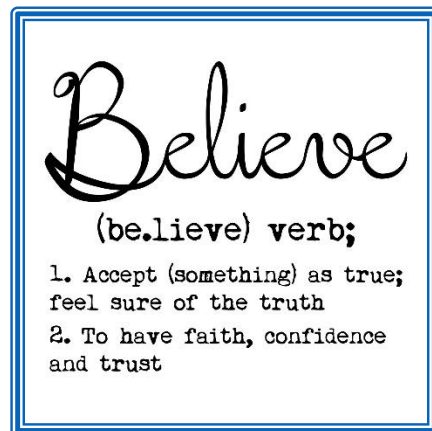




Cedar Valley-Nauvoo Mission Center

**Fall Conference
Cedar Valley Grove
October 14, 2023**

Be What You Believe



**Cedar Valley-Nauvoo Mission Center Conference Agenda
October 14, 2023 @ 1:15 PM**

100: WELCOME

101: Words of Welcome

102: Greetings from World Church Presented by Bishop Carla Long

103: Prayer of Blessing Over Conference

200: ANNOUNCEMENTS & PRE-LEGISLATIVE REMARKS

300: CALL TO ORDER & APPROVAL OF STANDING RULES

301: Call to Order

Conference called to order at _____ PM by _____.

302: Approval of Standing Rules – Refer to page 4

MOTION to approve the Standing Rules as presented.

First _____ Second _____

Approved: Yes / No

400: APPROVAL OF CONFERENCE SECRETARY

401: Approval of Conference Secretary

MOTION to approve Gayla Burgess as mission center conference secretary.

First _____ Second _____

Approved: Yes / No

500: APPROVAL OF 2022 CONFERENCE MINUTES

501: Approval of October 2022 Conference Minutes – Refer to pages 5-6

MOTION to approve the October 2022 mission center conference minutes as presented.

First _____ Second _____

Approved: Yes / No

502: Approval of December 2022 Financial Conference Minutes – Refer to pages 6-7

MOTION to approve the December 2022 mission center financial conference minutes as presented.

First _____ Second _____

Approved: Yes / No

600: APPROVAL OF 2024 MISSION CENTER LEADERSHIP

601: Approval of Mission Center Co-Presidents – Refer to page 8

MOTION to sustain Evelyn Dustin and Kent LeVan as Co-Mission Center Presidents for 2024.

First _____ Second _____

Approved: Yes / No

602: Approval of Mission Center Financial Officer – Refer to page 9

MOTION to sustain Kent LeVan as Mission Center Financial Officer for 2024.

Note: Kent will be set apart by Bishop Carla Long and assisted by Robert Cook following the vote.

First _____ Second _____

Approved: Yes / No

603: Approval of Mission Center Invitation Support Minister – Refer to page 10

MOTION to sustain Pat Reaves as Mission Center Invitation Support Minister for 2024.

First _____ Second _____

Approved: Yes / No

604: Approval of Mission Center Council

MOTION to sustain the Cedar Valley-Nauvoo Mission Center Council for 2024, as presented.

First _____ Second _____

Approved: Yes / No

- Ron Howell, Community Leader
 - Brad & Julie Bengé, Co-Community Leaders
 - *Congregations: Hannibal, Keokuk, Mt Pleasant, and New Canton*
- TBD, Community Leader
 - Mark Parrott, Co-Community Leader
 - *Congregations: Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Waterloo*
- Lois Blythe, Community Leader
 - Belinda Johnson, Co-Community Leader
 - *Congregations: Carthage, Followers of the Way, Ft Madison, Nauvoo*
- Rick Enright, Community Leader
 - TBD, Co-Community Leader
 - *Congregations: Quad City Connection, Muscatine*
- Pat Reaves, Community Leader
 - Carole Kasowski, Co-Community Leader
 - *Congregations: Galesburg, Moline, Pekin, Rock Falls*
- Lisa Hill, Youth Ministries Coordinator
- Gayla Burgess, MC Admin Assistant, Historian, Recorder, and Webmaster

605: Approval of Counselor and Assistant to Mission Center Financial Officer

MOTION to approve the counselor and assistant to the mission center financial officer for 2024, as presented.

First _____ Second _____

Approved: Yes / No

- Counselor to MC Financial Officer: Rex Sandidge
- Assistant to MC Financial Officer: Robert Cook

700: ELECTION OF CAMPGROUND BOARD AND OPERATIONS GROUPS

701: Election of Campground Board of Directors for 2024

- 1-Year Term: Dan Spray
- 1-Year Term: Dale Warner
- 2-Year Term: John Saur
- 2-Year Term: Mark Parrott
- 3-Year Term: _____
- 3-Year Term: _____
- Kent LeVan, Ex-Officio – MC Financial Officer

Nominations for 3-Year Term (2 open seats):

Nominator: _____ Nominees: _____
 Nominator: _____ Nominees: _____
 Nominator: _____ Nominees: _____

