

New Expressions



A collection of “additional innovative approaches to coordinating congregational life and supporting groups of disciples and seekers . . . in a changing world.”

(Doctrine & Covenants 165:1f)



Community of Christ

Explanation

Guidance found in the Doctrine and Covenants as well as a variety of sociological trends challenge us as disciples of Jesus Christ to look for new ways of expressing mission. The Apostle Paul wrote, “I have become all things to all people that by all means I might save some.” He did not mean he was all things at all times. He indicated that when he was with specific groups of people he learned how to communicate with them and “walk” with them in their cultural contexts.

This resource is a collection of new or different ways of “doing church” that may help individuals and groups in using “all means” to pursue the mission of Jesus Christ and live out his gospel. Some of the examples have been implemented and information about them has been submitted by individuals involved in the ministry. Some are examples contained in books and articles which will need to be accessed. Still others are ideas waiting to happen. Because ideas and resulting expressions can spring up at any time, this resource will always be a work in progress. New examples and ideas will be added any time they are heard or seen. If you are pursuing a new expression that is not included in this collection, please contact John Wight at jwight@cofchrist.org to request a report form so it can be added.

May you be richly blessed as you look for new opportunities that “abound in your daily lives,” as we have been told in the Doctrine and Covenants.

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I. New Expressions which have been implemented

(Please click on the name to see a more detailed report.)

[Arts and Faith Convergence](#) - A combination church and arts center, bringing artists who do not normally attend a “traditional” service together to work on artistic projects.

[Beyond the Horizon](#) – Our mission is to form meaningful relationships through authentic worship experiences that call us outward to transform the world. O

[Blue Water Congregation](#) – A congregation meeting quarterly at a campground.

[Bridges](#) – A ministry aimed at “bridging” the generations by sharing weekly in a meal, campfire songs, and various activities.

[Community Organizing for Social Justice](#) – A Michigan Mission initiative in which Community of Christ is engaged in faith-based community organizing for social justice, in partnership with Action of Greater Lansing and its member congregations and organizations.

[Crafts and Arts Camp](#) – Sort of a Bible Camp.

[Detroit Hope](#) – An emerging congregation providing Sunday worship experiences, Wednesday pizza church, after school tutoring, computer classes, Bible study, bi-weekly Forgotten Harvest food distribution, and summer peacemaker camp for four weeks in July.

[Faithweavers](#) – A weekly youth ministry for preschool (4 yr) to senior high that includes a small meal, music, crafts, lesson, and games.

[Followers of the Way](#) - We strive to follow the way of the Gospel as Jesus gave it to us. We planned to have Wednesday evening online meetings and a once a month sacrament lunch. O

[Geek Evangelism](#) – This ministry provides free computer repair and opportunities to invite people to Christ.

[Gospel Music Group](#) -- Meeting in fellowship building two nights a week to play gospel music.

[Health Lifestyles Group](#) - Monthly meeting at the church. Meeting starts with food. Each attendee is asked to bring a raw, vegan dish to share. A guest speaker/facilitator offers information about an aspect of healthy living including a presentation and conversation.

[Helping Hands](#) – Twice monthly clothing giveaway. After “shopping”, people are invited to the Fellowship Hall for coffee, juice and a sweet. The Sanctuary is open as a place to rest and pray while soft music is played.

[Hot Dog Wednesday](#) - Weekly community gathering offering free hot dogs, chips, drinks, and apples. A craft or activity for youth is offered most weeks and live music is also performed on many occasions.

[Imagine and Create](#) - Arts and Music Camp offering twelve different classes plus group singing and snacks.

[Interfaith Hospital Networks](#) - On a rotating basis, congregations host homeless families a week at a time.

[JOY](#) - A young adult family or couple or single person were “adopted” for three months. Teams would do something kind for the family. 0

[The Listening Table](#) - The purpose of this ministry is to simply listen to the visitors to the Table and to build relationships for the future. 0

[Ministry to Care Facilities](#) – Pastors offer online worship service ministry to care facilities in their communities. Options are LHMC weekly Sunday worship; congregation’s worship service streamed; a ministry specifically designed for the care facility (e.g. Bible studies), etc.

[Morning Coffee](#)—Coffee group for community men. We started with four men and slowly grew to six and as many as nine. 0

[New Life, New Entry](#) - The congregation invites the homeless, those in addiction or recovery from addiction, those who have struggled with incarceration. We invite those who don't feel comfortable in a traditional church.

[New Life Outside the Walls](#) – A nonprofit Community Development organization formed by a congregation to address needs in the surrounding neighborhood. The ministry launched a café, a bike repair and coffee shop, a 16-unit Apartment building, and a storefront that has been converted into the Living Room, a gathering space for health clinics and civic meetings.

[Oakland Peace Center](#) – A ministry started by a congregation which had dwindled to 6 active members. It involves 42 non-profit organizations. Twelve rent space, while 30 more affiliate with the center out of a sense of shared vision.

[Pizza Church](#) – There are many examples of “Pizza Church” scattered across the United States. This is just one example of such ministry.

[Reimagine](#) – A faith-based, non-profit organization built to explore how the details of Jesus’ life are made manifest in our daily living. These faithful explorations are intended to inform how we eat, how we enter into relationships as a whole person, how we engage our sexual selves in relationship, how we relate to money, etc. (See chapter eight of [“Beyond Resistance”](#) by John Dorhauer.)

[Second Wednesday Celebration](#) – A worship for people with or without disabilities. The people with disabilities were in charge. 0

[Share and Prayer](#) – An online ministry involving chats on a topic selected by those in attendance the week prior with prayers at the close of the hour. 0

[Tent Community Series](#) – Annual Community Tent Series planned and carried out by a coalition of various denominations to bring the Community together.

The Emergent Desert – Home-based ministry reaching out to individuals whose spirits have been battered and abused by the condemnation they experienced in some traditional churches. (See chapter ten of [“Beyond Resistance”](#) by John Dorhauer.) 0

The Mount – A bunch of young people who want to engage in mission, but they don’t have the will, desire or capacity to tithe. Supported by a traditional congregation, The Mount focuses on postmodern approaches to worship and promotes an expectation that participants will go and take some kind of action as a result of their experience together. When they gather again, they report on that action. (See chapter nine of [“Beyond Resistance”](#) by John Dorhauer.)

[The Spread](#) – A monthly meal started by young adults to promote healthy eating and cross-community fellowship.

[Virtual/Online Ministries](#) – There are a variety of new expressions which are being done online. 0

[Weekday Prayer for Peace](#) – At 1p.m., Monday-Friday, a Zoom link takes participant to the site where information about the country of focus is shared. They are then invited to volunteer to read the scripture(s) and prayer(s) found on the Daily Prayer for Peace website. 0

[WIN Workshops \(Welcoming/Hospitality, Invitation, Networking\)](#) - A series of four workshops, spaced three-four weeks apart that are focused on missional practices of 1) welcoming/hospitality, 2) invitation, 3) networking, 4) summary of all practices with a plan for moving forward in implementing them.

[The Worth of All](#) - Group focused on creating awareness and taking action to address issues of injustice.

[Zoomobile](#) - In collaboration with nearby zoo, The Zoomobile provides opportunities for guests to interact with a variety of animals and types of animals as part of the educational program.

II. Detailed information about above New Expressions

The following reports were submitted by individuals involved in the new expression. The reports include contact information for individual whom individuals may contact for additional information.

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Arts and Faith-Convergence –Alexandria, Virginia

Mission Center:

Contact Person(s):	1.Rev Lisa Cole Smith	2.	3.
Contact Information Cell Phone: Home Phone: Email:			

Description of Ministry: Convergence is a combination church and arts center, bringing artists who do not normally attend a “traditional “ service together to work on artistic projects. Because musicians and other performers routinely work on Saturday nights, a core group of about 40 people gather on Sundays at 5 p.m. The 1st & 3rd Sundays are reserved for creative Bible study, 2nd Sundays feature a contemplative Taize service, and 4th Sundays has a celebratory potluck dinner. Roughly 200 people visit Convergence each week to take a class, view an exhibit, enjoy a play, or hear a live band

When the Ministry was started: About 10 years ago

Who is being reached: Artistic persons who normally do not attend a “traditional” service

Average number of participants: 200

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):The article can be found in “Divergent Church: The Bright Promise of Alternative Faith Communities” by Tim Shapiro and Karen Faris of the Center for Congregations in Indianapolis.

Challenges encountered: It started as a struggling Baptist congregation. It was founded as a restart to encompass visual arts, dance, music, poetry and theatre, and now is both a church and a community arts center

Blessings experienced:

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:

Budget:The Church provides affordable practice, performance and studio space for musicians, Dancers, drama troupes and visual artists of all kinds.

Please return this form to John Wight at
jwight@cofchrist.org or 1001 W. Walnut, Independence, MO 64050

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New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Beyond the Horizon

Mission Center: Michigan USA Mission Center

Contact Person(s):	1. Linda Stanbridge	2.	3.
Contact Information	(810)404-2426		
Cell Phone:			
Home Phone:			
Email:			

Description of Ministry: Beyond the Horizon takes it's name from Doctrine and Covenants 161. Our mission is to form meaningful relationships through authentic worship experiences that call us outward to transform the world. We will meet monthly for full worship and regularly between worships for meditation, coffee and fellowship. We are discerning a mission where we can participate in bringing the Enduring Principles to life for our community.

When the Ministry was started: 12/16/2018

Who is being reached: Crosswell/Lexington and Fort Gratiot communities.

Average number of participants: First full worship was held on 1/8/2019 with 14 individuals attending

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)): Linda Stanbridge is lead but planning and facilitating will rotate between active participants.

Challenges encountered: Discerning local mission is incredibly important to the group but also a challenge.

We want to participate in a way that is authentic and transformative, to bring forth social justice and help create wholesome communities. Due to the newness of this ministry and relatively limited similar expressions, this part is not yet fully developed.

Blessings experienced: At our first full gathering we experienced a spirit of welcome and began the process of building a community based on vulnerable relationships. We had a wonderful meal and lively discussion as well as creating peace flags for world conference. We were blessed to have participants from age 1 – 60.

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups: None at this time

Budget: To be determined but I need to receive clarification at some point regarding options.

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New Missional Expressions

Name of Ministry: Blue Water Congregation

Contact Person(s):	1. Rich Allen, Pastor	2. Linda Stanbridge, CFO	3. Adam Bouverette, MCP Team
Contact Information (cell Phone/email/home #):	(517) 706-0226 RichAllen80@hotmail.com	(810) 404-2426 lindajflint@gmail.com	(517) 214-8029 adam@cofchristmi.org

Description of Ministry: This congregation plans to meet quarterly for weekend retreats at the Blue Water Campground. They are hoping to engage with former campers and camp staff who no longer participate in a local faith community. The idea is similar to the Guthrie Grove expression.

When the Ministry was started: 2016 – First congregation conference held in January to sustain officers. First retreat at Blue Water scheduled for April 22-24

Who is being reached: Former campers and inactive Community of Christ members & families with previous involvement in camping programs.

Average number of participants: unknown

Ministry Leadership names, if different from contact person(s):

Challenges encountered: TBD

Blessings experienced: TBD

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups: Participants will be encouraged to participate in local congregations and connect geographically in “wave groups” for support between weekend retreats.

Budget: Donations will be requested to cover the cost of the weekend retreat.

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Community Organizing for Social Justice. In 2019 we have created a Community of Christ Social Justice Team as part of our wider involvement

Mission Center: Michigan Mission Center. Other mission centers are directly involved in community organizing, including Central USA Mission Center, Justice and Peace Action Team. Congregations : East Lansing, Capital Area Center, and East Lansing are formal members.

Contact Person(s):	1. Glenn Ashley 1319 W. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48915	2. Dan Nowiski	3. Eric Gernaat
Contact Information			
Cell Phone:		989-506-1843	517.648.6592
Home Phone:	517.614.3032		
Email:	seventygra@gmail.com	dnowiski@cofchrist.org	gernaate@hotmail.com

Description of Ministry: The Community of Christ is engaged in faith-based community organizing for social justice, in partnership with Action of Greater Lansing and its member congregations and organizations. Our participation in Action gives us numerous avenues to engage in justice and peace in our community. Community of Christ Mission Initiatives and Enduring Principles are directly reflected in Action vision, values and mission.

