

Community of Christ

CEDAR VALLEY-NAUVOO MISSION CENTER

May 1, 2026

Dear members and friends of the Cedar Valley-Nauvoo Mission Center,

The Cedar Valley–Nauvoo Mission Center Leadership Team has spent many months in prayerful discernment, seeking God’s will in identifying leadership for the future. Through this process, we sensed the Holy Spirit affirming that a shared leadership model would be essential in bringing together the diverse gifts, experience, spiritual depth, wisdom, ministerial insight, and capacity needed to faithfully shepherd and lead the mission center. We felt led to invite five individuals to serve together: three on a Mission Center President Team and two on a Mission Center Financial Officer Team.

With great joy, we share that the following individuals have responded “yes” to this call. Their appointments, effective January 1, 2027, will be presented for sustaining vote at the Cedar Valley–Nauvoo Mission Center Conference, October 24–25, 2026, to be held at Camp Nauvoo.

Mission Center President Team

Patrick Fairbrother, Chair

George Barber

Julie Parrott

Mission Center Financial Officer Team

Christine Fairbrother

Cathy Reeves



Patrick Fairbrother is a dedicated disciple and lifelong servant leader in Community of Christ, becoming a member on his 18th birthday. He was ordained to the office of Elder in October 2011 and has since shared his gifts in a variety of leadership roles, including pastor, counselor, Congregational Financial Officer, in the Galesburg congregation, and Community Leader for the mission center.

Patrick and his wife, Christine, have shared 52 years of marriage and are the proud parents of two sons, Matthew (Hilary) and Sean

(Michelle), and grandparents to five granddaughters: Lily, Holly, Emily, Elly, and Bryn. His professional life reflects a strong commitment to service and excellence. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Economics from Grand Valley State University and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Michigan State University College of Veterinary Medicine. Patrick owned and operated a mixed animal veterinary practice for 40 years before retiring.

In addition to his clinical work, Patrick contributed significantly to the veterinary profession, serving seven years on the Illinois State Veterinary Board and 14 years on the Mississippi Valley Veterinary Medical Association. He brings to his ministry a wealth of leadership experience, a heart for community, and a lifelong commitment to faithful service.



George Barber brings a lifetime of experience, service, and global perspective to his ministry in Community of Christ. Following his service in the military and a long career with John Deere in Moline, George retired more than 20 years ago. His work and travels have given him a broad understanding of the world and the diverse challenges facing the church today.

Over more than 40 years of ministry, George has served in a wide range of leadership roles, including pastor, district president, mission center president, counselor to the pastor, and as a source of spiritual support for regional staff. His depth of experience and steady leadership have been a blessing across many contexts. George currently serves in the office of Elder.

George carries a deep commitment to the church's mission, grounded in the call to share God's love in meaningful and practical ways. He looks forward to continuing to serve the people of the Cedar Valley–Nauvoo Mission Center with humility, wisdom, and a heart for compassionate ministry.



St. Joseph, Missouri native **Julie Parrott** grew up in a faithful family and was baptized at Camp Farwesta after her family settled in Stewartsville. Her early years were shaped by a deep love of church life, especially through camping ministries and congregational involvement. These formative experiences nurtured her lifelong passion for public ministry in music, leading campfires, and participating in or planning worship experiences. Julie attended Graceland University before earning a Bachelor of Science in Dietetics from the University of Central Missouri, where she was actively involved in campus ministry. She and her

husband, Mark, met at Graceland and will celebrate 46 years of marriage this summer. They are the proud parents of their son, Jesse.

Julie retired in 2025 after 24 years with Scheels Sporting Goods, where she served as cashier supervisor. In that role, she established an excellent level of customer service on

the sales floor and led the hiring and training of several hundred employees in Cedar Falls and across other corporate locations.

Over nearly 30 years in Cedar Falls, Julie has served faithfully in a variety of congregational roles. She was ordained to the offices of Priest and later Elder, served six years as pastor, and has contributed extensively to worship planning and mission center life. Alongside Mark's ministry as a Community Leader, Julie has traveled widely to connect with congregations across the mission center. She brings a deep love for people, a heart for ministry, and a lifetime of faithful service to her new assignment.



Christine Fairbrother is a lifelong member of the Community of Christ, a third-generation disciple who was baptized at age eight. She has lived a life rooted in faith, family, and service, bringing a steady and compassionate presence to her ministry.

Christine and her husband, Patrick, have shared 52 years of marriage and are the proud parents of two sons, Matthew (Hilary) and Sean (Michelle). Their family has grown to include five beloved granddaughters: Lily, Holly, Emily, Elly, and Bryn. Professionally, Christine earned an associate's degree in claims and spent many years working in claims adjusting. She later partnered with her husband as co-owner of a mixed animal veterinary practice, serving both in leadership and hands-on roles, including veterinary assistant and dog groomer, prior to her retirement. She also contributed her expertise through service on the Auxiliary Board of the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association.

Ordained to the office of Elder on April 13, 2014, Christine has served faithfully in a variety of roles within the church. She has co-served as Congregational Financial Officer in the Galesburg congregation and has been an active member of the Disciples' Generous Response Team. Christine brings a spirit of generosity, practical wisdom, and deep devotion to her continuing ministry and new assignment.



Cathy Reeves has been a faithful member of the Community of Christ since the age of 10, when she began attending the Davenport congregation, now known as Quad City Connection. Over the years, she has offered steady, dedicated service, particularly through her long-standing role as Congregational Financial Officer, a responsibility she has carried for many years in her local congregation and, more recently, for the Cedar Valley Grove Campgrounds.

Cathy is married to Dennis Reeves and is part of a large and loving family that includes three children, two stepsons, and 11 grandchildren. She serves in the office of Elder and brings a deep sense of commitment,

reliability, and care to her ministry. Professionally, Cathy retired from Hy-Vee after 27 years as a department manager, where she developed strong leadership and organizational skills that continue to bless her church service.

In retirement, Cathy enjoys staying active and connected through pickleball, bowling, golf, gardening, and cheering on her grandchildren at their many activities. Her faithful presence and years of experience continue to be a meaningful gift to the life of the church and her new ministry assignment.

As we move forward together, we do so with deep trust in God's continuing guidance and with gratitude for the willingness of these leaders to respond to the call. We invite your prayers—for Patrick, George, Julie, Christine, and Cathy—as they prepare to serve, and for our entire mission center as we discern, support, and live into this shared future.

May we continue to be a people formed by Christ's love, united in purpose, and open to the movement of the Spirit among us—growing in community, deepening in discipleship, and faithfully participating in God's mission in our time and place.

In Christ's peace,

Robin Linkhart, MCP chair

Evelyn Dustin, MCP

Denise White, MCFO

Robert Cook, Asst. MCFO

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