Vote Results: Approved to serve 3-year terms _____

702: Election of Cedar Valley Grove Operations Group for 2024

- 1-Year Term: George Barber
- 1-Year Term: Rick Enright
- 2-Year Term: Gaelane Rosinski
- 2-Year Term: Pam Tisdale
- 3-Year Term: _____
- 3-Year Term: _____
- Kent LeVan, Ex-Officio – MC Financial Officer & CVG Resident Manager
- Dan Spray, Ex-Officio – MC President Representative
- Roger Reid, Ex-Officio – Special Appointment - Chair
- Cathy Reeves, Ex-Officio – Special Appointment - Treasurer

Nominations for 3-Year Term (2 open seats):

Nominator: _____ Nominees: _____

Nominator: _____ Nominees: _____

Nominator: _____ Nominees: _____

Vote Results: Approved to serve 3-year terms _____

703: Election of Camp Nauvoo Operations Group for 2024

- 1-Year Term: Carol Brooks
- 1-Year Term: Lee Ourth
- 2-Year Term: Brad Bengé
- 2-Year Term: Doug Howell
- 3-Year Term: _____
- 3-Year Term: _____
- Kent LeVan, Ex-Officio – MC Financial Officer
- Evelyn Dustin, Ex-Officio, MC President Representative
- Dawn Durgin, Ex-Officio – Camp Nauvoo Resident Manager

Nominations for 3-Year Term (2 open seats):

Nominator: _____ Nominees: _____

Nominator: _____ Nominees: _____

Nominator: _____ Nominees: _____

Vote Results: Approved to serve 3-year terms _____

800: PRESENTATION OF NEW BUSINESS

Consideration of new business submitted by 8:00 AM on October 14, 2023.

900: ADJOURNMENT

901: Motion to Adjourn

MOTION to adjourn the 2023 mission center conference at _____ PM.

First _____ Second _____

Approved: Yes / No

902: Prayer of Sending Forth

Cedar Valley-Nauvoo Mission Center – Standing Rules – 2023

Note: The addition of item #8 is a change from the 2022 Standing Rules.

1. The mission center president(s) will preside over the 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 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. The time limit for introduction of new business is set at 8:00 AM the day of the conference, 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.
6. 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.
7. Budgets and/or financial information for the Cedar Valley-Nauvoo USA Mission Center, congregations, and/or campgrounds will be considered in a separate financial conference, with the session to be held before the end of the calendar year so as to present a more accurate accounting of all budgets/finances.
- 8. Items of financial business, either new motions or amendments, that result in a budget change exceeding \$1,000 for the mission center or campgrounds must be submitted to the mission center financial officer thirty (30) days in advance of the financial conference in order to allow appropriate consideration by the committee(s) responsible for the budget(s), as well as the entire mission center.**
9. 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.
10. Rules contained in the most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* will govern the conference where they are not in conflict with the Standing Rules, or any other special order adopted by the conference.

Cedar Valley-Nauvoo Mission Center Conference Minutes October 29, 2022 @ Camp Nauvoo

Evelyn Dustin, Co-Mission Center President, welcomed the group before the opening hymn was sung (*CCS# 649 With a Steadfast Faith*) and then gave the invocation.

Apostle Robin Linkhart assumed the chair and shared greetings from World Church. Linkhart also provided information on a prioritization survey regarding World Conference 2023 legislation.

Kent LeVan, Co-Mission Center President, assumed the chair and shared several announcements including the need for someone to serve as pastor for the Moline congregation and that the December 3rd financial conference will be held via ZOOM begin at 3:30 PM instead of 1:00 PM.

LeVan called the conference to order at 1:29 PM and nominated Gayla Burgess to serve as conference secretary. Second by Dawn Durgin. Vote taken, carried.

LeVan asked for a vote by show of hands for approval of the previous conference minutes (*10/21/21 business session, 12/4/21 financial conference, and 2/5/22 special conference*). Vote taken, carried.

Apostle Linkhart assumed the chair and read a letter from World Church supporting Evelyn Dustin and Kent LeVan as Co-Mission Center Presidents for 2023. Motion by Dale Warner to approve. Second by Lee Ourth. Vote taken, carried.

Linkhart read a letter from World Church supporting Pat Reaves as the Mission Center Invitation Support Minister for 2023. Motion by Brad Bengé to approve. Second by Dale Warner. Vote taken, carried.

Denise White, Mission Field Support Minister, assumed the chair and read a letter from World Church supporting Robert Cook as Mission Center Financial Officer for 2023. Motion by Brad Bengé to approve. Second by Paul Lindburg. Vote taken, carried.

Dustin assumed the chair and asked for a motion to sustain the mission center leadership for 2023 as presented. Motion by Diane Mayfield. Second by Chris McQuitty. Vote taken, carried.

