

**Cedar Valley-Nauvoo Mission Center
2020 Conference
Via ZOOM Online Conferencing**

Saturday, October 24th @ 1:00 PM

To connect to the conference via ZOOM Online Conferencing

Via computer visit: <https://zoom.us/j/2714958353>

A meeting ID and password are NOT required when joining.

Via phone call: 1-646-558-8656

If asked for a meeting ID when connecting by phone: 271 495 8353#

If asked for a passcode when connecting by phone: 583349



Cedar Valley-Nauvoo Mission Center Conference
October 24, 2020 via ZOOM

1. Welcome:

- Welcome: Robert Cook, MC President/Financial Officer
- Invocation: Kent LeVan, Counselor to MC President
- Greetings from World Church: Denise White, Field Support Minister

2. Pre-Legislative Remarks & Polling Practice

3. Call to Order & Presentation of Standing Rules

- Call to Order at _____ PM
- **Motion** to approve the Standing Rules

Cedar Valley-Nauvoo Mission Center Standing Rules – To be approved by the conference body 10/24/2020

1. The mission center president(s) will preside over the mission center conferences and their organization;
2. The mission center president(s) will formulate and adjust the conference agendas, as required. Therefore, printed and/or electronic agendas are for guidance only and will not be considered either general or specific orders;
3. Per a vote of the 2019 mission center conference legislative body, the Cedar Valley-Nauvoo USA Mission Center conferences are non-delegate conferences. The legislative body will reflect a vote of common consent by those attendees who are confirmed members of Community of Christ and whose membership is registered in the Cedar Valley-Nauvoo Mission Center, or whose membership is in the process of being transferred to the mission center;
4. Mission center conferences can be conducted online. Voting during an online conference will be by first asking if there is any objection to recording a unanimous vote. If any voting member objects, then the vote will be conducted by dividing the body into groups of 10. Each group of 10 will have a teller who will count the vote of each individual voter. The group tellers will report their group's vote count to the chair at the end of the vote and all members will return to the main body;
5. Budgets and/or financial information for the Cedar Valley-Nauvoo USA Mission Center, congregations, and/or campgrounds will be considered in a separate business meeting, with the meeting to be held before the end of the calendar year so as to present a more accurate accounting of all budgets/finances;
6. The time limit for introduction of new business is set at 8:00 AM the day of the business meeting; by which time all items of new business must be in the hands of the mission center president(s). This time limit does not apply to items introduced by the mission center president(s) or the mission center financial officer;
7. All items of new business and substantial amendments that arise thereto must be submitted to the mission center president(s) in writing with the name and contact information of the mover included;
8. Standing rules are adopted by two-thirds (2/3) vote. Any of the standing rules may be suspended by a majority vote of the legislative body without debate. A two-thirds (2/3) vote is required to amend or repeal the standing rules; and
9. Rules contained in the most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* will govern the conferences where they are not in conflict with the standing rules or any other special order adopted by the conferences.

4. Election of Conference Secretary & Approval of 2019 Minutes

- A. Election of Conference Secretary
 - B. **Motion** to approve the 2019 MC Conference Minutes
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Cedar Valley-Nauvoo Mission Center Conference Minutes October 27, 2019 @ Camp Nauvoo

Welcome: Robert Cook

Hymn of Gathering: *Community of Christ Sings #388 Redeemer of Israel*

Invocation: Deb Luce

Greetings from World Church: Denise White, North Central Mission Field Support Minister

Pre-Legislative Remarks: Robert Cook

- The past year was a busy one for the mission center: hosted the History Reunion at Camp Nauvoo, Reunion #2 @ CVG, four youth camps, took youth to Spectacular, two Jr High/Sr High retreats, and construction at both campgrounds
- The MC president/financial officer will have two new counselors in 2020: Evelyn Dustin and Kent LeVan.
- The Campground Board of Directors is focused on finding ways for both campgrounds to work together to grow the ministries they share. Mission Center needs to use the campgrounds more, as well as congregations, to ensure they survive financially.
- Sara Meierotto presented information on growing the camping program by hosting a retreat-style, four-series format that would alternate between campgrounds. The retreats would be family-friendly for all ages.