The vision of Action is the realization of a beloved community that is inclusive, equitable, and just. The value statement is: Action honors the dignity of all human life and the right to thrive in a just and equitable society regardless of race, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, citizenship, or religious belief; and pursues such beliefs through nonviolent direct action. Mission : Action exists to organize and build power with communities against systems of marginalization and oppression; we hold these systems and their leaders accountable for the just, fair, and equitable delivery of goods and services.

We have become engaged in Leadership, Criminal Justice Reform, Civil Rights for immigrants, Access and inclusion for people with disabilities, Early Childhood Development, Gun Violence Prevention, Voter Engagement, Children’s Health Equity and Access, legislative and political education.

We have organized a Community of Christ Social Justice Team that is engaged with Action and the Meta Peace Team bystander intervention work.

When the Ministry was started: Action of Greater Lansing was incorporated in 2007. Community of Christ members became involved in 2011, and congregations joined starting in 2014. The Michigan Mission Center created a Community of Christ Social Justice Team in 2019 to focus our work together.

Who is being reached: Community of Christ members, people who are connecting with our congregations, and other people who want to make their community more just and fair to people, especially people who are historically oppressed.

Community of Christ is connecting with people of other faiths, including the Islamic Society of Greater Lansing, Baha'1, and Buddhist. One leader in Action recently decided to attend Community of Christ as often as possible.

Average number of participants: This is hard to quantify. This includes 7 Community of Christ people who frequently participate in Action, about 20-25 who often participate at events. We facilitate participation by 5 people by providing transportation. We have 20 people who are part of the Community of Christ Social Justice Team.

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)): Elder Dana Watt, Secretary of the Social Justice Team .

Contact Information for Community Organizing Beyond Michigan:

Jim Resch with the Justice and Peace Action Team, Kansas City, which is part of the Central Mission Center. Email: jimresch@ centralmission.org

Jim Hannah is also involved.

Challenges encountered: Action of Greater Lansing.

Currently, the largest challenge for Action is financial stability. We are seeking for funding to replace the \$50,000 grant that has been the biggest source of funds for the past 6 years. We have reached the maximum number of years we can receive it.

Two new grants of \$25,000 have been applied for, and another grant for \$20,000 has been approved. We are more aggressively pursuing corporate donations and a new individual donors campaign. The Dues structure has been changed, asking for greater donations from member organizations and churches. In addition, we're seeing increased event income the past couple of years.

Challenges: Community of Christ Social Justice Team:

Because the team has recently started, we are facing start-up issues such as increasing participation in community organizing activities and number of people attending the coordinating meetings. We're also exploring how to determine the frequency of meeting. The will be variable in the beginning, depending on the specific activities.

Blessings experienced:

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups: How it Was Developed

Community of Christ engagement in Action started because one Seventy became engaged, who witnessed to other people about the opportunities that participation offered, who in turn caught the vision. This led to several congregations joining Action, and a number of people participating in Action events, rallies at the Capitol, press conferences, Task Forces and leadership. We hosted a Clergy Caucus, using Community of Christ Sings. This led to providing a choir to sing at public assembly attended by over 500 people. We recently held a Social Justice Music Fest which included community people.

Most recently, we started a Community of Christ Social Justice Team. It was initiated by sending an e mail to people who attended the Music Fest, and setting up initial meetings. The Team is now actively involved with the Meta Peace Team, and the Civil Rights for immigrants Task Force.

Budget: The current budget of Action of Greater Lansing is \$99,000. Event income last year was \$21,600. Grants were \$59,000. Donations and membership dues were \$7,600.

Community of Christ congregations pay \$500 in dues, and \$1000 annually for the Martin Luther King Breakfast. Individual members donate about \$2000.

Initial Budget for the team is \$700. All staff are volunteers, and the minimal operating costs are covered by the project leaders. Training activities are funded by team members and the Mission Center Disciple Development Fund.

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jwight@cofchrist.org or 1001 W. Walnut, Independence, MO 64050

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Crafts and Arts Camp-Jennifer Stabno

Mission Center: Central

Contact Person(s):

1. Jennifer Stabno

2.

3.

Contact Information

Cell Phone:

Home Phone:

Email:

Description of Ministry: Sort of a Bible Camp

When the Ministry was started: 2014

Who is being reached: Kids Under 12 years old

Average number of participants: 80 kids plus adults who help

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):

Challenges encountered:

Blessings experienced:

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:

Budget: Freely

New Missional Expressions

Name of Ministry: Detroit Hope

Contact Person(s):	1. Dan Nowiski, MCP Team	2.	3.
Contact Information (cell Phone/email/home #):	(989) 506-1843 dnowiski@cofchrist.org		

Description of Ministry: An emerging congregation in the Brightmoor Neighborhood of Detroit, MI.

When the Ministry was started: About 2005 this emerging congregation was planted in the building occupied by a former Community of Christ congregation.

Who is being reached: Brightmoor community members, primarily youth & young adults. This region is severely economically depressed and concerns such as drug use, abandoned property, crime, gangs, etc. are prevalent in the area.

Average number of participants: Roughly 20 participate in Sunday worship experiences, 35 participate in Wednesday pizza church, 5-10 participate in after school tutoring, computer classes, bible study, etc. Hundreds participate in the Forgotten Harvest food distribution bi-weekly. About 50 youth attend summer peacemaker camp for four weeks in July.

Ministry Leadership names, if different from contact person(s):

Challenges encountered: Mentoring and developing new leaders. Burnout of volunteers from other areas. Ongoing costs of building repairs and maintenance. Moving from transactional to transformational focus of ministry. Sustainable funding sources. Connecting people from diverse backgrounds to materials produced by Community of Christ. Identity, message, beliefs, and structure that differ from predominately black churches in the area. Educating potential volunteers on the culture of poverty and differences in values and language. Finding quality role models, mentors, and volunteers for programs and relationship building.

Blessings experienced: Generous sharing of sacraments including multiple baptisms and confirmations. Development of local individuals into leadership and priesthood roles. Long term relationships built with community members. Connection with local youth to provide positive examples and safe space for growing. Opportunities to host community events and work with local leaders on justice initiatives.

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups: Close partnership with Community Outreach Services Corporation which operates meals on wheels for several areas and maintains a high-rise housing facility for seniors and persons with disabilities on property adjacent to the church. Participation in the Brightmoor Alliance and local ecumenical group. Collaboration with Voices for Earth Justice to manage community gardens on two church owned city lots. Relationships with Detroit Police, City Council Members, Meijer Corporation, and other groups that host informational and discussion meetings on site. Trying to launch with the Open Table model.

Budget: World Ministries Budget allocations have supported a full-time church planter for the congregation for over 10 years. A small amount is also provided for a part-time urban minister. Allocations from the Michigan Mission Center support the annual programming costs (\$13,600 for 2016) and a portion of the part-time urban minister position. A fund established by the former stake and mission center encompassing Detroit provides money for facility costs (\$20,000 budgeted for 2016). Local contributions also support the budget.

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New Missional Expressions

Name of Ministry: Faithweavers

Contact Person(s):	1.Laura Kendrick	2. Bill McDonald	3.Jim Trinkle
Contact Information (cell Phone/email/home #):	641-891-7870	641-842-3687	641-891-1200 jtrinkle@iowatelecom.net

Description of Ministry:
Youth Ministry for preschool (4 yr) to sr. high. A weekly program from 6:00- 7:30 that includes a small meal, music, crafts, lesson, games. We put on a Christmas program on a weeknight so that parents that attend other churches can come and others feel more welcome.

When the Ministry was started: Approximately 10 years ago. As we looked for new outreach, it was pointed out that most young parents both work and would like/need an evening without children to be together to do what they want. We could provide this time. We started with four kids, but grew each “semester” to our current level of around 40.

Who is being reached: Children in the city of Knoxville, IA and surrounding community, and through them, parents. Some of the children go to other churches, but many have no active church. This is a weekly week-night program.

Average number of participants: 35-40

Ministry Leadership names, if different from contact person(s): Cindy Nielsen, Marci Ruff, Jon Swanson, Annette Trinkle

Challenges encountered: Finding enough volunteers to provide a meal, crafts, lessons, music, games, etc. Many of the children have never been in church and helping them learn appropriate ways to communicate while having fun and learning. Providing activities help them after spending all day in school helps them.

Blessings experienced: Meeting new children and families, seeing the children grow and mature, seeing the congregation become invitational and missional, community recognition, baptisms (both children and adults), Non-member participation in services. Seeing children inviting their friends.

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups: Our main partnership is with the LHMC by taking children to their activities and paying for kids to go to camps and reunion. We also have some fund-raising activities involving the children which we give to a non-profit in town, i.e.humane society or Helping Hands

Budget: although we have a line item in the budget of \$500, but we seldom use it. Most of the food, craft, etc, is provided by donations of members and parents.

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Geek Evangelism

Mission Center:

Contact Person(s):	1. John Wight	2.	3.
Contact Information Cell Phone: Home Phone: Email:	816-668-8551 jwight@cofChrist.org		

Description of Ministry: This started with one man who was addicted to smoking and a crystal meth addiction asking God for help. At the cigarette machine he heard a voice say “You’re not going to be needing those anymore” He was then led to help a co-worker fix his home computer. While at that home he was led to tell the co-worker about Jesus. This then led to the man and his girlfriend advertising his service in the church bulletin and then going to responder’s homes to fix their computers and tell people about Jesus and pray . The response was so great it led to finding space in the church, picking a regular time and let people come to them. This in turn led to finding old computers, fixing them and then donating them to refugees. As a result they have been able to send computers to a classroom in Chile, a computer lab in a prison in Capetown, South Africa, and to Cuba

When the Ministry was started: 10 year ago

Who is being reached: Those who do not normally attend a brick and mortar church

Average number of participants: Unknown

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):

Challenges encountered: Continued growth

Blessings experienced: The ability to teach about Jesus and God to those who do not normally attend a brick and mortar church.

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups: One woman who ran a ministry to refugees gave a new added purpose to the Geeks’ ministry as she asked for computers to be donated to refugees.

Budget: The computer Geeks put out donation jars and people responded

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Clothing Giveaway-Helping Hands-Moline, IL Congregation

Mission Center:

Contact Person(s):	1. Beverly Lindburg	2.	3.
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Contact Information	309-764-5320		
Cell Phone:			
Home Phone:			
Email:	blindburg70@gmail.com		

Description of Ministry: A 2007 apartment complex fire left many homeless & without clothing. A Call to the community led to such a large response from the Quad-Cities community that by 2008 They had expanded to a once monthly clothing giveaway held on the first Thursday morning of every month. A few years later, Pam Tisdale, seeing a need for a weekend giveaway, established a giveaway on the third Saturday of every month. Once shopping is done, people are invited to the Fellowship Hall, where coffee, juice and a sweet are offered. The Sanctuary is open as a place to rest and pray, While soft music is played by Charlotte Smiddy. Niomia Lindburg mans the kitchen, while her Husband Paul helps shoppers get their bags up the stairs. Chris McQuitty and Arlene Rundle man The clothing racks, while Shirley Gerstel and Bette Erdmann work in the sorting room.

When the Ministry was started: 2007

Who is being reached: Needy people from the community

Average number of participants: 70 to 100 people each month. Helping Hands served 1,548 in 2017, and well over 1,000 in the 1st months of 2018

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)): Pam Tisdale

Challenges encountered:

Blessings experienced: They have never run out of clothes . The community, knowing the clothes are given away without cost, has been very supportive

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:

Budget: Clothes are donated by the community, and there was no mention of how the cost of the refreshments are covered.

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New Missional Expressions

Name of Ministry: Hot Dog Wednesday

Contact Person(s):	1. Jim Reed, CFO	2. Harold Hough, Pastor	3. Kirstin Cole, Youth Leader
Contact Information (cell Phone/email/home #):	(517) 393-2985 jreedjr@comcast.net	(517) 484-2018 haroldehough@att.net	(517) 899-7718 kirstin_cole@hotmail.com

Description of Ministry: Weekly community gathering offering free hot dogs, chips, drinks, and apples. A craft or activity for youth is offered most weeks, and live music is also performed on many occasions. Local leaders and groups sometimes host display tables or offer services that are free. Day old bread from local stores is sometimes brought by community members for free distribution.