Ron Howell (Community Leader) with Brad & Julie Bengé (Co-Community Leaders)

- *Congregations: Burlington, Hannibal, Keokuk, Mt Pleasant, New Canton*

Brenda Mitchell (Community Leader and MC Temple School Rep) with Mark Parrott (Co-Community Leader)

- *Congregations: Cedar Rapids, Iowa City, Maquoketa, Waterloo*

Lois Blythe (Community Leader) with Belinda Johnson (Co-Community Leader)

- *Congregations: Carthage, Followers of the Way, Ft Madison, Nauvoo*

TBD (Community Leader) with TBD (Co-Community Leader)

- *Congregations: City Center, Davenport, Muscatine, Willow Grove*

TBD (Community Leader) with Carole Kasowski (Co-Community Leader)

- *Congregations: Galesburg, Moline, Pekin, Rock Falls*

Scott Gelande, Youth Ministries

Gayla Burgess, MC Administrative Assistant, Historian, Recorder, and Webmaster

Rex Sandidge, Counselor to MC Financial Officer

Lynn Poplett, Assistant to MC Financial Officer

LeVan assumed the chair. Robert Cook nominated John Saur and Mark Parrott to serve three-year terms on the Campground Board of Directors. No other nominations received. Vote taken, carried.

Campground Board of Directors Membership: Dan Spray and Scott Gelande (1-year terms), Todd Batey and Dale Warner (2-year terms), John Saur and Mark Parrott (3-year terms), and Robert Cook (ex-officio).

LeVan nominated Rick Enright, Pam Tisdale, and Gaelane Rosinski to serve on the Cedar Valley Grove Operations Group. No other nominations received. Counted vote taken. Rick Enright was approved to serve the remainder of the 2-year term vacated by Lou Rapier. Pam Tisdale and Gaelane Rosinski were approved to serve three-year terms. CVG Operations Group Membership: Lisa Hill and Scott Gelande (1-year terms), George Barber and Rick Enright (2-year terms), Gaelane Rosinski and Pam Tisdale (3-year terms), Robert Cook, Dan Spray, Roger Reid, and Kent LeVan (ex-officio).

Dustin assumed the chair. Deb Batey nominated Brad Bengé, Doug Howell, and Myra Elliott to serve on the Camp Nauvoo Operations Group. Dawn Durgin nominated Lynn Poplett. Counted vote taken. Lynn Poplett was approved to serve the remainder of the 1-year term vacated by Pat Reaves. Brad Bengé and Doug Howell were approved to serve three-year terms. Camp Nauvoo Operations Group Membership: Deb Batey and Lynn Poplett (1-year terms), Carol Brooks and Lee Ourth (2-year terms), Brad Bengé and Doug Howell (3-year terms), and Robert Cook and Dawn Durgin (ex-officio).

LeVan assumed the chair and added the names of Deb Luce and Beverley Lindburg to the list of potential delegates for World Conference 2023. LeVan asked for a show of hands to approve the 18 names presented. Vote taken, carried. LeVan stated that mission center is allotted 32 delegates and 32 alternates and requested anyone else interested in serving should contact him or Evelyn Dustin.

Approved 2023 World Conference Delegates: Gaelane Rosinski, Brenda Mitchell, Steve Mitchell, Jared Poplett, Mary Poplett, John Saur, Robert Cook, Dale Warner, Diane Mayfield, Deb Batey, Marlene Brim, Lyle Brim, Brad Bengé, Julie Bengé, Skyler Bengé, Nathan Bengé, Deb Luce, and Beverley Lindburg.

LeVan announced that no new business was received.

Motion by Dawn Durgin to adjourn the conference at 1:59 PM. Second by Jared Poplett. Vote taken, carried. Closing hymn (*CCS# 186 Let Us Pray For One Another*) and benediction by Evelyn Dustin.

Cedar Valley-Nauvoo Mission Center Financial Conference Minutes December 3, 2022 - Via ZOOM Online Conferencing

Call to Order: Kent LeVan, MC Co-President, called the conference to order at 3:35 PM and shared a reminder that the Standing Rules from the October conference still stand, as does the conference secretary appointment (Gayla Burgess will serve as conference secretary). There were 23 people in attendance via zoom.

Opening Comments: Robert Cook, MC Financial Officer, assumed the chair and shared a quick overview of the audit process and various reports. Denise White, Field Support Minister, assumed the chair and thanked those who were in attendance. Robert Cook assumed the chair.

Acceptance of Camp Nauvoo 2021 Audit/Inspection Reports: Motion by Kent LeVan to approve acceptance as presented. Second by Evelyn Dustin. No discussion. Vote by show of hands, carried.

Approval of Camp Nauvoo Proposed Budget for 2023: Motion by Brad Bengé to approve as presented. Second by Brenda Mitchell. Robert Cook, Brad Bengé, and Lynn Poplett shared a quick overview of the proposed budget. Vote by show of hands, carried.

Acceptance of CVG 2021 Audit/Inspection Reports: Motion by Evelyn Dustin to approve acceptance as presented. Second by Lynn Poplett. Robert Cook and Kent LeVan shared clarifications on the audit reports pertaining to the Clinton endowment of \$5,000. Vote by show of hands, carried.

Approval of CVG Proposed Budget for 2023: Motion by Kent LeVan to approve as presented. Second by Roger Reid. Robert Cook, Scott Gelande, and Gaelane Rosinski shared clarifications on the proposed budget and goals to make the grounds more rentable/profitable. Vote by show of hands, carried.

