the first phase—the increase provides earnings to the church’s assets.

Converting investment real estate to market investments allows the endowments to have growing balances in the market that can be used to generate income for the annual budget based on a spending rate and rolling average in accordance with the Presiding Bishopric policy. At this time, it is anticipated that the 2024 proposed Worldwide Mission Budget will reintroduce a spending rate from the Temple Endowment held in the USA if approved by the World Church Finance Board.

**Audited Financial Statements**

The 2022 audit process is currently underway. A link to the 2021 audit report is available to the public at [CofChrist.org/news/december-2022-financial-update/](https://CofChrist.org/news/december-2022-financial-update/).

The 2021 audit report was approved by the World Church Finance Board in September 2022 on behalf of the World Conference in compliance with World Conference Resolution 1306.

The last five years of audit reports are available on [CofChrist.org/financial-updates/#category=audited-financial-statements](https://CofChrist.org/financial-updates/#category=audited-financial-statements).

The trend in net assets has been increasing since 2019 with total audited net assets as of 31 December 2021 at \$118.2 million:

Change in Net Assets			
Rounded in millions			
	12/31/21	12/31/20	12/31/19
	(audited)	(audited)	(audited)
NET ASSETS			
Without Donor Restrictions	\$ 84.6	\$ 56.6	\$ 40.8
With Donor Restrictions	\$ 33.6	\$ 30.7	\$ 26.0
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$ 118.2	\$ 87.3	\$ 66.8

Note: 2022 audited financial statements should be available in September 2023

**Priesthood Ministry**

The net assets do not show a full picture of the church’s assets. In addition to financial assets, the church is blessed with the asset of priesthood ministry.

As of 31 December 2022, the church’s records indicated the number of active priesthood members around the world for the Order of Bishops and Aaronic ministers:

Active PH 1 Jan 2023	
Priest	4688
Deacon	2878
Teacher	1448
Bishop	104
Total:	9118

The Presiding Bishopric welcomes new members ordained since the 2019 World Conference:

Ordinations				
	2019	2020	2021	2022
Priest	98	49	70	85
Deacon	40	12	27	51
Teacher	28	5	26	29
Bishop	1	3	9	2
Total:	167	69	132	167

In addition to self- or group-study preparation for ordination and priesthood training options (Temple School), courses are now available online through the Center for Innovation in Ministry & Mission, which is a partnership between Community of Christ and its Seminary. Don’t miss out: [graceland.edu/academics/community-of-christ-seminary/center-for-innovation-in-ministry-and-mission](https://graceland.edu/academics/community-of-christ-seminary/center-for-innovation-in-ministry-and-mission).

Abolish Poverty, End Suffering

Community of Christ has a long tradition of working to abolish poverty and end suffering. In recent years, the Worldwide Mission Budget includes a section that brings together the ministries centering on this mission initiative. These ministries include systemic change with focus on world hunger and financial officer ministry and direct aid (Oblation) to meet specific needs. The Council of Twelve Apostles has a team that manages funding for projects focused on eliminating hunger. The latest projects are at [CofChrist.org/news/worldwide-mission-funds-help-mitigate-world-hunger](https://CofChrist.org/news/worldwide-mission-funds-help-mitigate-world-hunger).

The income for the Abolish Poverty, End Suffering budget section is contributions marked for Abolish Poverty, End Suffering as well as Worldwide Mission Tithes. Undesignated contributions collected during the sacrament of Communion (Lord’s Supper) service are designated for Abolish Poverty, End Suffering. This is in accordance with the church’s long-standing practice to collect oblation whenever the church shares in the Lord’s Supper. People giving to Worldwide Mission Tithes also support oblation as part of the church’s integrated response to all mission initiatives.