When the Ministry was started: Summer 2012

Who is being reached: Neighbors in the area of the building including youth, seniors, and persons with disabilities.

Average number of participants: About 100-150 attend each week

Ministry Leadership names, if different from contact person(s):

Challenges encountered: Limited space for activities. Some difficult behaviors and personalities are encountered at times. Finding reliable people to serve food and clean the building. Discovering how to integrate community members with congregational life. Mentoring new program leaders. Integrating opportunities for faith sharing, prayer, sacraments, and deeper conversations into the time together.

Blessings experienced: Relationships have been built with hundreds of people who feel safe asking for help and talking to one another as neighbors. Some community members, including several youth, have begun participating in other congregation activities and are considering confirmation. A few leaders have emerged with potential to operate the Wednesday event. Congregation members have become more aware of a variety of local needs. People feel safer within the church building and in the neighborhood. A new cultural of experimentation seems to exist in the congregation.

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups: Nothing formal, but elected officials, health department leaders, community organizers, and others are often present for networking and relationship building. An assisted living facility for people with disabilities in the area does regularly bring clients and contribute financially.

Budget: Roughly \$8,000 annually

New Expression of Ministry			
Good Shepherd			
Name of Ministry: Imagine and Create			
Mission Center: Central			
Contact Person(s):	1. Jennifer Stabno	2.	3.
Contact Information Cell Phone: Home Phone: Email:			
Description of Ministry: I direct and Arts and Music Camp at Good Shepherd. Twelve different Classes can be selected, but only three can the children take, plus group singing and snacks for four mornings, 9-12 noon. We also have a pre art session at 8:30 a.m.			
When the Ministry was started: 4 years ago-(presently Nov. 2018)			
Who is being reached: This year 95 children registered. About 1/3 came from Non CofC members			
Average number of participants: 74 came with 60 volunteers			
Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)): Mostly CofC members but we do Have other volunteers who are not. We start with Good Shepherd members. This year the youngest Instructor was 13, and the oldest was 86			
Challenges encountered:			
Blessings experienced:			
Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:			
Budget: \$800 from Congregation			

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Interfaith Hospital Networks. Congregation is hosting homeless at the church.
Now called Family Promise

Mission Center: Michigan Mission Center/Coldwater

Contact Person(s):	1.Esther Norton	2.	3.
Contact Information Cell Phone: Home Phone: Email:	Esther Norton 517-278-8859 catsaplent@cbpu.com	156 Pelton Ave. Coldwater, MI 49036	

Description of Ministry: On a rotating basis, congregations host homeless families a week at a time. Churches provide supper, breakfast, and linens overnight shelter. During the day people go to jobs, School, or the Day Center for assistance in finding housing jobs, and addressing other family needs. The Intefaith Network provides the beds, which are moved each week to the next church

When the Ministry was started: 1997. A similar project was written up in the Daily Bread Blog, 7/20/2018, titled Embody and Live, by Gail Ronneberg of Granite Bay, CA, USA

Who is being reached: Homeless families, and friends of the church. The congregation does not Have enough people to provide meals and overnight hosts, so we partner with other churches, Friends, co-workers, etc. to cover those items. The community sees the church in a different way, And we build relationships at new levels.

Average number of participants: Up to 12 homeless people

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s))

Challenges encountered:

Blessings experienced:

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:

Budget:Early funding for the congregation's involvement was a Tangible Love Grant.

New Expression of Ministry

Good Shepherd

Name of Ministry: I started Joy-Join Our Young Adults. It is not going on right now

Mission Center: Central

Contact Person(s):	1.Jennifer Stabno	2.	3.
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Contact Information Cell Phone: Home Phone: Email:			
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Description of Ministry: For 3 months we adopted a young adult family or couple or single person We had teams of 4 to do something kind to the family. One person came on only one time a month To do something good for the family or otherwise three times in three months

When the Ministry was started: 2008-2011

Who is being reached: Young adults that had some connection to our Church

Average number of participants: It depended upon the years. If we had 4 teams, it was 16 People, plus the families

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):

Challenges encountered:I wanted to do this ministry for the Arts Camp this year, but our current Pastors would not allow it. I wanted to do this as a follow up.

Blessings experienced:I did this also a few years to the elderly in Orlando. These people always had a major care giver, mostly a daughter. We just did loving deeds with a card, lunch, visit,etc. One older lady told her daughter “She felt she was never loved so much as during those three months

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:

Budget:None

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: The Listening Table

Mission Center:

South Central States Mission Center Chapel for Peace congregation

Contact Person(s):	1. Bill Carlile	2. Steven Moore	3.
Contact Information			
Cell Phone:	402-517-0222	417-422-0121	
Home Phone:	N/A	N/A	
Email:	carlilevw@gmail.com	miamimpd@yahoo.com	

Description of Ministry:

This ministry is based on a couple of concepts on reaching out into our neighborhoods and the larger Community. Chapel for Peace Outreach Team developed the ministry after having had a workshop entitled The Great Unraveling based on the book titled “Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World” by Alan J Roxburgh. We also took ideas from a book called “The Turquoise Table” by Kristin Schell. The Listening Table ministry is a combination of all the information that was gathered from both books & the workshop learnings.

We began the ministry by placing a turquoise picnic table near the playground in the church yard establishing a physical Listening Table. This ministry takes place every Saturday morning from 10:00 am until noon. Doughnuts and coffee, hot tea & cold water are served. Two team members, that have received training, host The Listening Table each week. Banners are hung on the playground fence with the invitation to the neighbors who live in the apartments that are just west of our church location. The purpose of this ministry is to simply listen to the visitors to the Table and to build relationships for the future. There is no intent to proselytize those who visit but if questions are asked answers will be provided and a warm welcome extended.

When the Ministry was started:

June 8, 2019

Who is being reached:

Neighbors that live around our church in the duplexes and apartments.

Average number of participants:

Including the team members that host on a rotation each week 10-14

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):

Challenges encountered:

Getting the invitation out to the apartments. we are not allowed to put flyers. So, we depend on word of mouth.

Blessings experienced:

Each team member that listens to and enter acts with visitors to the table are blessed.

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:

None at this time

Budget:

\$2300.00 including the table and banners. also, coffee and doughnuts

Please return this form to John Wight at
jwight@cofchrist.org or 1001 W. Walnut, Independence, MO 64050



[Return to List](#)

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: New Life Congregation and New Life Reentry Program

Mission Center: 730 N. Waco where Congregation Meets: 917 N Custer is where program is

Contact Person(s):	1.Laura Broyles	2.	3.
Contact Information Cell Phone: Home Phone: Email:	Laura Broyles 316-807-9420	1128 N. Market Wichita, KS 67214	

Description of Ministry: The congregation invites the homeless, those in addition or recovery from addiction, those who have struggled with incarceration. We invite those who don't feel comfortable in a traditional church. The dress is casual. The service is contemporary with lots of music videos with lyrics projected on wall. The message is short and focused on forgiveness and Discipleship and making a spiritual commitment to Jesus Christ. We are starting a ministry of Collecting and distributing new undergarments for the homeless.

The other ministry which is related to the congregation is a program for homeless women who have a history of incarceration, addiction and/or prostitution. Many attendees of the congregation, who don't have a home church are from this program. They are housed for around 2-5 months in a homelike atmosphere, taught life-skills, encouraged to find jobs and housing, and loved/mentored into becoming successful and dedicated Christians. We also offer Celebrate Recovery (a 12 step program based on the Beatitudes).

When the Ministry was started: Not sure, because we were originally a Hispanic Ministry. About 4 years

Who is being reached: Those struggling with hurts, habits and hang-ups. Those who don't feel comfortable in traditional congregations. Those who are seekers. The bruised and broken-hearted

Average number of participants: 10-20

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):

Challenges encountered:

Blessings experienced:

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:

Budget: Donations from a few members. We spend 100 a month for rent of the facility and 25 a month for the meal together. The reentry program is funded by donations. It's budget is 1500 per Month which pays for utilities and liability insurance, food for the homeless, hygiene. Once the Women work, they pay 1/3 of their income, which pays for part of the monthly expenses.

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Church Finds New Life Outside it's Walls-Minneapolis

Mission Center:

Contact Person(s):	1. John Wight	2.	3.
Contact Information Cell Phone: Home Phone: Email:	John Wight 81 6-668-8551 jwight@CofChrist.org		

Description of Ministry: Redeemer Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, MN had attendance of 35 People in a building in an entire block. They decided they could minister to a distressed Neighborhood of 5000 people when they got a new Pastor. They formed a nonprofit Community Development organization, Redeemer Center for Life, in the Harrison neighborhood of North Minneapolis, and over the years launched a café, a bike repair and coffee shop, a 16-unit Apartment building, a home that houses Lutheran Volunteer Corps, and a storefront that has been Converted into the Living Room, a gathering space for health clinics and civic meetings. They have been responsible for more than \$1 million in economic activity in the neighborhood annually. Some neighborhood residents have plots in the church's community garden, to keep the area from becoming a "food desert". They also emphasize racial justice because of the diverse neighborhood.

When the Ministry was started: 17 years ago

Who is being reached: a neighborhood of 5000

Average number of participants: 90 now attend Sunday services with 250 listed on the rolls. 800 came for a block party

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):Rev. Kelly Chatman

Challenges encountered:

Blessings experienced:

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:

Budget:Partners are health service providers and housing coalitions

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Oakland Peace Center resurrected from Tiny Congregation

Mission Center:

Contact Person(s):	John Wight	2	3.
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Contact Information			
Cell Phone:	816-668-8551		
Home Phone:			
Email:	jwight@CofChrist.org		

Description of Ministry: What started as a hugh First Christian Church, which had dwindled to a tiny congregation of 6, has been transformed into the Oakland Peace Center, which is now responsible for over 86,000 people in the community having greater access to Peace. The Center received a 501©3 status, so now involves 42 non profit organizations. Twelve rent space, while 30 more affiliate with the center out of a sense of shared vision. Where office space rents as high as \$50 a square foot in Oakland, Ca, the center charges in-house partners only \$1 a square foot.

When the Ministry was started: On Martin Luther King weekend in 2012, with 25 peace partners

Who is being reached:

Average number of participants:

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):Rev. Monica Joy Cross, Pastor, and Rev. Sandhya Rani Jha, Executive Director, Oakland Peace Center, Oakland, CA

Challenges encountered:

Blessings experienced:

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups: 42 non profit organizations

Budget:

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Pizza Church

Mission Center: Michigan

Contact Person(s):	1. Dorothy Sommer	2.	3.
Contact Information Cell Phone: Home Phone: Email:	810-569-9986 deedotsky@yahoo.com		

Description of Ministry: 30-40 minute contemporary worship experience (no sermon) exploring enduring principles . Pizza. Game/video game fellowship

When the Ministry was started: Starts October 7, 2018, 1st and 3rd Sunday each month

Who is being reached: Target youth 6th -12th grade

Average number of participants: ? We shall see

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):

Challenges encountered:

Blessings experienced:

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:

Budget: Congregation – Bristolwood and Disciple Development Fund

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: 2nd Wednesday Celebration

Mission Center: Michigan MC/Coldwater, MI congregation

Contact Person(s):	1. Seventy Glenn Ashley	2.	3.
Contact Information Cell Phone: Home Phone: Email:	Glenn Ashley 517-614-3032 seventygra@gmail.com	1319 W.Michigan Ave Lansing, MI 48915	

Description of Ministry: Our 2nd Wed Celebration was a worship for people with or without Disabilities, including people from the congregation. The people with disabilities were in charge They offered the prayers, read the scriptures, and helped select the music. These were not Opportunities they had in their own congregations. They invited their pastors to come as guest Ministers and speak about Heroes of Faith. So their pastors got to see them in action.

When the Ministry was started: 1999

Who is being reached: People with disabilities, and staff who worked with them

Average number of participants: 25

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):

Challenges encountered: The expression ended when one leader moved out of town and the other Died. Working on developing a constituency now to successfully replicate it.