Acceptance of Mission Center Audit/Inspection Reports: Motion by Roger Reid to approve acceptance as presented. Second by Brad Bengé. No discussion. Vote by show of hands, carried.

Approval of MC Proposed Budget for 2023: Motion by Kent LeVan to approve as presented. Second by Evelyn Dustin. Scott Gelande read the following amendment to the motion:

*As I compared the 2022 expenses to the proposed 2023 expenses, I noted that the budget was reduced by \$8,058.00 or almost 33% in one year. This reduction came from young adult ministries, children's ministries, visiting ministries support, Melchisedec ministries support, Aaronic ministries support, missionary resources, and leadership development. I question how any of the congregations can grow and thrive if we do not focus on the future. A budget without these items seems like a church that is going out of business and not looking toward the future. That means that we need all of these things. I am not sure that one is more important than the other, but leadership development stands out as one of the larger concerns. **I move that all of the items mentioned be restored to the 2023 proposed budgeted amounts and that leadership development be increased to \$1,000.00.***

*At the same time, there is only \$1,000.00 in the budget to support CVG. As a reminder, all mission center youth camps were moved to CVG to allow Camp Nauvoo to take advantage of the potential revenue generation during the peak camping season. If the mission center would rent a campground to host camps and reunions, the charge would be in excess of \$350.00 per camper. The current amount charged per person for camps does not even cover the cost of food and crafts, let alone the cost of operating the campground. **I move that the proposed budgeted amount to CVG be increased to \$5,000.00, to partially cover the operational cost of the grounds for the four weeks of camps/reunion.***

*On the income side of the proposed budget, I noted that the reason expenses were reduced is because the proposed congregational assessment per person is being reduced from \$28.00 to \$14.00. I know the plan has been that the revenue from Camp Nauvoo would be used to offset the reduction in the per person assessment. However, I do not see an income line item in the proposed budget that reflects the income from Camp Nauvoo to cover the offset. To me this means that Camp Nauvoo is not at the point where it is able to provide the needed funds to the mission center. Therefore, the assessment per person should not be reduced until the funds are available. **I move that the per person congregational assessment be adjusted to adequately cover the suggested changes to the expenses as I previously moved.***

Scott Gelande moved his three-part amended motion. Second by Carolyn Otis. Robert Cook shared an overview of the proposed change in the per person congregational assessment amount. Beverley Lindburg called for the vote. Vote taken by show of hands, carried.

Kent LeVan assumed the chair and clarified that an updated conference brochure with the approved amended amounts will be provided after the conference.

Adjournment: Roger Reid moved to adjourn at 4:46 PM. Second by Beverley Lindburg. Vote by show of hands, carried.



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

September 12, 2023

To the Cedar Valley-Nauvoo Mission Center

As you gather in the spirit of loving community as an expression of Community of Christ, I hope your time together is meaningful and spiritually uplifting. May your time of sharing in fellowship, worship and the business of the mission center offer you opportunities to share and hear the stories of how mission is alive in the church wherever the people are present. Let this be a time of celebration and gratitude for what God is up to in your midst.

As part of the business of the mission center, the First Presidency is pleased to recommend for your consideration Kent LeVan and Evelyn Dustin to serve as your Mission Center President Team. The role of mission center president team is essential to assist congregations in living the mission Community of Christ has been called to. We are grateful for Kent and Evelyn's willingness to serve in this essential leadership and ministry position. The Mission Center Team will be chaired by Kent LeVan.

We ask for your prayerful consideration to sustain Kent and Evelyn to serve as the appointed Mission Center President Team. May you continue to hold each of them in your prayers.

In the spirit of peace,
THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

K. Scott Murphy

cc: Robin Linkhart, Apostle

KSM/les



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

September 13, 2023

To the Cedar-Valley Nauvoo Mission Center

As you gather in the spirit of loving community as an expression of Community of Christ, I hope your time together is meaningful and spiritually uplifting. May your time of sharing in fellowship, worship and the business of the mission center offer you opportunities to share and hear the stories of how mission is alive in the church wherever the people are present. Let this be a time of celebration and gratitude for what God is up to in your midst.

As part of the business of the mission center, the Presidency and Presiding Bishopric are pleased to recommend for your consideration Kent LeVan to serve as your Mission Center Financial Officer. The mission center financial officer in partnership with the mission center president provides the financial leadership necessary to live the mission of the church. We are grateful for Kent's willingness to serve in this essential position to uphold and support your congregations in generosity and whole-life stewardship, which are important principles in living the mission of Christ.

We ask for your prayerful consideration to sustain Kent to serve as the appointed Mission Center Financial Officer. May you continue to hold Kent in your prayers.

In the spirit of peace,
THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

K. Scott Murphy

PRESIDING BISHOPRIC

Ronald D. Harmon Jr.

cc: Robin Linkhart, Apostle
Willem F. van Klinken, Presiding Bishopric
Carla Long, Presiding Bishopric

KSM/kat



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

Council of Twelve Apostles

September 12, 2023

To the Cedar Valley Nauvoo Mission Center

Dear friends,

I am pleased to present to you for your support Pat Reeves as the Cedar Valley Nauvoo Mission Center Invitation Support Minister. In this position, Pat will support, encourage, and equip congregations, disciples, and priesthood for ministries of invitation, hospitality, and witness.

