



# Community of Christ

## Faithfully Funding Our Future

5 March 2024

On Tuesday, 5 March 2024, Community of Christ announced a historic investment in the church's future. This was made possible through the sale of the Kirtland Temple, the Joseph Smith Historic Site in Nauvoo, nineteenth-century manuscripts and materials related to the development of church scriptures, including the Joseph Smith Translation manuscripts and Phinney bible, Joseph and Emma Smith portraits and letters, and various other manuscripts and artifacts to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. In return Community of Christ received \$192.5 million USD and the commitment that the sites will continue to be operated as historic locations, keeping them publicly accessible at no charge.

The World Church Leadership Council (made up of the First Presidency, Council of Twelve Apostles, Presiding Bishopric, Presiding Evangelist, World Church secretary, president of the High Priests Quorum, senior president of Seventy, director of Human Resource Ministries, and director of Formation Ministries) considered the possibility of a sale for several years. Following more than three years of discussion, prayer, and discernment, the decision to proceed received unanimous support from the council.

The current and future needs of the church coupled with discerning God's continuing call to pursue Christ's peace in all its dimensions, created a compelling case for decisive action. Leaders came to understand that letting go of these physical assets—as painful as it was—would generate financial resources that will make a significant difference in our ability to respond to that future.

This opportunity was made possible through the generosity and faithful service of those who have gone before us. We are grateful for generations of members, volunteers, servant leaders, and friends from other faith movements who practiced whole life stewardship to preserve parts of our history and share that story for over a century.

The church remains committed to the exploration and telling of our whole story. Doctrine and Covenants 162:2a reminds us to continue to listen to the stories of our past because they will teach and prepare us for moving forward as a faith community. Continuing to honor and listen to our history is not dependent on ownership of properties or items. The Historic Sites Foundation will continue to be a valued partner in telling and sharing the sacred story of Community of Christ. A shared memory of our past and an informed understanding of its meaning prepare us to courageously move into the future.

As a worldwide faith community, we continue to look beyond the limits of our imagination to consider where God is calling us next on our journey of discovery and mission. This is what compels us to continue to meet the challenge in response to the Spirit's persistent invitation to follow Jesus, the peaceful One. We remain committed to the cause of pursuing God's vision of Shalom and writing the next chapters of our sacred story.

Church leaders know this news will be met with a broad range of emotions, thoughts, and feelings. You can learn more about the sale, explore frequently asked questions, read detailed financial information, leave comments, and listen to personal stories at [CofChrist.org/faithfully-funding-our-future](https://CofChrist.org/faithfully-funding-our-future).