Blessings experienced:

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:Two Ministers, one from the Community of Christ , and one from a Baptist church who worked in a program for people with disabilities saw The need to support spiritual growth of people they served. In consultation with their agency and People with disabilities who atted church designed the strategy.

Budget: Had no budget or funding

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Yearly Tent Community Series

Mission Center: Central Mission

Contact Person(s):	1. Lloyd Hawkins	2. Richard Thompson	3.
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Contact Information Cell Phone: Home Phone: Email:			
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Description of Ministry: Community Tent Series-in Eastern Jackson County-To bring the Community together-CofC, Sibley, Buckner, Osage Hills, Grain Valley Restoration, Heart of God Non-denominational. Each congregation takes a night. 1st night-Gospel group, last night-picnic & Sing. Follow up-we meet for prayer meeting on the 5th Wednesday of the month(when there is a 5th) Alternating between congregations

When the Ministry was started: 4 years ago (would be 2014)

Who is being reached: Community-bringing our common heritage(celebrating our connectedness)

Average number of participants: 50-100

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):From our congregation-Osage Hills-Richard Thompson-Lloyd Hawkins. From Buckner-David Brown

Challenges encountered:

Blessings experienced:

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:

Budget: Heart of God supplies tent at Sibley Orchard. Each congregation supplies snacks on their ministry night.

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: The Spread

Mission Center: Lamoni Heartland

Contact Person(s):	1. Benna Easter	2. Marjie Foster	3.
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Contact Information Cell Phone: Home Phone: Email:			
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Description of Ministry: This is a monthly meal started by young adults in Lamoni to promote healthy eating and cross –community fellowship. It provides contact and stimulates discussion as they share a meal together. A quote from their missional grant proposal. : The gathering of such a diverse group of people and truly promote peace. There are also some who live in poverty that partake in the meal, and this helps eliminate suffering.

When the Ministry was started: 2013 . Although started by the congregation, many of the community now help with preparation and serving.

Who is being reached: Participants in the meal and fellowship include those from the university, all demographics of the community, and some from “The Land” have attended

Average number of participants: They usually average about 100

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):

Challenges encountered:

Blessings experienced:

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:

Budget: Funded by congregation and Community, although they received a missional grant to help with support.

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: WIN Workshops (Welcoming/Hospitality, Invitation, Networking)

Mission Center: Lamoni Heartland Mission Center

Contact Person(s):	1. Lorrie Long	2.	3.
Contact Information	641 442 5160		
Cell Phone:	mvlong@mediacombb.ne		
Home Phone:	t		
Email:			

Description of Ministry: A series of four workshops, spaced three-four weeks apart that are focused on missional practices of 1) welcoming/hospitality, 2) invitation, 3) networking, 4) summary of all practices with a plan for moving forward in implementing them. WIN also includes quarterly reviews for purpose of evaluating progress and introducing changes as needed.

When the Ministry was started: July 2018

Who is being reached: Every congregation in the mission center is encouraged to invite the Invitational Ministries Team to present the workshops in their congregation.

Average number of participants: 12-15/congregation (more in some; fewer in others). As of July 25, 2019, nine out of 20 congregations have completed the series.

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)): The Invitational Ministries Team: Bob Bjorland, Dewey Clark, Scott Ourth, Skyla Mann, Jim Trinkle, Tom McClure, Lorrie Long

Challenges encountered: number of Seventy who have the time/energy to present the workshops.

Blessings experienced: Congregations who are becoming more actively engaged in outreach ministry.

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups: congregations within the Mission Center

Budget: Presenters donate their transportation costs and cost of the thumb drives where content of the workshop slides are saved.

Please return this form to John Wight at
jwight@cofchrist.org or 1001 W. Walnut, Independence, MO 64050

New Missional Expressions

Name of Ministry: The Worth of All

Contact Person(s):	1. Adam Bouverette	2. Dan Nowiski	3. Harold Hough, Pastor
Contact Information (cell Phone/email/home #):	(517) 214-8029 adam@cofchristmi.org	(989) 506-1843 dnowiski@cofchrist.org	(517) 484-2018 haroldehough@att.net

Description of Ministry: Group focused on creating awareness and taking action to address issues of injustice. Throughout the first year of meetings two month segments were devoted to the areas of poverty, racism, environmental deterioration, LGBTQ discrimination, sexism, and injustices against people with disabilities. Current focus is on improving early childhood development and sharing The Raising of America documentary.

When the Ministry was started: 2014

Who is being reached: Congregation and community members with interest in exploring the systemic causes of injustice and working to organize community members for change. Community of Christ members from two congregations are regular participants. Individuals from Red Cedar Friends (Quakers) and Baha'i also participate in meetings and activities.

Average number of participants: 10

Ministry Leadership names, if different from contact person(s):

Challenges encountered: Finding new people willing to commit to action steps. Engaging congregation members in dialogue about justice issues. Maintaining passion and excitement while evaluating and adjusting the ministry model. Determining how to engage larger groups and connect with community members.

Blessings experienced: Growing relationships with a wide variety of faith communities and local activists. A new awareness among congregation members about injustices in the local community. Deeper understanding about the specific causes and manifestations of injustices in the local area. Birth of a Green Team and congregation membership in Michigan Interfaith Power & Light, which has led to energy upgrades and exploration of solar power. Opportunity to organize a Community of Christ choir and sing hymns with a justice focus at the 2014 Nehemiah public assembly organized by Action of Greater Lansing.

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups: The Worth of All is closely connected to Action of Greater Lansing, which is an interfaith community organizing network affiliated with Gamaliel on the state and national levels. Through Action participation in leadership trainings, clergy meetings, task forces, public assemblies, and local initiatives has been organized.

Budget: A \$3000 field block grant was awarded in June 2014. Just over \$1500 of those funds remain at this time.

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Health Lifestyles Group

Mission Center: Michigan Mission Center/Capital Area Center

Contact Person(s):	1. Jeanne Fangboner	2.	3.
Contact Information Cell Phone: Home Phone: Email:	517.505.0619		

Description of Ministry: Monthly meeting on the second Monday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the church. Meeting starts with food. Each attendee is asked to bring a raw, vegan dish to share. A guest Speaker/facilitator offers information about an aspect of healthy living including a presentation and conversation. Recent topics were Nutrition, Preventing Disease, Research on Getting Healthy, Raising Self Esteem (presenter Cubby the Clown) and Natural Marketplace

When the Ministry was started: 2018 Leader Jeanne Fangboner initiated the group at Capitol Congregation in 2018, inviting friends and speakers. She asked the congregation to sponsor and host the group.

Who is being reached: Community members, church members, and people who live in the neighborhood of the church

Average number of participants: 45 (22-70)

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):

Challenges encountered: Securing a variety of presenters. Attendance varies by presenter.

Blessings experienced:

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:

Budget: No cost. Food is potluck. Dishes are washed by hand (no paper products)

Please return this form to John Wight at
jwight@cofchrist.org or 1001 W. Walnut, Independence, MO 64050

**New Expression of Ministry
December 2, 2019**

Name of Ministry: Bridges

Mission Center: Prairie Bluffs

Contact Person(s):	1. Janie Summers	2.	3.
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Contact Information Cell Phone: Home Phone: Email:	jsummers@prairiebluffs.org		
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Description of Ministry: The Wednesday night ministry was called Bridges as we were trying to bridge the generations. We asked all members of the congregation to participate in the activity. We met at 5:30 with a simple dinner that catered to kids, asking the generations to mix with the table of kids. After the dinner the kids and adults joined in the camp fire songs. Of course they really responded to the songs. Then a short scripture based cartoon. Sometimes we had an adult share in the scripture and had questions. The age groups broke into various classes, or craft classes or just games in the gym. This program was shared for 3 school years and started the fourth year. We collapsed for not having enough adults to run the program,. All of us that were involved hated to see that. We have talked about starting it again, but just don't have the volunteers. Such a shame.

When the Ministry was started:

Who is being reached: Kids and Adults of the Congregation

Average number of participants:

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):

Challenges encountered: Not enough volunteers to continue the program

Blessings experienced:

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:

Budget:

Please return this form to John Wight at
jwight@cofchrist.org or 1001 W. Walnut, Independence, MO 64050

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Followers of the Way emerging congregation

Mission Center: Cedar Valley - Nauvoo

Contact Person(s):	1. Deb Batey Pastor	2. Robert Cook CFO	3. Evelyn Dustin Co-MCP
Contact Information	319-750-5065	217-357-3308	660-341-7802
Cell Phone:			
Home Phone:	bateydeb70@gmail.com	rwcook90@gmail.com	djdustin2@gmail.com
Email:			

Description of Ministry: We strive to follow the way of the Gospel as Jesus gave it to us. We planned to have Wednesday evening online meetings and a once a month sacrament lunch. We have no building and we do not meet on Sunday mornings so that we will not be in competition with traditional congregations. We are an emerging congregation due to the needs of some members to have an official congregation home.

While this was not a reaction to the COVID-19, some people have come to us because of the lack of traditional congregations and then have expressed their intent to continue after their Sunday service resume.

When the Ministry was started: 2/2/2020

Who is being reached: People who have not had their needs met in traditional congregations, either by distance or other factors.

Average number of participants: official members are currently 6 but attendance at Wednesday evening online meetings is 20

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):

Challenges encountered: Bitter opposition from a few people throughout the mission center. These folks somehow feel that we have taken something from them.

Blessings experienced: Our regular attenders have become very close. We ask one person each week to be the spotlight person and to tell us about their life. Many say that they are closer to each other than they were after decades in a traditional congregation.

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:

Budget: Our only regular expense is our minimal mission center assessment per member. Without the burden of a building we have been able to do other good things.

Please return this form to John Wight at

jwight@cofchrist.org or 1001 W. Walnut, Independence, MO 64050

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Ministry to Care Facilities

Mission Center: LHMC

Contact Person(s):

1. Lorrie Long

2. Glenn Johnson

3.

Contact Information

Cell Phone: 641 442 5160

515 217 2500

Home Phone:

Email: mvlong@mediacombb.net

gjohnson@cofchrist.org

Description of Ministry: Lamoni Heartland Mission Center (LHMC) pastors offer online worship service ministry to care facilities in their communities. Options are LHMC weekly Sunday worship; congregation's worship service stream; a ministry specifically designed for the care facility (e.g. Bible studies), etc.

When the Ministry was started: Fall, 2020

Who is being reached: residents and staff of care facilities that choose to be involved.

Average number of participants: Not sure

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)): LHMC and LHMC Invitational Ministries Team

Challenges encountered: care facilities with the appropriate equipment (need a Smart TV); care facilities that have already partnered with another organization for providing worship experiences; congregations with appropriate equipment to streamline their own worship services to care facilities

Blessings experienced: sincere appreciation from care facilities who now have an option for worship for their residents since they cannot allow face-to-face ministry from outside the facility. Opportunity for congregations to build relationships with the care facility staff and residents.

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups: care facilities across the state

Budget: None

Please return this form to John Wight at

jwight@cofchrist.org or 1001 W. Walnut, Independence, MO 64050

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New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Weekday Prayer for Peace

Mission Center: LHMC

Contact Person(s):	1. David DeBarthe	2. Glenn Johnson	3.
Contact Information			
Cell Phone:	641 223 0953	515 217 2500	
Home Phone:			
Email:	debarthe@sting.graceland.edu	gjohnson@cofchrist.org	

Description of Ministry: At 1:00 pm, Monday-Friday, a Zoom link takes participant to the site where David DeBarthe identifies on a map and shares information about the country of focus, and then Links to the Daily Prayer for Peace website. He invites participants to volunteer to read the scripture(s) and prayer(s). There is time following the DPP for those in attendance to share together.

When the Ministry was started: January 25, 2021

Who is being reached: anyone who chooses to attend

Average number of participants: So far, four, but expect numbers to increase

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)): LHMC

Challenges encountered: David is learning how to use Zoom and to access information that he wants to share.

Blessings experienced: the ministry of a daily prayer for peace and of sharing it together with local people –church and non-church.

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups: the LHMC and the broader community.