Annual Operations

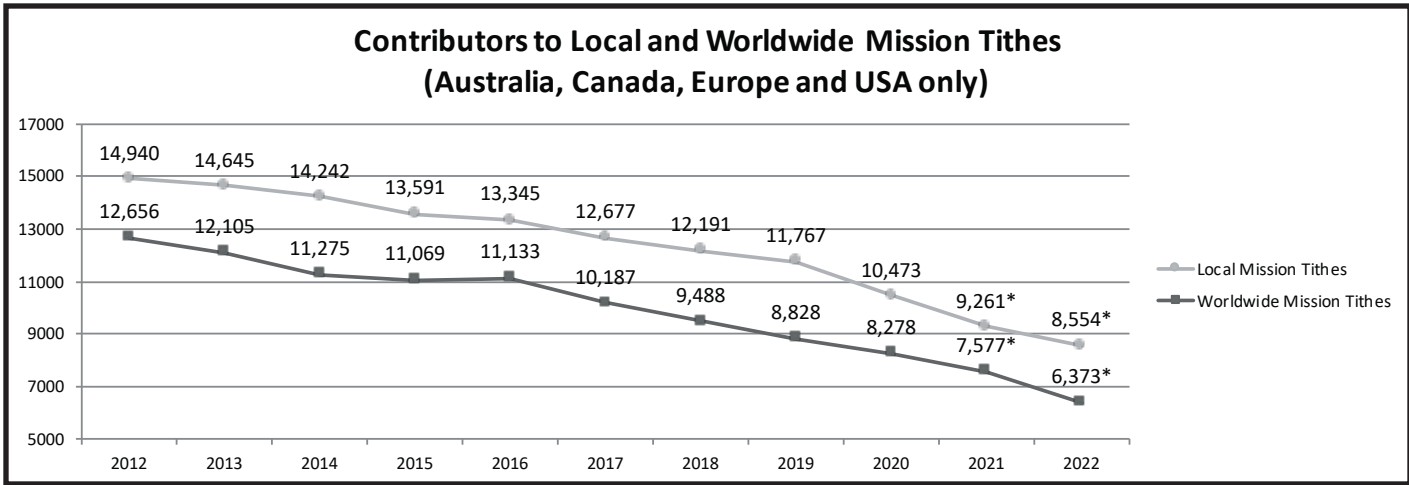
In addition to approving the annual audit report, the World Church Finance Board approves budget-planning assumptions in May each year to guide the development of the annual Worldwide Mission Budget. Then the finance board approves the final Worldwide Mission Budget in December each year.

The finance board-approved 2023 Worldwide Mission Budget is at [CofChrist.org/financial-updates/2023-worldwide-mission-budget/](https://CofChrist.org/financial-updates/2023-worldwide-mission-budget/).

As a reminder, the 2023 Worldwide Mission Budget is part of a four-year plan approved by the finance board to stabilize the level of ministries and services from 2021 through 2024. The 2024 Worldwide Mission Budget will be the final year of this plan.

Mission Tithes

World church leaders have significant concerns about the ministries and services that will be supportable through available income in 2025 and beyond. The number of contributors supporting Mission Tithes continues to decline as shown in this table. Currently, the church can only track contributor numbers in Australia, Canada, Europe, and United States.

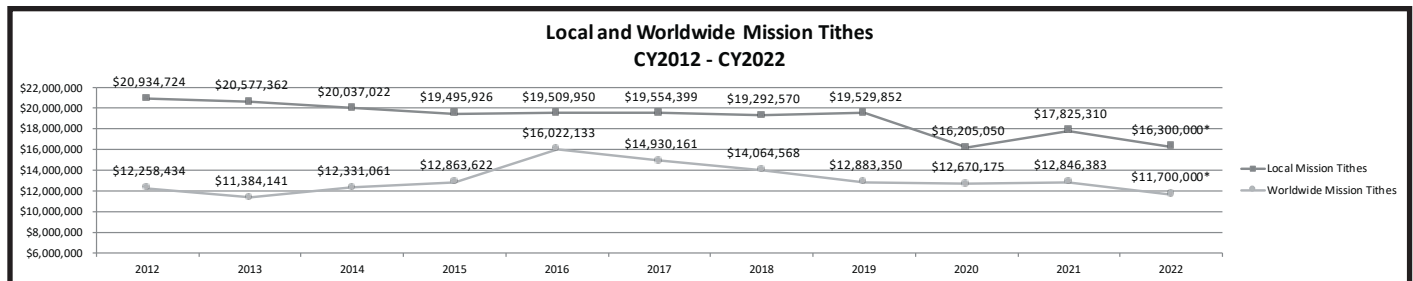


A contributor is defined as a household unless individuals in the household give through separate envelopes or eTithing accounts  
Totals do not include jurisdictions, corporations or estates  
\*projected

Worldwide Mission Tithes is the primary source of income for the annual Worldwide Mission Budget. Worldwide Mission Tithes contributors continue to give generously, with many increasing contributions each year. This phenomenon is represented in Giving Tuesday.