We recognize the many ways Pat leads mission through developing disciples to serve, identifying and empowering emerging leadership, experimenting with innovative ministry, and integrating the ministry and leadership of mission center seventy to support congregational life. We are deeply grateful for Pat's commitment to exploring ministry that maximizes the use of congregation buildings, campgrounds, and strategic community spaces to connect people with the transforming power of building relationships in Christ-centered communities.

I encourage your support for her appointment.

Blessings,

Robin K. Linkhart
Apostle, North Central USA Mission Field

cc: Karin Franklin Peter, Sr. President of Seventy

Informational Ministry Reports

Mission Center Co-Presidents' Report

Evelyn Dustin & Kent LeVan, Co-Mission Center Presidents

This year has had some really great moments when we could gather in person for camps and reunions, besides several weekend retreats including the hoedown at CVG and the August weekend at Camp Nauvoo. As you can read in other reports, the youth camps and reunions were wonderful and inspiring.

We have continued with our quarterly priesthood meetings and explored several ideas to take the response to our abilities more seriously. Among the ideas we have considered are the possible use of the GROW program and learning to pray in a way in which we ask what God has in mind for use to focus on each day. The emphasis is to allow the Holy Spirit more freedom to act because we have our agency and God will not push it aside. When we ask the Holy Spirit to act on things that are on God's mind, we open the way for the Holy Spirit to move into areas that may have been closed before. Several people have experimented with this and have had interesting results.

We so appreciate the willingness of the pastors and their counselors to take on the responsibility of making sure each congregation has the opportunity to worship each week. Thank you for your service and all you do.

We also want to thank the other volunteers who are in charge of the youth activities and those who directed the youth camps and reunions, or helped staff them. Without your help, these activities would not happen.

As we look forward to 2024, we want to provide as many ways for the Spirit to guide us as possible. We pray each day for each of you (as Paul says in the *Bible*) for your wellbeing and for the your willingness to work toward the cause of Zion.

Mission Center Financial Officer's Report

Robert Cook, MC Financial Officer

Changes in congregation structure that we have anticipated for some time have finally started to happen and have resulted due to changes in society and aging of those who lived in the previous social structure. This has resulted in causing shrinking membership is almost all of our congregations. COVID accelerated the demise of some congregations and so we have experienced congregations closing and, in one hopeful case, a merger of three congregations.

When buildings are no longer needed, I have taken the lead in arranging the sales in many cases, but in others the local leaders have assumed the responsibility. When building sales occur World Church has, in recent years, claimed ownership of the proceeds. We have gradually settled into a pattern of a 50/50 split between World Church and local needs, which often the two campgrounds the mission center offers.

The World Church Bridge of Hope (BOH) program initially froze a substantial part of all congregation, campground, and mission center investment accounts to ensure that funds would be available to meet the retirement objectives that they set. The mission center was given a specific dollar objective as part of the BOH program, which ends at the end of this calendar year. We still have a substantial amount of money that has not yet been raised by proceeds from building sales and voluntary donations. I have spent a lot of time and effort monitoring World Church policies related to the BOH program, which have gone through many changes.

Finally, I have asked to be released from my role as MCFO at the end of the calendar year. It is my intent to provide substantial assistance with respect to internal mission center possibilities for the new MCFO.

Mission Center Invitation Support Ministries Report

Pat Reaves, MC Invitation Support Minister

It has been a busy year of gatherings, which have been focused on expanding our horizons. We hope to show new possibilities for growth amid the struggles of keeping our congregations relevant in the world today. The mission center leadership has held regular quarterly priesthood meetings with each priesthood office. We began the year by introducing the World Church resolutions to help us be better prepared for World Conference and to be awake of the needs of the Church as a whole. Then we introduced praying for what God wants to have happen in the world. The third quarter we reviewed the GROW program, which was introduced at Reunion #1. The fourth quarter meetings will focus on prayer and testimony services specifically addressing the needs of the congregations.

At Reunion #1, Art Woodcock served as guest minister and introduced the GROW program and shared some of the successes experienced in the Lamoni Heartland Mission Center. Art explained the positive impact the program has had on their congregations. GROW is a formula for growth. Basically, GROW is a strategic way to do good work in the church or community. The process is fairly simple...think of a need that your group can meet, then align it with one of the World Church Mission Initiatives:

- **Pursue Peace** on and for the Earth,
- **Engage Congregations** in Mission,
- **Develop Disciples** to Serve,
- **Abolish Poverty / End Needless Suffering,**
- **Lovingly Invite Others** to Christ

And then keep **PEDALING** towards the goal of GROWTH. Finally, create a **SMART** goal, which stands for **Specific, Measurable, Aligned with Mission Initiatives, Realistic, Time sensitive.**

GROW is a fun way to share your vision and invite people, both inside and outside of your congregation, to do good in the community. The idea is not to make it drudgery, but instead to set the goal low enough that you are sure to CRUSH it which builds success and a positive reaction. Have fun with the program and be creative. Most importantly, CELEBRATE each accomplishment and then REPEAT quarterly, perhaps focusing on a different initiative.