Budget: None

Please return this form to John Wight at

jwight@cofchrist.org or 1001 W. Walnut, Independence, MO 64050

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CURRENT ONLINE MINISTRIES

APRIL 2020

USA Core Team – A World View

Pacific and East Asia Mission Field

Mareva M. Arnaud Tchong

- Australia: "Community Plus" a youth and young adult ministry modeled after Canada's "Community Place" with a focus on keeping the community connections formed in camping ministry alive all year, not just during camps. Weekly online meetings supplement annual week long youth and young adult camps and weekend retreats. These gatherings feature a rotating system of focus and format. We anticipate emerging innovation from this group.
- Hawaii and Sri Lanka: Area members meet online weekly with one another and friends for worship, bible study, and prayer. Format and schedule varies.
- Thailand: Worship online because congregations are not currently established.
- Hawaii: Participate with Canada's "Community Place" ministry.
- French Polynesia connection with France led by Kahealani in Brussels Belgium.

South Central USA Mission Field

David M. Nii

- Oklahoma Mission Center sponsors "Community Space" monthly, an online gathering for worship and formation.
- The Amarillo TX congregation worships with the Yuma CO congregation once or twice a month via videoconferencing and is exploring the possibility of expanding participation with people geographically isolated from a congregation. This ministry has been ongoing for a few years. [Chuck Phillips, phillipschuck4@gmail.com]

During Shut-in

- Oklahoma Mission Center (responsibility rotates to different congregations each week)
- Juan Tabo NM Congregation
- North Pensacola FL Congregation
- Crestview FL Congregation
- Ark-La-Tex Mission Center
- Mesquite TX Congregation
- Willow Creek TX Congregation
- Burleson TX Congregation
- NW Houston TX Congregation
- Bay Area TX Congregation
- (there may be other congregations continuing or starting after their Easter experiences)

Central USA Mission Field

Janne' C. Grover

Central Missouri Mission Center

- Facebook Live – Clinton, Oak Grove (also uploaded to YouTube)
- Discord (a free group chat with audio capabilities) – Young Adult Sunday School; scripture study and testimony sharing

Eurasia Mission Field

Richard C. N. James

- There are three on line ministries happening in the Eurasia Mission field
 - Community Circle a Latter-day Seekers online worship. They meet every two weeks and on the alterative Sundays. They also have a book club. This is a very active group who have arranged an ‘integration event’ with a Retreat in Rome for all seekers in the field.
 - Community Connections led by people from the British isles Mission Centre and meet on alternative Sundays to Community Circle. The focus is both for seekers and for members who do not live near a congregation. Around 15-23 people participating each week.
 - In Spain (in Spanish) we have a weekly on line seeker group who explore what it means to be Community of Christ. This is a very active group, using Zoom and "What's App."
- French speaking with Kahealani Launched in October 2019, first communion in November 2019

North Central USA Mission Field

Robin K. Linkhart

- “Forward with Community” monthly third Monday evening worship to connect Latter-day Seekers geographically separated from Community of Christ congregations and/or navigating social isolation as they investigate Community of Christ secretly.
 - Worship on third Monday of each month @ 7:30 p.m. Mountain Time.
 - "Open Mic" dialogue on first Wednesday of each month @ 6:30 p.m. Mountain Time.
 - Contact: bmangelson@cofchrist.org
- Community Elevated – a monthly young adult online gathering connecting young adults across the Inland West Mission Center.
 - Meet the third Sunday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Pacific Time.

Northeast USA Mission Field

Lachlan Mackay

- Mid-Atlantic Mission Center is sponsoring a monthly “Church Nerds Unite” Zoom based discussion of church related topics.
- "Beyond" features a sermon or talk to be watched at leisure prior to meeting, which will be discussed by online participants.
- Richmond MI congregation streaming Sunday morning service and providing an interactive component through Facebook live/messenger.
- Laurel MD: Sunday morning interactive worship service.
- Hastings MI congregation streaming Sunday morning service and providing an interactive component through Facebook live/messenger.

Western USA Mission Field

Ronald D. Harmon

- Theo Thursday: An on-line community of spiritual seekers, theological pilgrims, and everyday heretics exploring our holy paths together & empowering each other to speak our sacred truth. Sponsored by Walnut Creek Community of Christ.
 - Meets first Thursday of every month, 7 p.m. Pacific Time
 - <https://www.theothursday.com>
- PSIMC began something Fall 2019 – “Holding Space”

Canada, Haiti, Mexico Mission Field

Arthur E. Smith

- Canada: “Community Place” meets the first Wednesday of each month
<https://www.facebook.com/communityplaceplus/>

- Toronto Centre Place: Interactive Sunday morning worship service.
- Mindfulness Meditations offered twice a week Tuesday and Thursday @ 6:30 p.m. Eastern Time.
- History, Philosophy, and Theology Lecture Series: Tuesday night @ 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time.
- Edmonton Alberta congregation streaming Sunday morning service and providing an interactive component through Facebook live/messenger.

Council of Presidents of Seventy

John S. Wight

- Sunday Chat: Ministers from around the world are available to connect every Sunday from 9:00–10:00 p.m. (Central Time USA). Ministers dialogue with participants about faith and introduce Community of Christ to those who are seeking. <https://www.cofchrist.org/sunday-chat>

Links to online expressions of ministry:

- Centre Place Toronto (Sunday worship; Tuesday Lectures; Mindfulness Meditations: <http://www.centreplace.ca>)
- Church Nerdz Unite!: <http://www.cofchristmanc.org/mission-center-calendar/2019/3/11/church-nerdz-unite-mamc-digital-ministry>
- Community Circle: contact Joey Williams (jswilliams@cofchrist.org)
- Community Connections: connections@cofchrist.org.uk
- Community Elevated: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/216016749206178/>
- Community Place+: <https://www.thecommunityplace.ca>
- Community Plus: <https://www.cofchrist.com.au/community-plus>
- Community Space: <https://www.cofchristokmc.org/community-space.html>
- Forward With Community: <http://www.forwardwithcommunity.org>
- Open Mic: <http://www.forwardwithcommunity.org>
- Sunday Chat: <https://www.cofchrist.org/sunday-chat>
- Theo Thursday: <https://www.theothursday.com>

Other uses of technology for worship and community building:

- Hawaii, Fiji, New Zealand, New Caledonia: Connect online with Mission Center Conference gathering.
- Hawaii and Taiwan: Join online for SPEC meetings.
- Two Oklahoma Mission Center congregations occasionally meet online for worship.
- Central Mission Center currently only offers live streaming and video archiving of regular congregation based worship services.
- Arizona Mission Center Thunderbird West congregation is connecting folks to Sunday services via online streaming through laptop.

Post COVID-19 – listed on CofChrist Website

Olathe Community of Christ Podcast

Sundays

Visit their [website](#) for information on how to download and listen.

Gemeinschaft Christi, Verbinde Dich! (Community of Christ Online in German)

Sundays at 3:30 a.m. CDT (10.30 Uhr (Zeit in Berlin))

Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend. Meeting ID: 914 642 098.

Gemeinschaft Christ verbindet sich diese Woche mit einer Osterandacht! Wir werden uns um 10:30 Uhr für eine kurze Andacht treffen und um 11:00 folgt die Übertragung der Osterandacht aus den Vereinigten Staaten, mit Übersetzung ins Deutsch.

Denke auch daran, deine Friedenskerze aufzustellen.

Kommt und seht! Entdeckt die Möglichkeiten, online mit anderen Mitgliedern und Freunden Andacht zu halten.

For more information, please contact: info@cofchrist.eu.

Samen Verbonden! (Community of Christ Online in Dutch)

Sundays at 4:00 a.m. CDT (11.00 Uur (Amsterdam))
Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend. Meeting ID: 451 570 266.

Connect this week online with members and friends from Community of Christ from all over the Netherlands. Come, see, and discover online worship possibilities to connect and worship together. Please [contact](#) for more information.

25-Minute Devotional Reflection

Sundays at 8:30 a.m. (CDT)
Visit their [closed Facebook group](#) to join.

You must be a Facebook user to participate. Hosted by Washington, D.C. Congregation.

Children's Sunday School

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (CDT)
Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend.

Please have arts and crafts (markers, crayons, paper, etc.) supplies readily available. Co-hosted by Eastern Great Lakes USA Mission Center and Mid-Atlantic USA Mission Center.

Adult Sunday School

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (CDT)
Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend online. Meeting ID: 125 198 289. Password: CofC-DC.
Or, call 1 (929) 205-6099. Meeting ID: 125 198 289. Password: 229226.

Hosted by Washington, D.C. Congregation.

Adult Sunday School

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. (CDT)
Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend.

Co-hosted by Eastern Great Lakes USA Mission Center and Mid-Atlantic USA Mission Center.

Eastern Great Lakes USA Mission Center and Mid-Atlantic Lakes USA Mission Center

Sundays at 9:50 a.m. (CDT)
Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend.

Edmonton Community of Christ

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. (CDT)
Visit their [Facebook page](#) for more information.

Laurel Community of Christ

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. (CDT)

Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend online. Meeting ID: 513 439 8717.

Springfield Community of Christ

Sundays at 10:00 a.m. (CDT)

Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend. Meeting ID: 728 406 6377.

Bethel Community of Christ

Sundays at 10:30 a.m. (CDT)

Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend. Meeting ID: 204 886 967.

Effingham Community of Christ

Sundays at 10:30 a.m. (CDT)

Visit their [Facebook page](#) to join.

Amarillo Community of Christ and Yuma Community of Christ

Sundays at 11:00 a.m. (CDT)

Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend. Meeting ID: 395 444 7648.

Clinton Community of Christ

Sundays at 11:00 a.m. (CDT)

Visit their [Facebook page](#) to join.

Gulfport Community of Christ

Sundays at 11:00 a.m. (CDT)

Visit their [Facebook page](#) to join.

Inclusive Church

Sundays at 11:00 a.m. (CDT)

Visit their [Facebook page](#), [YouTube channel](#), or [website](#) for more information and to watch their service.

Hosted by Toronto Community of Christ and Beyond the Walls.

Salt Lake City Community of Christ

Sundays at 11:00 a.m. (CDT)

Visit their [Facebook page](#) for more information.

Shenandoah Community of Christ

Sundays at 11:00 a.m. (CDT)

Visit their [website](#) for the current Zoom link to join.

Greater Pacific Northwest USA Mission Center

Sundays at 12:15 p.m. (CDT)

Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend online, or call 1 (669) 900 6833. Meeting ID: 841 448 115. Password: 043423.

Walnut Creek Community of Christ

Sundays at 1:00 p.m. (CDT)

Visit their [website](#) for more information.

Community Circle

Sundays at 1:00 p.m. (CDT)

Contact [Community Circle](#) for login information.

This online group is a ministry of the Eurasia Field and is mainly composed of members and friends from all over Europe and beyond. They have been meeting online for more than two years and provide a particularly welcoming ministry to seekers. For more information, please [email Community Circle](#).

Community Connections

Sundays at 1:00 p.m. (CDT)

Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend. Meeting ID: 730 082 292. Password: 028082.

Or, call 0330 088 5830 if in the United Kingdom. Meeting ID: 730 082 292. Password: 028082. If outside the UK visit [Zoom](#) to find your local number.

Worship online this week with Community Connections. Our worship is open to all, we welcome members, friends and those seeking a faith-based community from around the world. Our online group is a ministry of the British Isles Mission where we honor the worth of all persons and seek reconciliation, well-being and wholeness for individuals, communities, and the earth. Come and join us!

Community Space

1st Sunday of each month at 7:00 p.m. (CDT)

Visit their [webpage](#) for more information.

Hosted by Oklahoma USA Mission Center. Monthly online gathering, includes worship and formation.

Sunday Chat

Sundays at 9:00 p.m. (CDT)

Visit their [webpage](#) for more information.

Hosted by Presidents of Seventy. Weekly online chat where ministers dialogue with participants about faith and introduce Community of Christ to those who are seeking.

Mondays

Breakfast Club

Mondays at 11:00 a.m. (CDT)

Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend online, or call 1 (669) 900-6833. Meeting ID: 394 543 153. Password: 362864.

Hosted by Greater Pacific Northwest USA Mission Center.

Church Nerdz Unite!

Mondays at 7:00 p.m. (CDT)

Visit their [Facebook group](#) for more information.