Giving Tuesday	2021	2022
Contributions	\$676,432	\$1,035,167
Contributors	715	723

However, even with the ongoing generous response of those financially supporting Mission Tithes, the trend continues to decline as seen in the below graphs.



all dollars reported as USD  
Local amounts include Canada and United States only  
\*projected

The challenge is that the increase of new contributors is not sufficient to replace the older contributors who eventually will not be able to financially support the mission. This is seen in the next two tables that show contributors and contributions by age groups in Canada and the USA.

Worldwide Mission Tithes Contributors and Contributions										
By Age										
(Canada and USA only)										
CY2018 - CY2022										
Age Group	2018		2019		2020		2021		2022	
	# contributors	\$ amount	# contributors	\$ amount	# contributors	\$ amount	# contributors	\$ amount	# contributors	\$ amount
0-20	414	\$ 123,998	340	\$ 107,460	141	\$ 25,630	165	\$ 115,414	107	\$ 35,167
21-59	2169	\$ 1,965,805	1909	\$ 1,789,341	1629	\$ 1,554,548	1,264	\$ 1,420,009	1,155	\$ 1,333,126
60+	6426	\$ 10,113,762	6116	\$ 9,861,683	5731	\$ 10,243,284	5,196	\$ 10,393,646	4,834	\$ 9,507,161
No age listed	79	\$ 42,438	93	\$ 76,909	77	\$ 303,155	78	\$ 265,564	60	\$ 315,150
TOTAL	9,088	\$ 12,246,003	8,458	\$ 11,835,393	7,578	\$ 12,126,617	6,703	\$ 12,194,633	6,156	\$ 11,190,605

A contributor is defined as a household unless individuals in the household give through separate envelopes or eTithing accounts  
Totals do not include contributions from jurisdictions, corporations or estates  
All dollars reported as USD  
\*projected

The primary challenge as we move forward is how to financially support the ministries and services that matter most in living Christ's mission both locally and globally. It is highly probable that reductions in worldwide ministries and International Headquarters services will be necessary starting in 2025. The magnitude of the reductions will be determined based on the growth in the endowments, the identification of other income sources to the Worldwide Mission Budget, and the projections for Worldwide Mission Tithes.

You can track annual contributions to Worldwide Mission Tithes at [CofChrist.org/financial-updates/worldwide-mission-tithes-update/](https://CofChrist.org/financial-updates/worldwide-mission-tithes-update/).

## World Conference Past and Present

The World Church Finance Board received the 2019 World Conference final budget to actual report back in 2019. The board also reviewed the 2023 World Conference budget in 2022. These reports are provided to the 2023 World Conference to provide insights into the income and expenses necessary to support this event. If the 2023 World Conference income does not meet the budget, the Operating Reserve Fund will have to be used to cover deficits.