Call to Order & Seating of Delegates:

- Robert Cook called the conference to order at 1:33 PM.
- Gayla Burgess seated 68 out 103 delegates and reported the two-thirds vote would be 45.
 - Dawn Durgin moved to seat the delegates, as presented. Second by Paul Lindburg. Vote taken, all ayes. Motion carried.
- Robert Cook extended his personal thanks to Rex Sandidge and Gayla Burgess for their support in preparing for the conference. Robert also thanked his wife, Roberta, for her continued support.

Election of Conference Secretary & Approval of 2018 Minutes: Robert Cook

- Brenda Mitchell moved to elect Gayla Burgess as the conference secretary. Second by Dawn Durgin. Vote taken, all ayes. Motion carried.
- Roger Reid moved to accept the 2018 conference minutes as presented. Second by Paul Lindburg. Vote taken, all ayes. Motion carried.

Sustain MC President/Financial Officer: *Denise White assumed the chair.*

- A request was received by Apostle Linkhart for anonymous voting. Paper ballots will be used for the votes for MC President/Financial Officer and MC Invitation Support Minister.
- The chair appointed Dale Warner and Brenda Mitchell to serve as vote tellers. No objections were received.
- Denise clarified that after each vote, the tellers would collect the ballots and tally them. Once the votes were tallied, Denise would share the results.
- Denise read the letter on page 10 of the brochure to sustain Robert Cook as MC President/Financial Officer.
 - Diane Mayfield moved to sustain Robert Cook as MC President/Financial Officer. Second by Julie Bengé. Ballots were distributed, votes marked, and ballots recollected by the tellers to be tallied.

Sustain MC Invitation Support Minister: Denise White

- Denise read the letter on page 10 of the brochure to sustain Pat Reaves as the MC Invitation Support Minister.
 - Tom Durgin moved to sustain Pat Reaves as MC Invitation Support Minister. Second by David Duke. Ballots were distributed, votes marked, and ballots recollected by the tellers to be tallied.

Sustain MC Leadership: *Robert Cook assumed the chair.*

- Tom Durgin moved to sustain the mission center leadership, as presented. Second by Pam Tisdale. Vote taken, all ayes. Motion carried.
 - Counselors to MC President: Evelyn Dustin and Kent LeVan
 - Community Leaders: Ron Howell, Brenda Mitchell, Lois Blythe, and Rick Enright
 - Youth Ministries Coordinator: Brenda Mitchell
 - MC Admin Asst/Recorder/Historian: Gayla Burgess
 - Counselors to MC Financial Officer: Rex Sandidge and Jane McDonald
 - Assistants to MC Financial Officer: Lynn Poppett and Lee Wakefield
 - MC Temple School Rep: Brenda Mitchell

Election of Campground Board of Directors:

Robert Cook, speaking on behalf of the CBOD chair, nominated John Saur, Carolyn Otis, and Dan Spray. Roger Reid nominated Scott Gelande. Larry Turley nominated Doug Howell. It was clarified that each delegate could vote three times (one vote per open slot) and the terms would be assigned based on the two highest votes receiving 3-year terms. Vote taken. Results: Dan Spray and Scott Gelande were elected for 3-year terms and John Saur was elected for the 2-year term.

Election of CVG Operations Group:

Roger Reid (Chair of the CVG Operations Group) nominated Lisa Hill, Scott Gelande, and Lou Rapier. Damion Holmes nominated Pam Tisdale. It was clarified that each delegate could vote three times (one vote per open slot) and the terms would be assigned based on the two highest votes receiving 3-year terms. Question was raised as to whether a person could serve on the Campground Board of Directors and an operations group concurrently. Cook clarified that it is currently okay. Suggestion was shared to have a voice from both operations groups on the Campground Board of Directors. Vote taken. Results: Lisa Hill and Scott Gelande were elected for 3-year terms and Pam Tisdale was elected for the 2-year term.

Election of Camp Nauvoo Operations Group:

Robert Cook, speaking on behalf of the CN Operations Group chair, nominated Deb Batey and Pat Reaves. Larry Turley nominated Doug Howell. Ron Howell nominated Tom Durgin with the specification that Tom Durgin (Assistant Resident Manager) have voice and vote. *Denise White assumed the chair* and led the discussion on the nomination of Tom Durgin. After some discussion, Tom declined the nomination and Diane Mayfield called for the vote. *Robert Cook assumed the chair.* Vote taken on the call to vote, did not pass. Robert Cook called for additional discussion. Pat Reaves nominated Carol Brooks. Vote taken on the nominations. Results: Deb Batey and Pat Reaves were elected.

