

Community of Christ

Inland West USA Mission Center

June 18, 2009

To: Members of the Community of Christ, Inland West USA Mission Center
From: Mission Center President and Financial Officer
Re: Impact of Economic Crisis

Dear Sisters and Brothers,

Everyone is aware of the economic crisis facing the world at this time. This crisis has impacted the Community of Christ by reducing income from investments and contributions significantly resulting in a \$4 million shortfall. Due to this shortfall World Church employment positions have been eliminated globally.

The Inland West Mission Center has also been impacted by this downturn. In January the Mission Center leadership met with Apostle Dale Luffman to begin the process of protecting our workforce in the Inland West. Inland West was on line to hire a person as a Young Adult Minister which served to fill a position that had been vacated by retirement in 2008. We offered to surrender the position in hopes that we would be able to protect the rest of the staff. This cut was not deep enough to protect everyone from staff reductions. This staff reduction represents a \$48,106.97 budget reduction from field support.

On Monday June 15, John VanDerWalker informed Pat Moon that his position was eliminated due to budget cuts. The Inland West has had World Church support further reduced by \$36,797.70 from the 2008-09 budget for a total reduction of \$85,106.67. This leaves the total support for field ministry at \$26,724.56 which is to be split evenly between the two remaining staff members. To exacerbate the problem further Mission Center investments have lost \$290,072.79 since July 1, 2008. This substantial loss necessitates further staff reductions in the future. We are hopeful to accomplish this reduction through natural attrition. Should market trends turn around or should giving increase dramatically this picture would change.

We want to take this opportunity to thank Pat for his faithful ministry over these past few years of employment. Pat has added a vibrant witness to those congregations that he has worked with. His sense of humor and deep dedication as a staff member will be missed. Pat has been given the opportunity to spend much of the next few months actively seeking other employment, and will continue on the payroll through August.

We ask that in the weeks and months ahead you uphold Pat and Candy in your prayers and thoughts. The Body of Christ is most effective in times like this and we are confident that this community will rally in encouragement of Pat and Candy.

If you have questions please feel free to contact John VanDerWalker at 208-539-3768 or jvanderwalker@cofchrist.org.

Mission Center leadership hopes to meet with the advisory council in early September to work through the realignment of staff for mission in the Inland West. We ask for your patience as we work through how to best serve congregations with the limited staff. We thank you for your prayerful support at this time. It is a testament to your generosity in response to the One who has given all.

Humbly

John G. VanDerWalker II MCP
John Chatburn MCFO

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