

World Conference 2023

A Summary of Official Actions

This is a summary of the World Conference actions. Delegates discussed and voted on a variety of subjects.

Complete official actions, the conference financial update, photos, and YouTube videos of events are at CofChrist.org/2023-world-conference.

WCR 1321 Process for Election of Graceland University Board of Trustees (adopted April 22, 2023)

The World Conference gave its support to submitting a recommendation to the Graceland University Corporate Body (First Presidency, Presiding Bishopric, and president of the Council of Twelve Apostles) and Board of Trustees that the Graceland University Articles of Incorporation be amended to specify that the trustees currently elected by the World Conference be elected by the Corporate Body; and that since the Graceland University Articles of Incorporation currently allow the Corporate Body to act on behalf of the World Conference regarding the election of the Board of Trustees, WCR 1278 was rescinded.

WCR 1322 Amendment to Community of Christ Bylaws—Electronic Meetings (adopted April 24, 2023) Article IV Section 6. Electronic Conferences and Meetings

As a result of this amendment's adoption, all organized units of Community of Christ may hold conferences and meetings electronically if such is determined to be the most suitable method, within a given context. Electronic conferences and meetings must be approved by appropriate next-level supervisory administrators and must be in harmony with requirements specific to each body (i.e., World Conference, mission center conference, congregation conference, etc.). For the purposes of this section, an electronic conference or meeting includes any conference or meeting in which some or all members participate by virtual or other electronic means.

WCR 1323 Amendment to Community of Christ Bylaws—Organization of Additional Jurisdictional Units (adopted April 24, 2023) Article VIII Organization of additional jurisdictional units.

As "the leading interpreters and teachers of the laws" (WCR 386), the First Presidency has the authority to organize additional forms of organizational units not currently foreseen. Such units may be based on national, other physical boundaries, or on no such geographical designations.

WCR 1324 Resolution on Baptism and Membership (adopted April 24 2023)

No baptism or membership policies were changed by this resolution's adoption. The adopted resolution urged the church president give additional prayer and study seeking divine guidance regarding people baptized before the age of eight becoming members of Community of Christ via confirmation after having attained the age of eight.

1325 Resolution on The Climate Emergency (adopted April 25, 2023)

This resolution calls for Community of Christ to join others in a climate emergency declaration. This resolution encourages every jurisdictional level (world, mission centers, and congregations) to take responsibility for reducing carbon emissions resulting from church activities and encourage individuals do the same; consider the effect of climate change on the environment when reviewing policies and strategies; and support organizations and community groups that peaceably raise awareness of climate change and limit global warming. The Earth Stewardship Team will assist leaders and individuals by creating resources and identifying ways to reduce carbon emissions.

WCR 1326 Resolution on Racial Justice (adopted April 27, 2023)

Because Jesus declared God's love for all the world and all creation, Community of Christ acknowledges that racism is a sin. Community of Christ calls for a renewed commitment in the church and in national cultures to eliminate institutional racism and to affirm unequivocally that by biblical and theological precept, by the law of the church, by our mission and Enduring Principles, by World Conference pronouncement, and by leadership expressions, that the aim of Community of Christ is nothing less than an inclusive church in an inclusive society. Members, congregations, and jurisdictions are called on to share those faithful deeds of prayer, study, discernment, worship, love, justice, and nonviolent advocacy to bring about a just, equitable, and peaceful world for all.

WCR 1327 Resolution on Marriage (adopted April 28, 2023)

With the adoption of this resolution, WCR 1182 is rescinded. The apostles have responsibility for establishing and upholding definitions, guidelines, practices, and policies regarding marriage and marriage-like relationships within nations or other geographic groupings where the laws, cultures, and traditions for marriage are similar.

All definitions, guidelines, practices, and policies developed by apostles will be in harmony with the

Finding Spiritual Insights

principle of monogamy, our Enduring Principles, and the behavior and relationship principles of Christlike love, mutual respect, responsibility, justice, covenant, and faithfulness identified in Doctrine and Covenants 164:6 and explored in the Commentary on Principles. These definitions, guidelines, practices, and policies seek to uphold the Worth of All Persons, foster mutuality and equality, protect the most vulnerable, and will be reviewed and approved by the Council of Twelve Apostles and First Presidency prior to implementation. Basic resources will be recommended to assist in education before and after the sacrament of marriage.