Hosted by Mid-Atlantic USA Mission Center. Monthly online gathering, discussing pressing issues within Community of Christ and other religious communities.

Tuesdays

Evening Prayer

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. (CDT)

Visit their [Facebook page](#) or [closed Facebook group](#) to join.

Gatherings last approximately 3-5 minutes. Hosted by the Chesapeake Bay USA Mission Center.

History, Philosophy, and Theology Lecture Series

Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. (CDT)

Visit their [Facebook page](#) for more information.

Hosted by Toronto Community of Christ. Weekly lectures and discussions on history, theology, philosophy, religious studies, comparative religion, neuroscience, and more.

Wednesdays

Mid-Week Connection

Wednesdays at 6 p.m. (CDT)

Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend. Password: 182469.

Hosted by Michigan USA Mission Center.

Online Prayer Service

Wednesdays at 6 p.m. (CDT)

Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend. Meeting ID: 715 401 751.

Hosted by Mid-Atlantic USA Mission Center.

Faith & Formation Series

Wednesdays at 8:45 p.m. (CDT)

Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend online, or call 1 (669) 900-6833. Meeting ID: 119 087 405. Password: 508636.

Hosted by Greater Pacific Northwest USA Mission Center.

Thursdays

Breakfast Club

Thursdays at 11:00 a.m. (CDT)

Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend online, or call 1 (669) 900-6833. Meeting ID: 394 543 153. Password: 362864.

Hosted by Greater Pacific Northwest USA Mission Center.

Sanctuary Online (Grades 9-12)

Thursdays at 6:00 p.m. (CDT)

For safety, contact the [Michigan USA Mission Center](#) for login information.

This gathering is for students in grades 9-12. Hosted by Michigan USA Mission Center.

Saturdays

Breakfast Club

Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. (CDT)

Click on this [Zoom link](#) to attend online, or call 1 (669) 900-6833. Meeting ID: 394 543 153. Password: 362864.

Hosted by Greater Pacific Northwest USA Mission Center.

Central USA Mission Field—Online Ministries

*new as a result of Covid-19

Central Missouri Mission Center

- ZOOM worships (live) – Odessa*, Harrisonville*
- ZOOM worship (recorded) – Sedalia*
- ZOOM youth activities – Clinton*
- ZOOM pre-baptismal class – Clinton*
- ZOOM Sharing and Praying (live) – Mission Center*

Central USA Mission Center

- Recorded services are shared on the CMC webpage*
- Mission center youth activities
 - Zoom Bible study—Mondays at 4:00*
 - Zoom HS youth gatherings—Tuesdays at 4:00*
 - Zoom MS youth gatherings—Thursdays at 4:00*
 - Elevate—two Wednesdays a month at 7:00 (via Zoom*)
 - Zoom fun with friends on non-Elevate Wednesdays*
- Mission center providing online communion worship services for April and May—participants meet live via Zoom, and service is live streamed through Facebook Live and CMC website and FB.*
- Colbern Road congregation—Sunday morning Zoom worship at 9:00*
- Colonial Hills congregation provided live streaming Sunday worship services prior to Covid-19
 - Currently providing a prerecorded service each week on YouTube.*
 - Planning to start Zoom Sunday school and book study.*
- Cornerstone congregation
 - Zoom worship Sundays at 10:30; adult Sunday school at 8:45*
 - Zoom Going Deeper discussion group at 6:30*
- East 39th Street congregation—communications through website
- Good Shepherd congregation
 - Zoomers for Jesus—online ministry with children and friends of GS*
 - Zoom—Wednesday evening chats, scripture lesson, object lesson, and prayer time*
- **Grandview congregation—24/7 Google Meets for face-to-face interaction***
- Gudgeon Park congregation—
 - Zoom Sunday school class*
 - Zoom Women's breakfast club (soon a men's breakfast club)*
 - Posting sermons online

- Lee's Summit congregation—prerecorded services delivered on YouTube and FB Live. Each week a different family prepares and records the service (includes prayer for peace, thoughts on the focus text, DGR)*
- Liberty Street congregation
 - Prerecorded Sunday morning worship posted on YouTube and FB*
 - Zoom Sunday evening youth Sunday school*
- Mission Road congregation—Zoom prayer service on Wednesdays, Sunday worship, social gatherings*
- New Hope congregation
 - Zoom prayer service on Wednesdays*
 - Weekly prerecorded sermons shared from a Google drive*
- New Walnut Park congregation—3 Zoom prayer meetings on Wednesdays*
- Open Arms congregation—Zoom meetings and worship*
- Parkview congregation—Sunday morning worship through Facebook Live*
- Special Ministries congregation—Zoom Sunday worship and Wednesday prayer service*
- Stone Church congregation—Sunday worship on Facebook Live*
- Summit Grover congregation—Zoom Sunday school, Praise Celebration, and worship service*
- Village Heights congregation—sharing in online services around the mission center. Online ministry is focused on priesthood contacts and communication.*
- Walnut Gardens congregation—online book study, and starting Zoom worship services.*
- Woods Chapel congregation
 - Zoom Wednesday night check ins with pastor groups*
 - Zoom Sunday worship services at 10:00AM*
 - Zoom book study on Thursday nights*
 - Zoom children's bible study combined with Lee's Summit congregation*

Far West Mission Center

- Weekly recorded sermons posted on FWMC Facebook page*
- Smithville congregation Facebook Live worship services on Sunday morning*

Gateway Mission Center

- Bel Nor congregation—Facebook communications and some FB Live sermons*
- Twin Rivers congregation
 - Facebook Live every Sunday at 10:30AM, Twin Rivers private FB group*
 - Zoom (audio only) option every Sunday at 10:30AM*
- Fairview (Columbia) congregation
 - Zoom Wednesday Prayer & Meditation at 6:30PM*
 - Zoom Sunday worship at 10:30AM*
- Jefferson City congregation
 - Zoom Wednesday Prayer Service at 3:00PM*
 - Zoom Sunday Worship at 10:00AM*
- Wood River congregation
 - Email devotionals twice a week*
 - Sunday morning—based on lectionary and thoughts from the week
 - Wednesday—announcements/additional thoughts/encouragement*
- Cross Street congregation
 - Zoom—adults Sunday school at 9:30 and worship at 10:45*
- Kirkwood congregation
 - Facebook Live (Kirkwood FB Group) Sundays at 10:30AM*
 - Zoom Midweek prayer service Wednesdays at 7:00*

Midlands Mission Center

- Thursday evening “Midlands Connection” via Zoom*
- Bethel congregation
 - Zoom Sunday morning worship*
 - Zoom Together Tuesday (informal gathering)*
- Emporia cell group: monthly Zoom*
 - Weekly blog post by Seventy Craig Hidy (began prior to Covid-19)
- Manhattan congregation—Sunday Worship (not sure of platform)*
- Olathe congregation
 - Weekly Podcast (podcasts began prior to Covid-19, increased frequency during pandemic*)
 - Online Sunday School
 - Weekly Zoom Check-ins
- Shawnee Drive congregation—Zoom Sunday Worship
- Mission Road congregation
 - Zoom Wednesday Prayer Circle*
 - Zoom Thursday Online Book Club*
 - Zoom Sunday Worship*
- Highlands congregation
 - Weekly Spiritual Practices*
 - Weekly Youth Group Chat*
 - Divided congregation into small groups; conducting weekly calls with group members*
- Lenexa congregation—Zoom Sunday Worship*
- Webb Road congregation—weekly meditations prepared*
- Topeka congregation—Zoom Sunday Worships May 3rd and 24th

Mid-South Mission Center

- Chattanooga
 - Sunday worship celebration (recorded on YouTube, delivered through text and Messenger)*
 - Zoom cell group gatherings weekly*
 - Facebook Peace Center children’s activities*
- Huntsville congregation
 - Daily outreach messages on Facebook*
 - Zoom—weekly worship and gatherings*
- Memphis congregation has regular meetings online.*
- Decatur, AL congregation is listening in on the CCM broadcast from Oklahoma.*
- Birmingham, Al is doing a daily prayer for Peace.*
- Knoxville congregation
 - Community of Christ, Knoxville TN, holds a Worship service on Zoom every Sunday morning at 10:30 ET.*
 - We also held a birthday party yesterday on Zoom for one of our members*
 - We have more people participating in our online worships than were attending in person on Sunday mornings, so that is a positive, and I believe people appreciate the support and outreach. Our services are interactive, not just presentational.
 - We use Keynote/PowerPoint presentations as part of our services for things like singing hymns, following along with scriptures, call to worships, responsive readings, prayer for peace, etc.
 - We advertise it on our Facebook page, although our participants have been members and family members of local members.

Ft. Myers - Sunday morning worship
Clearwater - Sunday morning worship, Wednesday evening prayer service
Zephyrhills - Sunday morning worship
West Palm Beach - Sunday morning worship call-in
Mission Center Coffee and Conversation Saturday 9 a.m.

SOUTH CENTRAL MISSION CENTER

Chapel: Sunday, 9 am meet and greet zoom meeting.
Branson: posting of prerecorded sermons on line
Lebanon: zoom service (at least for Easter)
The Mission Center: Sunday evening, Mission Wide service; zoom and facebook
Berryville, AR: Wednesday evening check in; Sunday services (sometime other places)
Nevada, MO- Short sermon Sunday Morning between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m.
Ft. Scott, KS- Short sermon Sunday morning between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m.
Joplin, MO- Short sermon Sunday morning between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m.
Pittsburg, KS- Short devotional Sunday morning
Jonesboro, AR - Sunday 10-12 services; Devotions: Weekdays 6:00 pm, and Saturday 12:00 pm,
Bible Club - Sunday 12:00 noon preaching
Caraway- Sunday 11:00 Preaching
Mtn Home - Sunday - 9:00 am Devotional
North Little Rock - 9:00 am Sunday School on Hideout
Hot Springs - Short preaching video emailed to membership

SOUTHEAST

Greenville: Prayer and Praise service at 11:00AM on Sundays via Facebook
Warner Robins: services via Facebook

USA – Karin Peter, President of Seventy

Inland West:
Logan house Church, second and fourth Sundays
Utah County House Church, first and third Sundays
Idaho Falls House Church First and third Thursday evenings
Idaho Falls Morning Coffee and Chats for Seekers
Third Thursday

GPNW and Inland West:
Weekly Women's Spiritual Formation for Seekers

GPNW:
Crystal Springs congregation
Sunday worship
Mid-week spiritual practice

AZMC: Thunderbird West-Messy Church once a month

Chesapeake Bay MC:
Class- Book of Mormon's Witness to its First Readers
Class: Invitational Ministries-weekly

Seeker group-weekly

Outside US:

Australia MC Kids Book Club

North Central USA Mission Field

Robin K. Linkhart

Cedar Valley Nauvoo MC:

- Cedar Valley Nauvoo Mission Center Online Worship every Sunday morning, 10:30 AM CDT– Cedar Rapids YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsYnPcJgFnnwEopX6CeacSw>
- Prayer Services every Sunday, 2:00 PM CDT - [Click Here to Join via ZOOM App](#)

Chicago MC:

- Coffee with the Guys - Saturday mornings, 8am – 9am CDT; URL: zoom.us/j/949020382; Phone Number: (312) 626-6799; Meeting ID: 949-020-382; Password: 461640
- CMC Sunday Worship - 11:00am – 12:00pm CDT; Post Worship Fellowship – 12:05pm – 12:30pm; URL: zoom.us/j/99621456419; Phone Number: (312) 626-6799; Meeting ID: 996-2145-6419; Password: 689961
- Morning Coffee/Tea Time – Tuesday and Thursday mornings, 7:30am – 8:30am CDT; URL: zoom.us/j/974039294; Phone Number: (312) 626-6799; Meeting ID: 974-039-294; Password: 371870
- Prayer Meeting/Gathering – Wednesday nights, 7:00pm – 8:00pm CDT; URL: zoom.us/j/993538120; Phone Number: (312) 626-6799; Meeting ID: 993-538-120; Password: 793598
- Letters by a Modern Mystic (Adult Christian Ed/Book Club) – Sunday nights, 7:00pm – 8:00pm CDT; URL: zoom.us/j/294668340; Phone Number: (312) 626-6799; Meeting ID: 294-668-340; Password: 887698

Headwaters MC:

- Sunday Worship via Zoom by the Red Wing congregation-Sunday at 10:30 a.m. CDT. Please contact Becky Turner at bjturner42@charter.net if you would like to connect with us for song, scripture and sharing.
- St. Paul Thursday Night Gatherings via Zoom by the St. Paul cong. via Zoom Thursday evenings at 7 P.M. CDT Please email stplcmtyofchrist@gmail.com for the Zoom information each week!