Results of Vote to Sustain MC President/Financial Officer: *Denise White assumed the chair.*

Denise reported that the tallied ballots reflected a total of 68 submitted votes and that 35 votes were necessary for majority. Vote results: 63 votes to sustain, 5 votes against, and 0 illegal votes. Robert Cook was sustained.

Results of Vote to Sustain MC Invitation Support Minister: Denise White

Denise reported that the tallied ballots reflected a total of 68 submitted votes and that 35 votes were necessary for majority. Vote results: 65 votes to sustain, 3 votes against, and 0 illegal votes. Pat Reaves was sustained.

Robert Cook assumed the chair and thanked the mission center for their support.

Camp Nauvoo 2018 Audit and Proposed 2020 Budget: Robert Cook

Robert highlighted some of the changes in the presented budgets. Brad Bengel moved to approve the Camp Nauvoo 2018 audit and proposed 2020 budget as presented. Second by Anita Smith. Concerns were shared on the utilities/expenses. Cook clarified that utilities continue to be a concern and the operations group is reviewing procedures to address them. Vote taken, all ayes. Motion carried.

Cedar Valley Grove 2018 Audit and Proposed 2020 Budget: Robert Cook

Robert clarified that the mission center budget cannot sustain ongoing financial support to CVG, and that the operations group is focusing on growing marketing and income. Roger Reid moved to approve the CVG 2018 audit and proposed 2020 budget as presented. Second by Pam Tisdale. Vote taken, all ayes. Motion carried.

Mission Center 2018 Audit and Proposed 2020 Budget: Robert Cook

Pam Tisdale moved to approve the mission center 2018 audit and proposed 2020 budget as presented, second by Dawn Durgin. Robert Cook shared that the MC budget is decreasing because it is not fiscally feasible to continue withdrawing funds from the investments and that congregational assessments were reduced for 2020. Concerns were shared on reducing the congregational assessments and not budgeting enough to cover FICA for the mission center administrative assistant. Doug Howell called for the vote. Vote taken on the call to vote, carried. Vote taken on the original motion, all ayes. Motion carried.

New Business:

Resolution to Donate Property:

Robert Cook moved the resolution with the correction that the land is in Rock Island County, Illinois. Second by Roger Reid. Discussion included clarification that Bridge of Hope is the tithing/funding initiative to address the World Church retirement fund financial strains. History was shared on the land and that Robert Cook would facilitate the sale and/or public auction of the land if the resolution passed. Doug Howell called for the vote. Vote taken on the call to vote, carried. Vote taken on the resolution, all ayes. Resolution passed.

***Whereas,** the Cedar Valley-Nauvoo USA Mission Center owns 4.3 acres of wooded land in Rock Island County, Illinois; and*

***Whereas,** the mission center has been unable to use or sell the land because it is land-locked; therefore*

***Be it resolved,** that the 4.3 acres of wooded, land-locked land that is owned by the mission center be donated as a funding source to the Community of Christ Bridge of Hope program.*

Resolution to Become a Non-Delegate Conference:

Gayla Burgess moved the resolution with the correction that future conferences be restructured to reflect a vote of common consent by the body of confirmed members. Second by Claire Leonard. Discussion included the clarification that this would take effect at the 2020 mission center conference. Clarification was also shared that “member in good standing” means any member that has not been given the status of “excommunicated” by a church court. Rex Sandidge moved to table the resolution and resubmit it during the 2020 conference. Second by Anita Smith. Vote taken, did not pass. Vote taken on the resolution (37 Ayes and 14 Nays), motion carried.

***Whereas,** the Cedar Valley-Nauvoo USA Mission Center is currently an elected-delegate vote conference; and*

***Whereas,** the allotted delegate and alternate seats per congregation often go unfilled; and*

***Whereas,** there are several baptized members in good standing that attend mission center conferences that are not elected delegates or alternates and do not have a voice/vote; and*

***Whereas,** Doctrine and Covenants 162:2c states: As a prophetic people you are called, under the direction of the spiritual authorities and with the common consent of the people, to discern the divine will for your own time and in the places where you serve. You live in a world with new challenges, and that world will require new forms of ministry; therefore*

***Be it resolved,** that the Cedar Valley-Nauvoo Mission Center Conference format and Standing Rules related to said conferences be restructured to reflect a vote of common consent by the body of baptized confirmed members in good standing present, instead of the current elected-delegate vote format.*

Adjournment: The body moved to adjourn the business session at 3:52 PM. Vote taken, carried.