WCR 1329 Compassion for Refugees/UN World Refugee Day (adopted April 28, 2023)

In solidarity with refugees around the world, this Community of Christ resolution urges churchwide awareness of the scope of refugee needs through the establishment of an annual Refugee Day coordinated with the United Nations World Refugee Day on June 20. The Ecumenical and Interfaith Ministries Team is requested to collect and prepare multilingual resources (potential worship resources and calls to action) across the international church to learn about, plan, collaborate, and implement refugee awareness and support including climatic refugees.

Referred to the First Presidency by Delegate Vote G-2 Recommendation to move Doctrine and Covenants Section 116 to Historical Records

Referred to the First Presidency at Adjournment D-2 World Church Budgeting and Audit Process

G-6 A Resolution to Enhance Transparency, Openness, and Disclosure Concerning the First Presidency's Statement on Community of Christ's Position on Nonviolence

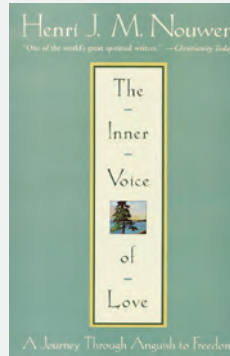
G-8 Resolution Opposing Christian Zionism

Defeated by Delegate Vote

G-5 Universal Scripture Access

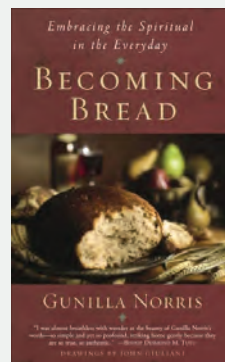


Tyler Marz reflects on writers and books that have made a major difference in his faith journey.



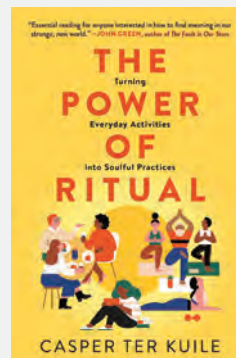
THE INNER VOICE OF LOVE BY HENRI NOUWEN

This book transformed my sense of self-love and my knowledge of God's love for me. Nouwen, a renowned Catholic priest, pulled these writings from his own secret journal. They cover some of the most anguished and trying times in his life—times when he seemingly lost his faith but dug deep into inner hope and love. His words helped me realize that I wasn't alone in my spiritual struggles. There was comfort in knowing that even a priest can go through rough spiritual periods. It helped me find hope and love deep within myself.



BECOMING BREAD: EMBRACING THE SPIRITUAL IN THE EVERYDAY BY GUNILLA NORRIS

Spirituality can be found in everyday things, including making bread. As someone who loves making things for myself and others—and who particularly loves baking—I found that this book spoke to me. Norris breaks apart the ingredients and process, writing spiritual thoughts and poems devoted to each, including mixing, rising, punching down, and baking. Even the crumbs have spiritual significance. This book brought added spiritual dimensions to a practice I do regularly. It is a great choice for those who love baking and find spirituality in unusual and everyday tasks.



THE POWER OF RITUAL BY CASPER TER KUILE

I read this text for a doctoral class and thoroughly loved the author's focus on finding and making ritual in things we do every day—particularly things that deeply connect to our soul. This book helped me see that our personal sabbath can be so much more than Sunday worship; it can be a personal spiritual time dedicated to us and the Divine. Table fellowship with friends, old and new, can be akin to the sacrament of Communion. Ter Kuile helped me see that "sacred" is more than a noun; it's a verb and a way of doing, being, and seeing things.

GET TO KNOW

Tyler Marz

Pronouns: he/him

Location: Murray, Utah, USA

Congregation: Utah Mission Ministries

Job/s: Pastor of Utah Mission Ministries and expansion minister



READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

Please consider contributing a "Bookshelf" column. Select four books and tell us why they were important to your faith journey. Send your submission to enquiries@cofchrist.com.au