Inland West MC:

- Inland West Mission Center Sunday April 26th and May 31st. 10:00 a.m. Pacific/11:00 a.m. Mountain. More details along with meeting information will be sent out closer to the worship time.

Lamoni Heartland MC:

- Lamoni Heartland Mission Center Online Worship via Zoom every Sunday at 10 a.m. CDT
- Youth on-line ministries by age periodically (Peter Joekel, LHMC Youth/YA Ministries)

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Zoomobile

Mission Center: Michigan Mission Center/Coldwater, MI

Contact Person(s):	1. Rick Hice, Pastor	2.	3.
Contact Information Cell Phone:	269-580-1197		
Home Phone:			
Email:	rickhice@sbcglogbal.net		

Description of Ministry: Coldwater Congregation hosts the Zoomobile at the church every other Week during the summer, in collaboration with nearby zoo. The Zoomobile brings a variety Of animals and types of animals, and guests interact with the animals as part of the educational Program. Host church members greet and welcome attendees. No food is allowed in the area with the animals. Initial promotion included flyers posted in local businesses, Schools distributing flyers(one member of the congregation is a highly respected teacher), Canvassing the neighborhood with invitations

When the Ministry was started: May, 2018

Who is being reached: Children and families in the community.

Average number of participants: The initial turnout was more than 150 people, which is more Than the maximum. Has decreased over the summer

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):

Challenges encountered: Building relationships between attendees and the congregation beyond] contacts at the weekly Zoomobile

Having the promotion at the start led to too many people in the beginning and fewer as the summer went on. Spacing the promotion pieces might have helped with that problem

Blessings experienced:

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:

Budget: The Zoo may charge a fee for the program or for mileage from the zoo. No congregational Budget. Costs of printing flyers. Members commit time to attend, promote and canvas

New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Gospel Music Group

Mission Center: Ark-La-Tex

Contact Person(s):	1. Terry Hess	2.	3.
Contact Information Cell Phone: Home Phone: Email:	Terry Hess 870-279-1856 870-381-7883 mthess@whti.net		

Description of Ministry: Meeting in fellowship building two nights a week to play gospel music

When the Ministry was started: Started in November 2019 till present

Who is being reached: Hoping to bring music ministry to churches in the area. First service will be at the Baptist church in Winthrop on January 26 2020

Average number of participants: Four

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):

Challenges encountered: none

Blessings experienced: One church member that has not been active is one of the musicians. He lost his wife and has really made some great strides coming back.

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups: Three Community of Christ and one Baptist

Budget:

Please return this form to John Wight at

jwight@cofchrist.org or 1001 W. Walnut, Independence, MO 64050

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New Expression of Ministry

Name of Ministry: Morning Coffee			
Mission Center: Ark-La-Tex			
Contact Person(s):	1. Terry Hess	2.	3.
Contact Information	Terry Hess		
Cell Phone:	870-279-1856		
Home Phone:	870-381-7883		
Email:	mthess@whiti.net		
Description of Ministry: We were meeting at a local café at 5:00 am for coffee. The café had to close Period of time. The closest café was eleven miles away. I decided to open the fellowship building to Meet with this group of men. We started with four men and slowly grew to six and as many as nine. When the local café opened back up this ministry stopped in order to support our local business.			
When the Ministry was started: Started in August 2019 and ended in mid October 2019			
Who is being reached: Men in the community			
Average number of participants: Four to nine			
Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)):			
Challenges encountered: none			
Blessings experienced: Continuing to get to share troubles, stories, and just good fellowship			
Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups: Community of Christ, Two different Baptist churches, Methodist, and two different Churches of Christ			
Budget: Contributions			

Please return this form to John Wight at

jwight@cofchrist.org or 1001 W. Walnut, Independence, MO 64050

New Expression of Ministry

Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/94491376441?pwd=OGpLYWV2ZFMxOWpSdUVHYVhDYIA2Zz09>

Use Meeting ID: 944 9137 6441

and Password: 501578

To connect by standard telephone (with or without a computer) dial +1 312 626 6799 US

Name of Ministry: Share and Prayer

Mission Center: Lamoni Heartland Mission Center (LHMC)

Contact Person(s):	1. Lorrie Long	2. Glenn Johnson	3.
Contact Information Cell Phone: Home Phone: Email:	641 442 5160 mvlong@mediacombb.net	515 217 2500 gjohnson@cofchrist.org	

Description of Ministry:

Chats on a topic selected by those in attendance the week prior with prayers at the close of the hour.

When the Ministry was started: May 2020

Who is being reached: LHMC members plus residents in congregational communities

Average number of participants: eight and growing

Ministry Leadership name(s) (if different than contact person(s)): LHMC President Glenn Johnson and MCISM Coordinator Lorrie Long

Challenges encountered: selecting a topic to which everyone can relate.

Blessings experienced: building relationships and sharing current concerns plus prayers for members across the LHMC.

Partnerships with other organizations/churches/ groups:

Budget:

Please return this form to John Wight at
jwight@cofchrist.org or 1001 W. Walnut, Independence, MO 64050

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III. Ideas and philosophies for New Expressions (in no particular order)

Below is a list of miscellaneous thoughts about possible new expressions of ministry. It is by no means a complete or thorough list. There are many other ideas which will hopefully be added to this resource on an ongoing basis. If you have ideas, philosophies, thoughts that you believe would be helpful in assisting individuals and groups in establishing new expressions of ministry, please send them to John Wight (jwight@cofchrist.org).

- Social media offers nearly unlimited possibilities for new expressions. It is important to adhere to the [Social Media Guidelines](#) established by Community of Christ when starting a new expression representing the church. Please read the guidelines when exploring such possibilities.
- Creating a web site and keeping it current is critically important to any ministry. It is especially important for a new expression. Community of Christ Communications provides a [Web Site Toolkit](#) to assist in this type of online presence.
- Partnering with other groups and organizations is a very beneficial approach to developing and implementing new expressions of ministry. The possibilities are endless and are limited only by one's imagination. An intentional discernment process can be very helpful in this process.

- Growth Groups/Cell Groups/House Church/Affinity Groups/Small Group Ministry are all names that have been used to describe this principle. The basic idea is to meet as small groups in homes or other venues less formal than a church building. In some cases, these small groups gather once a month for a large worship celebration experience. The possibilities are endless and limited only by one's imagination. The principle is to provide a less formal, more intimate opportunity for sharing and relationship building.
- Use different days of the week and/or different times of the day for whatever expression you may launch. It is well known that culturally Sunday is no longer seen by a majority of people as The Sabbath. Hence, there is virtually no difference between Sundays and other days in available activities and demands on peoples' time. And some people simply prefer sleeping in on Sundays. Looking at possible alternative gathering times can help provide opportunities that simply aren't possible on Sunday mornings.
- Hold family friendly activities such as movie nights, game nights, family fun nights, etc. Research shows that the number one thing people are looking for from churches is recreation. It appears that this is because people are looking for wholesome venues in which to enjoy family time together. Such expressions not only meet an expressed need, but also provide opportunities to develop relationships and build community.
- Explore Messy Church as a new expression. This intergenerational approach uses fun to communicate the gospel. Messy Church is an international movement with

affiliates in various countries. Learn more about Messy Church at <https://messychurchusa.org/resources/>.

- Section 163 of the Doctrine and Covenants counsels us to “Generously share the invitation, ministries, and sacraments through which people can encounter the Living Christ who heals and reconciles through redemptive relationships in sacred community.” So how about holding a monthly child blessing service to which the community is invited. Or offer your church building free of charge for weddings and funerals. The possibilities for “generously sharing” are endless. Section 165 reminds us to “Lovingly invite others to experience the good news of new life in community with Christ. ***Opportunities abound*** in your daily lives if you choose to see them.”
- People are accustomed to driving through a fast food or coffee shop window. Why not have drive-thru prayer offered in the church parking lot? Imagine if people saw a sign saying something like, “Having a bad day? Drive-thru prayer available here.” Then have a couple of people available to stand next to the car and pray with the person(s) inside according to their expressed need.
- A monthly music fest might be of interest to people. Perhaps this would involve coming to listen to groups of various genre or it could be an invitation to come together and play music and/or sing together. The type of music might be the same each month (jazz, classical, rock, etc.) or it could be different each month. Such an expression could provide opportunity for relationship building, but also a chance for

people to come and play that instrument that's sat in the closet since high school.

- Community of Christ has offered the Daily Prayer for Peace at the Independence Temple for decades. Perhaps drawing on that theme you could hold a weekly prayer for peace that could focus on the needs of the local community and individuals for peace, reconciliation and healing of the spirit. This could be an ecumenical ministry in which all other churches were invited to participate. Inviting city leaders such as the mayor, city council members, etc. might be another possibility.
- Using church facilities for free medical and/or dental clinics is another possibility for a new expression. This is a wonderful way to share the peace of Jesus Christ with people who suffer daily because they have access to such care. Having a team of people to sit and visit (especially to listen) as they wait their turn is another ministry which could be a real blessing.
- Hold regular spiritual formation activities. There are numerous resources available to help develop such a new expression. One which is available on the Community of Christ web site is [Yearning for God](#). One specific possibility would be to build a prayer labyrinth on your church property and make it open to the public.
- When you decide what your new expression will look like, a good tool to use is Meetup. This web based service provides a way to “invite” people who may be interested in what you are offering. For more information, go to [Meetup.com](#).

- Intentional discernment is an important part of developing a new expression. While there are many resources to help with a discernment process, two that are recommended are the [“Personal and Communal Discernment Guide”](#) (available on the Community of Christ web site) and [“The Justice Primer”](#).
- When conceiving a new expression, look for language that is not so “churchy”. For example, you might use “community” rather than “church”. This is not a “bait and switch” tactic. It is a way to avoid having people apply stereotypical images of what church is. By using new language, people can see that the mission of Jesus Christ isn’t what they may have come to know as a less than desirable experience in some churches.
- A group could meet weekly (at any designated time) and rotate between worship, study, service and community building. Each weekly gathering is focused on just one of those, but all are experienced each month. Some people may prefer to only attend weeks where they gather for service, for example, but if they know it’s always the 3rd week of the month they can do that.

IV. Suggested reading and websites related to New Expressions

Below is a list of suggested reading and websites to help explore possible new expressions of ministry. It is by no means a complete or thorough list. There are many other similar books which can be helpful. This list should be understood as only a sample of books and articles.

- [“59 Percent of Millennials Raised in a Church Have Dropped Out—And They’re Trying to Tell Us Why”](#) by Sam Eaton
- [“America’s Epidemic of Empty Churches”](#) by Jonathan Merritt
- [“Barna Trends 2018”](#) (look for updates) by the Barna Group
- [“Beyond Resistance: The Institutional Church Meets the Postmodern World”](#) by John Dorhauer.
- [“Church Refugees: Sociologists reveal why people are DONE with church but not their faith”](#) by Josh Packard, PH.D. and Ashleigh Hope
- [“Dinosaurs to Rabbits: Turning Mainline Decline to a Multiplication Movement”](#) by Bill Easum and Bill Tenny-Brittian

- [“Gen Z: The Culture, Beliefs and Motivations Shaping the Next Generation”](#) by the Barna Group
- [“How to Lead When You Don’t Know Where You’re Going”](#) by Susan Beaumont
- [“Joining God, Remaking Church, Changing the World: The New Shape of the Church in Our Time”](#) by Alan Roxburgh
- [“The Agile Church: Spirit-Led Innovation in an Uncertain Age”](#) by Dwight J. Zscheile
- www.missionalleaders.org
- [Fresh Expressions](#) is an international movement of missionary disciples cultivating new kinds of church alongside existing congregations to more effectively engage our growing post-Christian society.