5. Sustain MC President, Financial Officer, and Invitation Support Minister

Denise White, Field Support Minister, will read letters of appointment from World Church and request motions to sustain the following leaders for 2021:

A. **Motion** to sustain Evelyn Dustin and Kent LeVan as Co-Mission Center Presidents for 2021

B. **Motion** to sustain Robert Cook as Mission Center Financial Officer for 2021

C. **Motion** to sustain Pat Reaves as Invitation Support Minister for 2021

Note: Setting apart services will be included as part of the 10:00 AM ZOOM worship service on Sunday, October 25th.

6. Sustain Mission Center Leadership:

A motion will be requested to sustain the current MC Leadership members for 2021.

Motion to sustain the current MC Leadership members for 2021, as presented:

- Mission Center Council:
 - Ron Howell, Community Leader
 - Brenda Mitchell, Community Leader and MC Temple School Representative
 - Lois Blythe, Community Leader
 - Rick Enright, Community Leader
 - Scott Gelande, Youth Ministries Coordinator
 - Gayla Burgess, MC Admin Assistant, Historian, Recorder, and Webmaster
- Counselor to MC Financial Officer: Rex Sandidge
- Assistant to MC Financial Officer: Lynn Poppett

7. Sustain Campground Board of Directors for 2021

A motion will be requested to sustain the current Campground Board of Directors for 2021.

Motion to sustain the current Campground Board of Directors for 2021, as presented:

- 1-Year Term: Todd Batey
- 1-Year Term: Dale Warner
- 2-Year Term: John Saur
- 2-Year Term: Mark Parrott
- 3-Year Term: Dan Spray
- 3-Year Term: Scott Gelande
- Robert Cook, Ex-Officio – MC Financial Officer

8. Sustain Cedar Valley Grove Operations Group for 2021

A motion will be requested to sustain the current CVG Operations Group for 2021.

Motion to sustain the current members of the CVG Operations Group for 2021:

- 1-Year Term: Anita Zahniser
- 1-Year Term: Dennis LaRoque
- 2-Year Term: Pam Tisdale
- 2-Year Term: Gaelane Rosinski
- 3-Year Term: Lisa Hill
- 3-Year Term: Scott Gelande
- Robert Cook, Ex-Officio – MC Financial Officer
- Dan Spray, Ex-Officio – MC President Representative
- Roger Reid, Ex-Officio – Special Appointment
- Kent LeVan, Ex-Officio – CVG Resident Manager

9. Sustain Camp Nauvoo Operations Group for 2021

A motion will be requested to sustain the current Camp Nauvoo Operations Group for 2021.

Motion to sustain the current members of the Camp Nauvoo Operations Group for 2021:

- 1-Year Term: Lynn Poplett
- 1-Year Term: Lee Ourth
- 2-Year Term: Brad Bengé
- 2-Year Term: Evelyn Dustin
- 3-Year Term: Deb Batey
- 3-Year Term: Pat Reaves
- Robert Cook, Ex-Officio – MC Financial Officer
- Tom Durgin, Ex-Officio – Camp Nauvoo Resident Manager

10. New Business: *Consideration of new business submitted by 8:00 AM on October 24, 2020.*

11. Adjournment

- Motion** to adjourn at _____ PM
- Benediction: Evelyn Dustin, Counselor to MC President

Ministry Reports Shared for Informational Purposes Only

Mission Center President's Report by Robert Cook

The year of 2020 started in a normal fashion, but in March it became apparent that the new Coronavirus spreading throughout the world was going to be a serious health crisis. On March 10th the mission center asked all congregations to stop in-person meetings. Within a few days thereafter, the First Presidency required the entire worldwide church to do the same. For the most part, members have followed the advice of the First Presidency without contention. My advice since then has been for our congregations to use this opportunity to explore online gatherings. Congregations and individuals have gradually transitioned to online fellowship and worship. The challenge for the future, as congregations are allowed to reopen, is to use what we have learned during this time and to find the best balance of online and in-person events.