Just over a year ago a new invitational ministry was formed by the Moline congregation. It was named **JAM and Bread Ministries** (Stands for Jesus and Me offering the Bread of Life). This ministry started in a home, but quickly outgrew that location and was moved to the Moline congregation. The average attendance has been about 20. We offer a time of good news and prayer concerns. We pray for those concerns, as well as offer a prayer over the food. We serve a meal and then offer a devotional time of sharing, or a game or craft activity. It has been well received.

In December 2022, an opportunity presented itself for a community gathering with the Rock Island Chamber Choir coming to the Moline church. A dinner was provided before the concert and then an elite group of 18 young singers performed Christmas carols and other fun songs. The church was packed with family and friends. It was open to the mission center and those who came were happy to have had the opportunity.

In January 2023, the Visiting Ministries Team led by Cindy Crotty reorganized and revamped the program. Its purpose is to assist congregations by lining up individuals from around the mission center to bring ministry to the congregations who would appreciate assistance. The revamped program is doing very well.

In February, the Galesburg congregation hosted a mission center Valentine's Day celebration with an upbeat service followed by a potluck and games. It was a fun day led by Angela King, Galesburg Co-Pastor.

In May, Gaelane and Chris Rosinski headed up a hoedown weekend retreat at CVG. The event had been in the works for years, but covid kept getting in the way. People from all over the mission center attended and had a really good time. Linda Hardy and Lois Di Prima (Nauvoo congregation) taught us about spinning. Attendees competed in a horserace game. There was a covered wagon contest which Sue and Lee Wakefield won and Pat Reaves got arrested for bribery by Sheriff Roger Reid for trying to sway people to vote for her wagon. A good time was had by all.

In June, Reunion #1 was hosted at Camp Nauvoo and, as was stated earlier, Art (Woody) Woodcock provided guest ministry. Deb Batey, along with Brad and Julie Bengel, were the co-directors. It was a great week of fun, fellowship, and worship.

In July, Reunion #2 was hosted at Cedar Valley Grove. Roger Reid and Pam Tisdale served as co-directors. Guest ministry was provided by Blake Smith, Chicago Mission Center President. Blake did an exceptional job of offering ministry all week and he is the "king" of Mao.

The youth camp program continues to be our best form of outreach ministry to the kids. Please, if you haven't emphasized sending our youth to camps, please make it a higher priority for your congregations. Our youth need to be a higher priority!

In early August we seized upon an opportunity to share with the mission center a chance to come to Camp Nauvoo and participate in a weekend retreat including a guided tour of the Historic Sites by both Apostle Lach McKay and Paul De Barthe, I DIG Nauvoo Archaeologist. Some of the group took advantage of the carriage rides around town and visited the Mormon sites. The highlight was getting to see two pageants that told the story of our early church history as the missionaries went to Great Britain and introduced the people to the concept of this newly formed religion with Prophet Joseph Smith. The second night told the story of those people coming to America to help build the town of Nauvoo. Sunday morning there was a communion service and the highlight, for me, was watching the people come forward and stain the robe of Jesus with their ink. Then we watched as our sins were absorbed into the robe and made clean. Thanks, Brady Brassfield, for playing Jesus for us!

For those who are wondering what is there to do, there are many opportunities for being together with the saints, to renew, refresh, and expand our vision of what it truly means to be Community of Christ. Won't you join in the fun and fellowship that the Cedar Valley-Nauvoo Mission Center is trying to provide? These events are meant to create positive energy, even amid some of the trials we are facing as the church goes from its cocoon state of maintaining, to emerging as that beautiful butterfly that it was always meant to be.

May we be blessed as we seek to know God's role for us in these uncertain times.

Campground Board of Directors Report

Robert Cook, MC Financial Officer

The Campground Board of Directors (CBOD) has the responsibility of managing two campgrounds for the benefit of the entire mission center. The activities of the CBOD are primarily to deal with significant issues that arise at the campgrounds, approve yearly budgets, and provide oversight for capital improvement projects. Each campground has its own Operations Group that handles the day-to-day activities and proposes capital improvement projects to the CBOD. The significant differences in the two campgrounds and allegiances of members of the old districts that created each have made it difficult to operate both campgrounds under one CBOD. As a result, each of the Operations Groups have taken on more responsibilities than originally envisioned.

This past year, the CBOD approved the campground budgets and a number of capital improvement projects at Camp Nauvoo. The CBOD has requested that long-term plans be created by each campground and submitted to the CBOD for consideration.

Camp Nauvoo Operations Group Report

Deb Batey, Camp Nauvoo Operations Chair

We had a great year of camping and building relationships during 2023. One new thing the Camp Nauvoo Operations Group instituted this year was to meet at least once a month by Zoom, except for the month of July.