The following links to several articles and blog posts regarding new expressions was submitted by Katie Harmon-McLaughlin, Community of Christ Spiritual Formation Specialist. She received the list in a class she was taking called *Biblical Images for Reimagining the Church*. Most of the articles and blogs address various models of new expressions. Others include topics such as the philosophy of new expressions, ways to address potential challenges, etc.

1. <https://www.christiancentury.org/blogs/archive/2011-11/ten-church-models-new-generation>
2. <https://www.missioalliance.org/churches-are-closing-these-four-models-are-thriving/>
3. <https://careynieuwhof.com/7-disruptive-church-trends-that-will-rule-2018/>
4. <https://rickthomas.net/what-kind-of-church-do-you-attend-here-are-six-models/>
5. <https://englewoodreview.org/jay-kim-analog-church-review/>
6. <https://www.christianitytoday.com/pastors/2017/june-web-exclusives/does-your-church-have-right-model.html>
7. <https://factsand Trends.net/2018/04/02/three-deadly-church-models/>
8. <https://www.aspengroup.com/blog/five-models-for-church-expansion>
9. <https://www.nbccsite.org/2017/12/06/the-10-roots-of-contemporary-church-models-part-1/>
10. <https://www.ministrymatters.com/all/entry/9248/the-demise-of-the-church-growth-model>
11. <https://www.seedbed.com/5-different-theological-models-of-the-church/>
12. <http://archphila.org/pastplan/ParishMissionStatements/ModelsOfTheChurch.pdf>
13. <http://meettheneed.org/blog/2017/10/10-ways-jesus-church-growth-model-differs/>
14. <http://www.churchwork.com/hungry-for-the-future-church-check-out-this-oldnew-model/>

Appendix

59 Percent of Millennials Raised in a Church Have Dropped Out—And They're Trying to Tell Us Why

By Sam Eaton

It seems all-too-often our churches are actually causing more damage than good, and the statistics are showing a staggering number of millennials have taken note.

According to [this study](#) (and many others like it) church attendance and impressions of the church are the lowest in recent history, and most drastic among millennials described as 22- to 35-year-olds.

- Only 2 in 10 Americans under 30 believe attending a church is important or worthwhile (an all-time low).
- 59 percent of millennials raised in a church have dropped out.
- 35 percent of millennials have an *anti-church* stance, believing the church does more harm than good.
- Millennials are the least likely age group of anyone to attend church (by far).

1. Nobody's Listening to Us

Millennials value voice and receptivity above all else. When a church forges ahead without ever asking for our input we get the message loud and clear: **Nobody cares what we think.** Why then, should we blindly serve an institution that we cannot change or shape?

Solution:

- Create regular outlets (forums, surveys, meetings) to discover the needs of young adults both inside AND outside the church.
- Invite millennials to serve on leadership teams or advisory boards where they can make a difference.

- Hire a young adults pastor who has the desire and skill-set to connect with millennials.

2. We're Sick of Hearing About Values & Mission Statements

Sweet Moses people, give it a rest.

Of course as an organization it's important to be moving in the same direction, but that should be easier for Christians than anyone because we already have a leader to follow. Jesus was insanely clear about our purpose on earth:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:30-31)

“Love God. Love Others.” *Task completed.*

Why does every church need its own mission statement anyway? Aren't we all one body of Christ, serving one God? What would happen if the entire American Church came together in our commonalities and used the same, concise mission statement?

Solution:

- Stop wasting time on the religious mambo jambo and get back to the heart of the gospel. If you have to explain your mission and values to the church, it's overly-religious and much too complicated.
- We're not impressed with the hours you brag about spending behind closed doors wrestling with Christianese words on a paper. We're impressed with actions and service.

3. Helping the Poor Isn't a Priority

My heart is broken for how radically self-centered and utterly American our institution has become.

Let's clock the number of hours the average church attender spends in “church-type” activities. Bible studies, meetings, groups, social functions, book

clubs, planning meetings, talking about building community, discussing a new mission statement...

Now let's clock the number of hours spent serving the least of these. *Oooooo, awkward.*

If the numbers are not equal please check your Bible for better comprehension (or revisit the universal church mission statement stated above).

"If our lives do not reflect radical compassion for the poor, there is reason to wonder if Christ is in us at all." –[Radical](#), David Platt

Solutions:

- Stop creating more Bible studies and Christian activity. Community happens best in service with a shared purpose.
- Survey your members asking them what injustice or cause God has placed on their hearts. Then connect people who share similar passions. Create space for them to meet and brainstorm and then sit back and watch what God brings to life.
- Create group serve dates once a month where anyone can show up and make a difference (and, oh yeah, they'll also meet new people).

4. We're Tired of You Blaming the Culture

From Elvis' hips to rap music, from *Footloose* to "twerking," every older generation comes to the same conclusion: **The world is going to pot faster than the state of Colorado.** We're aware of the down-falls of the culture—believe it or not we are actually living in it too.

Perhaps it's easier to focus on how terrible the world is out there than actually address the mess within.

Solution:

- Put the end times rhetoric to rest and focus on real solutions and real impact in our immediate community.

- Explicitly teach us how our lives should differ from the culture. (If this teaching isn't happening in your life, check out the book [*Weird: Because Normal Isn't Working*](#) by Craig Groeschel)

5. The “You Can’t Sit With Us” Affect

There is this life-changing movie all humans must see, regardless of gender. The film is of course the 2004 classic *Mean Girls*.

In the film, the most popular girl in school forgets to wear pink on a Wednesday (a cardinal sin), to which Gretchen Weiners screams, “YOU CAN’T SIT WITH US!”

Today, my mom said to me, “Church has always felt exclusive and ‘cliquey,’ like high school.” With sadness in her voice she continued, “and I’ve never been good at that game so I stopped playing.”

The truth is, I share her experience. *As do thousands of others.*

Until the church finds a way to be **radically kinder and more compassionate** than the world at large, we tell outsiders they’re better off on their own. And the truth is, many times they are.

Solutions:

- Create authentic communities with a shared purpose centered around service.
- Create and train a team of CONNECT people whose purpose is to seek out the outliers on Sunday mornings or during other events. Explicitly teach people these skills as they do not come naturally to most of the population.
- Stop placing blame on individuals who struggle to get connected. For some people, especially those that are shy or struggle with anxiety, putting yourself out there even just once might be an overwhelming task. We have to find ways to bridge that gap.

6. Distrust & Misallocation of Resources

Over and over we've been told to "tithes" and give 10 percent of our incomes to the church, but where does that money actually go? Millennials, more than any other generation, **don't trust institutions**, for we have witnessed over and over how corrupt and self-serving they can be.

We want pain-staking transparency. We want to see on the church homepage a document where we can track every dollar.

Why should thousands of our hard-earned dollars go toward a mortgage on a multi-million dollar building that isn't being utilized to serve the community, or to pay for another celebratory bouncy castle when that same cash-money could provide food, clean water and shelter for someone in need?

Solution:

- Go out of your way to make all financial records readily accessible. Earn our trust so we can give with confidence.
- Create an environment of frugality.
- Move to zero-based budgeting where departments aren't allocated certain dollar amounts but are asked to justify each purchase.
- Challenge church staff to think about the opportunity cost. Could these dollars be used to better serve the kingdom?

7. We Want to Be Mentored, Not Preached At

Preaching just doesn't reach our generation like our parents and grandparents. *See: millennial church attendance.* We have millions of podcasts and Youtube videos of pastors the world over at our fingertips.

For that reason, the currency of good preaching is at its lowest value in history.

Millennials crave relationship, to have someone walking beside them through the muck. We are the generation with the highest ever percentage of fatherless homes.

We're looking for mentors who are authentically invested in our lives and our future. If we don't have real people who actually care about us, why not just listen to a sermon from the couch (with the ecstasy of donuts and sweatpants)?

Solutions:

- Create a database of adult mentors and young adults looking for someone to walk with them.
- Ask the older generation to be intentional with the millennials in your church.

8. We Want to Feel Valued

Churches tend to rely heavily on their young adults to serve. *You're single, what else do you have to do?* In fact, we're tapped incessantly to help out. And, at its worst extreme, spiritually manipulated with the cringe-worthy words "you're letting your church down."

Millennials are told by this world from the second we wake up to the second we take a sleeping pill that **we aren't good enough.**

We desperately need the church to tell us we are enough, exactly the way we are. No conditions or expectations.

We need a church that sees us and believes in us, that cheers us on and encourages us to chase our *big crazy dreams.*

Solutions:

- Return to point #1: listening.
- Go out of your way to thank the people who are giving so much of their life to the church.

9. We Want You to Talk to Us About Controversial Issues (Because No One Is)

People in their 20s and 30s are making the biggest decisions of their entire lives: career, education, relationships, marriage, sex, finances, children, purpose, chemicals, body image.

We need someone consistently speaking truth into every single one of those areas.

No, I don't think a sermon-series on sex is appropriate for a sanctuary full of families, but we have to create a place where someone older is showing us a better way **because these topics are the teaching millennials are starving for**. We don't like how the world is telling us to live, but we never hear from our church either.

Solutions:

- Create real and relevant space for young adults to learn, grow and be vulnerable.
- Create an opportunity for young adults to find and connect with mentors.
- Create a young adults program that transitions high school youth through late adulthood rather than abandoning them in their time of greatest need.
- Intentionally train young adults in how to live a godly life instead of leaving them to fend for themselves.

10. The Public Perception

It's time to focus on changing the public perception of the church within the community. The neighbors, the city and the people around our church buildings should be audibly thankful the congregation is part of their neighborhood. We should be serving the crap out of them.

We desperately need to be calling the schools and the city, knocking on doors, asking everyone around us how we can make their world better. When the public opinion shows 1/3 millennials are ANTI-CHURCH, we are outright failing at being the aroma of Christ.

Solutions:

- Call the local government and schools to ask what their needs are. (See: Service Day from #3)
- Find ways to connect with neighbors within the community.
- Make your presence known and felt at city events.

11. Stop Talking About Us (Unless You're Actually Going to Do Something)

Words without follow-up are far worse than ignoring us completely. Despite the stereotypes about us, we are listening to phrases being spoken in our general direction. Lip service, however, doesn't cut it. We are scrutinizing every action that follows what you say (because we're sick of being ignored and listening to broken promises).

Solutions:

- Stop speaking in abstract sound bites and make a tangible plan for how to reach millennials.
- If you want the respect of our generation, under-promise and over-deliver.

12. You're Failing to Adapt

Here's the bottom line, church—you aren't reaching millennials. Enough with the excuses and the blame; we need to accept reality and intentionally move toward this generation that is terrifyingly anti-church.

“The price of doing the same old thing is far higher than the price of change.”
—Bill Clinton

“The art of life is a constant readjustment to our surroundings.” —Kakuzo Okakura

“Adapt or perish, now as ever, is nature's inexorable imperative.” – H.G. Wells

Solution:

- Look at the data and take a risk for goodness sake. We can't keep trying the same things and just wish that millennials magically wander through the door.
- Admit that you're out of your element with this generation and talk to the millennials you already have **before** they ask themselves, *what I am still doing here*.

You see, church leaders, our generation just isn't interested in playing church anymore, and there are real, possible solutions to filling our congregations with young adults. It's obvious you're not understanding the gravity of the problem at hand and aren't nearly as alarmed as you should be about the crossroads we're at.

You're complacent, irrelevant and approaching extinction. A smattering of mostly older people, doing mostly the same things they've always done, isn't going to turn to the tide.

Feel free to write to me off as just another angry, selfy-addicted millennial. Believe me, at this point I'm beyond used to being abandoned and ignored.

The truth is, church, it's your move.

Decide if millennials actually matter to you and let us know. In the meantime, we'll be over here in our sweatpants listening to podcasts, serving the poor and agreeing with public opinion that perhaps church isn't as important or worthwhile as our parents have lead us to believe.

About the Author: *Sam Eaton is a writer, speaker, and in-progress author who's in love with all things Jesus, laughter, adventure, hilarious dance parties and vulnerability. Sam is also the founder of [Recklessly Alive Ministries](#), a mental health and suicide-prevention ministry sprinting towards a world with zero deaths from suicide. Come hang out with him at [RecklesslyAlive.com](#).*