My counselors, Evelyn Dustin and Kent LeVan, have actively participated in leadership decisions over the last year and are well prepared to take over the leadership of the mission center in 2021 as Co-Mission Center Presidents. I encourage all the members of the mission center to keep Evelyn and Kent informed so that they can make the best decisions and to abide by the decisions that they make. Evelyn and Kent are totally self-sustaining, and they are taking over this responsibility because of their love for you...who are the Church in this place.

Mission Center Financial Officer's Report by Robert Cook

As financial officer of our mission center, this year quickly transitioned from normal business to finding a way to deal with the financial aspects of closing our congregations and campgrounds due to COVID-19. On the bright side, the Mount Pleasant congregation voluntarily made significant contributions to both World Church and the mission center during this difficult period. A few congregations that were already in a precarious financial situation, have found themselves closer to the issues of closing their congregations. While I fully understand that our church buildings are held as sacred spaces and memories of people who are dear to us, I think that the current inability to use our buildings is an opportunity to evaluate whether they are worth the time and money we spend on them. Congregations can exist without buildings, and there are many testimonies of the strength within such congregations. Congregations without buildings can concentrate on the things that are the most important...the Gospel, the people, the invitation, and the ministry provided.

Our two campgrounds have been the most threatened by the closing of our facilities. CVG was getting ready to pursue marketing in order to find a way to provide more of the funds necessary to operate the campground. Because CVG has only a certain amount of resources that are being depleted each year, the loss of this year due to not being able to market the campground is significant. Funds for CVG are available for this year, but time has definitely been shortened as to when these funds will run out.

Camp Nauvoo had a very successful year in 2019, after a major expansion program and, as a result, some funds existed that could be used to keep the campground going in 2020, despite the almost total lack of income. The Operations Group struggled to create a new crisis budget and found it necessary to ask World Church to accept interest-only payments on the construction loan, which they generously agreed to do. There is a very real possibility that Camp Nauvoo will run out of available cash sometime in the spring.

Campground Board of Directors Report by Robert Cook, Chair

The Campground Board of Directors oversees our two campgrounds for the benefit of the mission center. Their normal yearly schedule is to meet prior to the mission center conference to approve the two campground budgets, then have an all-day meeting in early December to consider policy and long-term issues. We were unable to schedule an all-day, in-person meeting in 2019; so we had an online meeting on December 8th instead. So far in 2020, the activity at our campgrounds has been primarily trying to adapt to a forced closing for the entire summer season. As chair of the board, I have provided updates on events at the campgrounds to the Campground Board of Directors. Things remained relatively stable at CVG, but at Camp Nauvoo we went through a change of caretaker; saying goodbye to Marie Allen and welcoming Tom and Dawn Durgin which led to the development of some new procedures as we all got to know each other.

When it became apparent that Camp Nauvoo would be closed all summer, we developed a crisis budget which is described in the Mission Center Financial Officer's report above. We continue to track expenses and try our best to predict how we will end up at the end of 2020, as well as at the end of the first half of 2021 when we hope to start seeing income again.

Cedar Valley Grove Operations Group Report by Roger Reid, CVG Operations Chair

Members of the CVG Operations Group met via Zoom a few times due to the closures resulting from the COVID pandemic. Almost all of the activities at CVG this summer were limited to maintenance and upkeep. Work continued on updating the electrical system and the renovation of several cabins. Thanks go out to Dennis and Pam LaRoque, Scott Gelande, Kent LeVan, and Christopher LeVan for their continued help.

Kent LeVan, CVG Resident Caretaker/Manager, provided the following updates on the damage caused by the August 10th derecho: CVG was hit pretty hard by the derecho, however, the grounds fared better than most. The storm resulted in 10 of the larger trees coming down; along with several branches and bushes. The doors were blown off of the shower house and one of the downed trees was hanging precariously over the roof of the shower house. The good news is...it will not be as challenging to take down this tree as the one we had to take down over shelter six last year. Several of CVG's neighbors helped us remove a large tree that went down over the entrance road; which also took out the powerlines by the barn. Another tree took out the powerlines and shattered the utility pole by the wellhouse, but REC was able to come out and make the necessary repairs for us. The caretaker's house on the grounds lost several shingles and we are working with insurance to cover the necessary repairs. There were also several problems with the generators at the caretaker's house, which resulted in the need for them to be replaced. There will be a lot of work to complete in preparation for the 2021 camping season and with the fundraising events and rentals cancelled due to the pandemic, CVG's financial status will be very restricted. Donations to CVG are also welcome.