We worked all year to make improvements to the grounds and facilities including adding new picnic tables, working on finishing rooms in the lodge, and finishing a new laundry facility for the RV/tiny house area.

Our relationship with the I Dig Nauvoo group continues to evolve and continues to be very positive. This group continues to improve the Retreat House property; which we still have use of when needed.

Another group that has been of great assistance to us is the Community of Christ RV Association. This group spent a couple of weeks at Camp Nauvoo to work on several projects including work on the rooms in the lodge and the laundry area for the campers.

We also have a committee currently working on a five-year plan that will include a list of needs and wants, but we are trying to be careful in our planning. We were hit hard by the storms this spring and continue to work on cleaning up the grounds.

One of the key components of the camping program is our outstanding Camp Nauvoo Caretaker, Dawn Durgin. Dawn leads the campground and campers not only in maintaining the grounds, but also in a pastoral manner. Along with Dawn, we have many great volunteers who are here weekly to help with the tasks that are required to maintain this large property.

Camp Nauvoo hosted Junior Camp this year, as well as Reunion #1. We had 93 campers registered for Reunion #1, although we did serve more throughout the week. The overall numbers for 2023 were:

- Within the main camping season Camp Nauvoo served 15 groups, which included 2514 people. These numbers do not count the RV sites or the tiny houses reservations.

Along with these numbers, we have many individual campers who find the Camp Nauvoo facilities along the Mississippi River to be beautiful and peaceful.

Cedar Valley Grove Operations Group Report

Roger Reid, CVG Operations Chair

Cedar Valley Grove (CVG) continues to struggle to recover from the damages that occurred during the derecho that affected most of Linn and Cedar Counties during 2000. A tour of the campgrounds continues to show signs of the damage and has placed a heavy burden upon the caretaker, Kent LeVan, the annual budget, and the availability of volunteer help needed to complete the repairs and maintenance of the property. The limitations and difficulties brought about due to the Covid19 closings that reduced the utilization of the campgrounds has also reduced the available funds for much needed repairs and maintenance.

Thanks to the efforts of George and Diane Barber, the inside walls of the Cedars received a new coat of paint, a much-needed improvement. Shelters #6 and #3 have now been enclosed, furnished as dormitories, and were well used by this year's camps and reunion. Plans for redoing the existing shower house, or building a new shower house, are under consideration at this time. Also, due to a few large contributions of time and

money and the assistance of Scott Gelande and some of his friends, we have been able to add several new RV spots that are ready for the installation of water, sewer, and electric so they can be available to rent.

Cedar Valley Grove has also been listed on the Camp Spot website, which makes it easier for outside campers to register to use the campground for overnight or weekend camping when the grounds are not in use by the mission center or other outside groups. This action has been taken to increase our visibility and revenue to assist with improvements and maintenance.

Fortunately, CVG has been able to host five mission center events this year, the hoedown retreat, three youth camps, and Reunion #2. However, other mission center and congregational utilization of the grounds and the lack of available volunteers to help with maintenance and improvements have not been sufficient to do all that needs to be done to keep the grounds in top condition. The CVG Operations Group encourages members and friends of CVG and the mission center to increase their contributions of time, money, talents, and efforts to assist in support of our fundraising efforts and in the utilization and upkeep of the campground.

The CVG Operations Group is working on the development of a long-term plan. When this plan is fully developed and in place, it will give the members of the mission center a better understanding of the contributions that CVG can provide.

Thank you to members of the CVG Operations Group, and all the members of the Cedar Valley Nauvoo-Mission Center, for your continued support.

Joseph Smith Historic Site Report

Christin Mackay, JSHS Director

We opened for the season at the beginning of April with Lois DiPrima volunteering once again as a guide. By May, we had Lenore Landon, Shelley Landon, Mike Allen, Mary Lou and Dennis Piepergerdes, Rick and Sherry MacGregor, Fred and Myra Elliot, and the CofC RV Association working onsite until the interns arrived.

We were thrilled to have the Community of Christ RV Association volunteers back in May, as they completed many maintenance projects on the grounds and in the buildings that helped us reopen for the season after World Conference.

Our interns this summer were Tiona Horning, Laura Horning, Ethan Matlock, and Hunter Bouverette. Linda Hardy and Lois DiPrima volunteered in the summer kitchen.

We are grateful that Lois DiPrima, Mike Allen, Judy Luffman, and Dennis and Meredith Carr spent this fall giving tours. We look forward to welcoming the Community of Christ Historic Site Foundation bus tour in October.

Thank you to the Cedar Valley-Nauvoo Mission Center for your support of the Historic Sites!

Youth Ministries Report & Youth Camp Financials

Scott Gelande, Youth Ministries Coordinator

We had a great summer of youth camps this year! The numbers for the camps were awesome! We had 7 kids at Junior Camp at Camp Nauvoo and 21 at CVG, 16 Junior High campers, and 24 Senior High campers. We also had 7 kids from the mission center attend Spectacular as part of the Heart of America (HOA) delegation. These are amazing numbers! We were also excited to participate in 6 baptisms during the CVG Junior Camp!