Community of Christ

**World Conference Budget and Actual, 18-40001**

Actuals as of June 30, 2019

TEAM	2019				
	BUDGET	FY18	FY19	TOTAL	VARIANCE
Budget Preparation & Cash Handling	\$ 2,000		1,285.42	1,285.42	(714.58)
Communications & Marketing	9,757		10,721.60	10,721.60	964.60
Conference Manager Costs	4,000	\$ 37	3,959.01	3,995.88	(4.12)
Events Coordination	43,600		77,934.16	77,934.16	34,334.16
Facilities	78,000		74,650.24	74,650.24	(3,349.76)
Insurance (travelers accident policy)	11,127		11,000.00	11,000.00	(127.00)
Translations	44,800		22,616.65	22,616.65	(22,183.35)
Registration & Credentials	5,360		4,961.33	4,961.33	(398.67)
Printing & Materials	101,850	4,226	85,196.46	89,422.05	(12,427.95)
Peace Colloquy Elements/Temple Peace Center Grant	64,200		52,026.75	52,026.75	(12,173.25)
Reunion Elements/Temple Celebration	18,000		9,054.44	9,054.44	(8,945.56)
Event Media Support	88,500	1,829	80,043.39	81,872.04	(6,627.96)
Electronic Media Production & Distribution	5,410		4,464.92	4,464.92	(945.08)
Technology Support	60,025	6,479	43,543.17	50,022.05	(10,002.95)
Deliberation & Discernment	400		-	-	(400.00)
Children's Activities (Conference Kids)	7,000		7,687.85	7,687.85	687.85
Pre-Conference Recognition	2,500		858.60	858.60	(1,641.40)
Service Project	2,500			-	(2,500.00)
Singles Activities	900			-	(900.00)
World Peace Village	3,500		(25.93)	(25.93)	(3,525.93)
Young Adult Activities	1,500		1,077.65	1,077.65	(422.35)
Youth Activities	1,500		560.79	560.79	(939.21)
Conference Secretary	8,875	4,000	8,896.63	12,896.63	4,021.63
Legislative Communications	2,700		1,395.45	1,395.45	(1,304.55)
Security	9,041		7,380.44	7,380.44	(1,660.56)
Worship	33,725	182	26,868.14	27,050.40	(6,674.60)
Dominican Offering Baskets	-			-	-
Event Surcharge	54,230		55,845.00	55,845.00	1,615.00
Contingency	30,000			-	(30,000.00)
					-
Total Expense	695,000	16,752	592,002.16	608,754.41	(86,245.59)
					-
Registrations - net of credit card fees	320,000		306,163.99	306,163.99	(13,836.01)
Special Offering	135,000		108,978.00	108,978.00	(26,022.00)
Conference Offerings	145,000		210,847.00	210,847.00	65,847.00
World Conference Store	20,000		38,851.00	38,851.00	18,851.00
Donor Peace Award Contributions	75,000	50,393	29,607.00	80,000.00	5,000.00
Transfer from World Conference Implement	-	-	50,000.00	50,000.00	50,000.00
Total Income	695,000	50,393	744,446.99	794,839.99	99,839.99
<b>Net Income or (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 33,641</b>	<b>\$ 152,444.83</b>	<b>\$ 186,085.58</b>	<b>\$ 186,085.58</b>

The \$186,085.58 surplus was used as part of the \$425,000 income labeled as "WMB - Fund 10 Support (2021)" in the 2023 World Conference Budget as seen on the next page.

Community of Christ  
**2023 World Conference Budget**

TEAM	2023 BUDGET
Budget Preparation & Cash Handling	2,000
Communications & Marketing	3,500
Conference Manager Costs	2,000
Events Coordination (Includes Youth Service Corp)	75,000
Facilities	95,000
Insurance (travelers accident policy)	11,000
Translations	35,000
Journey to World Conference	100,000
Remote Locations	325,000
Multination Lodging & Transportation	25,700
Registration & Credentials	5,400
Printing & Materials	75,000
International Peace Award & Celebration	75,000
Event Media Support	90,000
Electronic Media Production & Distribution	5,000
Technology Support	60,000
Deliberation & Discernment	1,000
Children's Activities (Conference Kids)	10,000
Pre-Conference Recognition	2,500
Mission Expo	3,400
Young Adult Activities	1,500
Youth Activities	1,500
Conference Secretary	6,000
Legislative Communications	1,500
Security	35,000
Worship	25,000
Event Surcharge (charged to 95200)	
Contingency	
Total Expense	1,072,000
Registrations - net of credit card fees	267,000
Special Offering	100,000
Conference Offerings	175,000
World Conference Store	30,000
Peace Award Contributions	75,000
WMB - Fund 10 Support (2021)	425,000
Total Income	1,072,000
<b>Net Income or (Deficit)</b>	<b>\$ -</b>



## **Closing**

It has been our privilege to serve as the Presiding Bishopric since 2016. We entered our service facing some very difficult financial circumstances. We are grateful for the church's support and trust as we found ways to move forward together. We have worked hard to stabilize the church's financial situation and to make sure that the church honors its financial commitments to people and institutions. The progress we have made is a tribute to the generosity of the whole church as you have responded to the needs placed before you. Thank you for your ongoing generous response and commitment to Christ's mission, our mission.

As identified in this report, there are significant financial challenges before the church as the church discerns how we can live mission within the income that can be made available. We have been working with the incoming Presiding Bishopric since their calls were made known in September 2022 to insure an effective transition of responsibilities. We have confidence in their ability to lead Presiding Bishopric ministries in the years ahead as we address the challenges before us. We will continue to pray for and support the incoming Presiding Bishopric and church as we respond together to these challenges. We trust that the Holy Spirit which has always guided the church will continue to provide light for the pathway ahead.

Onward with Christ!

Stassi D. Cramm and Steven E. Graffeo