Camp Nauvoo Operations Group Report by Deb Batey, Camp Nauvoo Operations Chair

This has been a difficult year for Camp Nauvoo. We are at the end of a major construction project, which we have been unable to finish due to lack of funds. With our reservations at a standstill due to the Coronavirus pandemic, we have been forced to maintain the status quo. We have had a loss of the church camping programs and reservations.

We do have a congregation, Followers of the Way, which has completed several projects and helped fund them. The donations of labor and materials have been a huge positive during this long year. Also, this year has seen a change in caretakers. We are happy to share that Tom and Dawn Durgin have moved into the caretaker's home and they have been joyfully learning the ins and outs of maintaining a large campground.

We are looking forward to a very busy year next year as many of our reservations for this year have already rescheduled for next summer. We have hope and faith that next year will bring us back to our original goal of providing a spiritual community to not only our own campers, but to all who join us at Camp Nauvoo.

Youth Ministries Report by Scott Gelande, Youth Ministries Coordinator

Due to the pandemic, we were not able to host our youth camps this past summer. Both the staff and youth were very disappointed as we were very prepared for a great camping season! Our preparations included a great team of people meeting to focus on marketing, programming, training, and the spiritual content of our camps. The team's goal was to increase the number of attendees for each camp by 10 campers! We were well on our way to surpassing this goal by combining camper lists from the last two years. We had also just finalized the copy for a professionally-designed postcard to be mailed to over 250 potential campers marketing the camps and this year's theme. Everyone, both staff and youth, are hoping that we will be able to return to our regular camping season in 2021 and that the awesome plans we had in place for this year will be able to be used for the 2021 events.

Invitation Support Ministries Report by Pat Reaves, MC Invitation Support Ministries

The year 2020 has been a year that will live in infamy...it was the year that wasn't. Very little kinetic energy was expended as it all remained potential energy for if/when the virus went away...it never did. Even though COVID remained, I wish I could report that many things were accomplished, new plans of action were put into place, and many congregations were visited...but it hasn't quite happened that way.

We had one big event that did take place before COVID occurred and that was our February Valentine's Day Retreat. On February 14th thru 16th the mission center held a family retreat at Camp Nauvoo with the focus on gathering together for fun, fellowship, and worship. We ate, played games, laughed, shared in small groups, and got to know each other in new and exciting ways. Each congregation that was represented donated a cake for the Friday night auction that was meant to generate money toward new carpeting in the lodge. We generated over \$1,000 from just 13 cakes. Many luscious cakes were then donated back to the retreat and we ate cake at every meal, all weekend long.

On Saturday, guest ministry for the retreat was provided by Woody and Becky Woodcock from West Des Moines. Woody introduced the GROW program. Simply put, any projects that a congregation imagines which benefits the congregation, increases discipleship, or offers community service can be accomplished with relative ease through GROW. Some easily attainable ideas include, but are not limited to, counting random acts of kindness and studying books of scripture; to purchasing chickens for Outreach International. GROW is a logical and ordered way to put "skin" on the Church's five Mission Initiatives (The acronym PEDAL or a reminder for us to keep moving forward with Christ):

- **P**ursue peace on and for the earth;
- **E**xperience congregations in mission;
- **D**evelop disciples to serve;
- **A**bolish poverty and end needless suffering; and
- **L**ovingly invite others to Christ

PEDAL is strategic plan for how to unite our efforts and create a SMART plan of action. Keeping the congregation's GROW goal as a focal point of action until the goal is crushed within the set amount of time, is paramount to its success:

- **S**pecific,
- **M**easurable,
- **A**ligned with the Mission Initiatives,
- **R**ealistic / Reasonable, and
- **T**ime sensitive

This simple plan of action has many benefits and gets many people involved. At the end of the allotted time, the congregation celebrates its successes together and creates more positive relationships and laughter.

On Sunday, we had amazing guest ministry from Blake and Ellen Smith as they introduced the Agape meal as a worship service style of sitting around the tables, sharing a meal, and talking to each other. We discussed how sacredness and faithfulness are alike and different. It was very meaningful for those in attendance. Blake then led the charge for us to leave the retreat and go forth to be the church that God intends us to be. It was a wonderful event that, hopefully, we can do again in the near future. We desperately need to be together and to share our love for our Lord and our love for each other. Valentine's Day was a perfect time to share in Agape love.