The camp theme was "Jesus is a game changer". We explored daily themes highlighting the ways that Jesus changed the world. This year, the campers enjoyed mini golf, an inflatable waterslide, talent shows, swimming, golf, a visit to a water park, theme classes, and unforgettable campfires. We also had many unique

classes; crafts, golf, frisbee golf, cooking, drums, and campfire. Please visit the mission center web site to view the logs from each camp (<http://cvnmc.org/>).

I continue to believe that our youth camping program is one of the best things that the church offers. If you have kids, grandkids, nieces, or nephews please encourage them to come to one of the youth camping events. They will surely thank you later.

| Camp Nauvoo | Income | Expenses | Balance | CVG | Income | Expenses | Balance |
|-------------|----------|----------|----------|-------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Youth Camps | \$840.00 | \$248.66 | \$591.34 | Youth Camps | \$9,620.00 | \$8,054.98 | \$1,565.02 |

Reunion #1 (Camp Nauvoo) Report

Deb Batey and Brad & Julie Bengé, Co-Directors

We had a complete week of Reunion #1 for the first time since 2019 in June at Camp Nauvoo. There were 93 people registered and more walked in as guests later in the week, with 120 in attendance at the peak.

We enjoyed two adult classes taught by Woody Woodcock, from West Des Moines, and Evelyn Dustin.

A couple of unique events occurred at this camp. A family reunion, the Barry and Venda Hunter extended family, held a family reunion during Reunion #1 and campers from past youth camps began arriving on Wednesday to reunite with each other. We greatly appreciated both of these groups joining Reunion #1. Another blessing was the Junior/Senior High group led by John Robertson who completed many maintenance tasks during their class times. Thank you to John and these youth!

Carolyn and Joe Baker ended up serving as assistant directors, as Carolyn managed the children's classes with the help of the dedicated teachers and Joe ended up serving as assistant to the head cook, Brad Bengé, and put in many hours in that position.

We, as Reunion Directors, greatly appreciated the many willing workers who volunteered their time to help in any way we needed. You are the best! It was a wonderful experience and we look forward to next year.

Reunion #1 (Camp Nauvoo) Financial Report 2023

June 8-14, 2023 – Prepared by Todd Batey, Business Manager

| Line # | INCOME | TOTALS | Line # | EXPENSES | TOTALS |
|--------|--------------------------|------------------|--------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Sunday Donations | 5,355.00 | 7 | Craft Supplies | 218.00 |
| 2 | Wednesday Donations | 4,932.48 | 8 | Printer Ink | 33.17 |
| 3 | Other Donations | 158.72 | 9 | Food | 5,063.15 |
| | | | 10 | Nurse | 600.00 |
| | | | 11 | Recreation | 64.20 |
| | | | 12 | Miscellaneous | 12.30 |
| 4 | Total Donations | 10,446.20 | 13 | Total Expenses | 5,990.82 |
| 5 | Beginning Balance | 2,000.31 | | | |
| 6 | Total Income | 12,446.51 | 14 | Balance as of 9/29/23 | 6,455.69 |

Reunion #2 (Cedar Valley Grove) Report

Roger Reid, Director

Reunion #2 Cedar Valley Grove began on Saturday, July 8th and ended on Friday July 14th with approximately 32 campers and around 20 visitors during the week. Financial needs were met by donations and registrations. After all expenses were paid, there was a small amount of nearly \$700 remaining.

I believe the week went well. Participation in activities and help in completing the work that needed to be done was good. I also believe that most would say that it was a good experience.

Our guest minister, Blake Smith, provided excellent ministry throughout the entire week. In addition to this, Blake was very generous with his time and assisted in many of the work responsibilities that were not filled by other volunteers.

One of the main issues during Reunion #2 was the difficulty in finding volunteers to fill the necessary staff positions required. Last minute decisions to open camp were made when several people stepped forward and took additional responsibilities for cooking and medical services so reunion could be held.

We had a few difficulties that we needed to overcome; however, the entire week was in many ways a meaningful week and I believe most of those attending found it to be a good community experience.

Reunion #2 (CVG) Financial Report 2023

July 4-14, 2023 – Prepared by Lyle Brim on behalf of Pam Tisdale, Business Manager

| Line# | INCOME | TOTALS | Line # | EXPENSES | TOTALS |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | Offering Deposited 7/18/23 | 3,603.24 | 7 | Bank Charges | 29.00 |
| 2 | Offering Deposited 8/8/23 | 400.00 | 8 | Food | 2,449.75 |
| 3 | Checking Account Interest (Jan-Aug) | 0.72 | 9 | Guest Ministry | 53.72 |
| | | | 10 | Supplies & Miscellaneous | 150.00 |
| | | | 11 | Youth/Adult Activities | 62.00 |
| 4 | Total Donations | 4,003.96 | 12 | Total Expenses | 2,540.75 |
| 5 | Balance as of 12/30/22 | 1,156.49 | 13 | Surplus to CVG | 1,414.00 |
| 6 | Total Income | 5,160.45 | 14 | Balance as of 9/29/23 | 1,205.70 |