Temple School Report by Brenda Mitchell, MC Temple School Rep

Due to the pandemic and necessary quarantine, we have had to be creative and flexible with our Temple School class offerings this year. Jane McDonald facilitated the *Introduction to Priesthood Ministry* course via ZOOM online conferencing, Dennis LaRoque has facilitated various courses in Davenport via social distancing, and other courses have been and will continue to be offered via email and online. I am grateful to the facilitators who have so willingly offered to lead our Temple School courses under these somewhat challenging circumstances. If you are interested in taking a Temple School course, please feel free to contact Brenda Mitchell, MC Temple School Rep, at mitchellsonfirst@gmail.com.

2020 Virtual Reunion Report by Pat Reaves, Director

Due to COVID-19, the mission center held its first virtual reunion Via ZOOM online conference June 21st thru 24th. Yes, there were minor glitches as we made our way through uncharted waters, but people were patient and no one got too panicked, (except for me). Overall, I'd say it was a big success. We had a total of 78 people who registered and attended part of the reunion or the entire four-day reunion experience while getting to sleep in the comfort of their own beds.

This was a big deal for the mission center as we only held one reunion this summer instead of our traditional two and it was well attended by folks from both ends of the mission center. There were 34 attendees from the southern half of the mission center, 33 from the northern half and 11 from outside the mission center...as far away as Texas! We enjoyed getting to know our brothers and sisters from throughout the mission center and discovered that we could drop the boundaries of distance and location, which had previously separated us. We had people from as far north as Cedar Falls/Waterloo, as far south as Hannibal, as far east as Chicago, and as far west as Panora (about 45 minutes west of Des Moines).

The guest minister was Blake Smith, Chicago Mission Center President/Financial Officer. Blake also holds the office of Seventy. Some of the attendees had previously met Blake and his wife, Ellen, when they came to our Valentine's retreat held in February at Camp Nauvoo. Blake offered loving and compassionate ministry at both events. He is both charismatic and fun, but at the same time he is very dedicated and deeply spiritual. He offers a wonderful combination of leadership and humility!

The best attended services and classes were in the morning and evening. Our morning devotions, led by John and Charlene Saur from the Iowa City congregation, averaged 25 people. Both the Early Church History class taught by Robert Cook and the World Church reunion materials, *Live Christ... Live Peace*, taught by Blake Smith averaged 31 people. The evening services averaged 42 attendees. We shared our common camping stories on Sunday and Tuesday, while Monday night was a normal evening service with Blake preaching.

We created a different format in the afternoons. We held educational classes for which youth and adults registered, as interest and time allowed. We had a yoga class, the GROW program (an outreach program for congregations), a vinyl art class, a gardening class, a woodworking class, a Spanish class, and a cooking class. There was advanced prep work done to get necessary materials to those who had pre-registered for classes prior to reunion.

We also held intergenerational activities such as an indoor scavenger hunt, virtual games, a youth chatroom, and online campfires. Even though everyone was muted who attended the ZOOM conference, we sang along with the leaders and had a good time doing so. Our biggest regret was that we could not get children to sign up to participate in the JAM Kids program.

One unique feature of our reunion was joining our virtual lunches, a daily social hour, virtual dinners, and canteen where individuals joined together virtually to enjoy their meals and talk with each other. We got to know each other better and shared what was going on in our lives. It was truly a wonderful time of

interaction, renewing friendships, and creating new bonds of love with sisters and brothers in Community of Christ.

Due to the generosity of those who attended this year's virtual reunion, both campgrounds will receive \$2,000 each. Thank you to everyone who participated in our first-ever virtual reunion!

Joseph Smith Historic Site Report by Christin Mackay, Director

We opened our season as usually at the beginning of March with Lois Diprima and Dennis and Mary Lou Piepergerdes volunteering as Guides. By March 13th we closed for what we hoped would be only a few weeks until the COVID-19 virus could be contained. Little did we know, back in March, that we wouldn't be reopening to the public until, hopefully, March 2021!

Although we have been closed to visitors, we have managed to complete a variety of projects around the site:

- The Red Brick Store has a new website (www.redbrickstore.com)
- We participated in several online services; broadcasting from the Red Brick Store, the Mansion House, and the Homestead
- A new fence was provided by the Smith Family Foundation for the Cemetery and Homestead with installation taking place in September
- A new roof was installed on the Wright House and barn; thank you to the Elliots and Jerry Wiemann

