



Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

Pastoral Letter to the Church

Additional Anticipated Leadership Changes in June 2025

29 January 2025

To members and friends of Community of Christ:

In September 2024, I shared a pastoral letter outlining the calls to leading quorums that would be presented to the 2025 World Conference, contingent on the Conference's support of my call to prophet-president. You can find this letter at CofChrist.org/news/pastoral-letter-to-the-church/. Since releasing that letter, I prayerfully have continued to consider leadership needs. With the blessings of the Holy Spirit, additional changes have emerged.

With deep gratitude and reverence, **Shandra Newcom** will be released as an apostle and member of the Council of Twelve Apostles effective at World Conference. This decision will honor her request for space to focus on necessary self-care as she navigates a progressive auto-immune disease. Though her time on the council was shorter than any of us hoped, it has been distinguished by her compassionate voice, an unyielding passion for people who feel on the margins, and her boundless desire to create opportunities for young adults. While her profound contributions will be missed, we are thankful for her continued service as a high priest in other ministry capacities as her health allows. We are particularly excited that she will lead the team organizing the 2026 International Peace Colloquy, a testament to her ongoing dedication to fostering peace and understanding around the world.

With Shandra's departure, the Council of Twelve Apostles has two vacancies. The following calls are presented for the church's prayerful consideration:

Kathleen (Kat) Erin Hnatyshyn is called to serve as a special witness of Jesus Christ as an apostle of Christ's peace and member of the Council of Twelve Apostles. Kat brings a deep passion for the church's mission to this call. Kat is a leader representing a younger generation, effectively bridging generations and fostering understanding among diverse perspectives. Her wisdom, drawn from years of volunteer service as a congregation and mission center leader, provides an unfolding understanding of God's vision of shalom. Kat's spirit of generosity and practice of whole-life stewardship inspire others to explore what Community of Christ stands for and what it means to follow Christ faithfully. She enthusiastically invites others to join the journey. Kat will bring giftedness and courage to the council, carrying the experience of what has been and the vision of what is yet to be.

Shannon Jean McAdam is called to serve as a special witness of Jesus Christ as an apostle of Christ's peace and member of the Council of Twelve Apostles. Shannon builds bridges by prayerfully listening to diverse perspectives and guiding the group in discerning the Holy Spirit's direction. She courageously

advocates for the voiceless and marginalized, offering hope and a new understanding of the Blessings of Community for all. Shannon is a skilled administrator with a deep commitment to making space for those who feel marginalized by policies and practices. She inspires growth and awareness of missional opportunities by asking thought-provoking questions. Through her own example, Shannon invites others to embody the Enduring Principles, expressing them in daily actions and behaviors. Her joyful optimism and openness to the Holy Spirit's call are evident in all she does. Shannon will bring fresh perspectives and innovative ideas to the council on how to live Christ's mission.

Kat and Shannon will leave their current professions and become full-time employees of Community of Christ as of 17 February 2025, serving as apostle designates. This will provide time for training and transition as the church prepares for the 2025 World Conference.

These calls and those presented in the September 2024 pastoral letter complete the leadership changes anticipated in June. If my call to prophet-president is approved by the 2025 World Conference, I will formally submit a letter of counsel regarding all the calls to the leading quorums. It will be released following my ordination on Sunday, 1 June. Delegates of the World Conference will consider it Monday, 2 June.

I am humbled by and deeply grateful for the prayerful support of the church and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we prepare for the upcoming Conference. With great anticipation, I look forward to the opportunity for our worldwide community to be together, in-person and online. I trust God will bless and renew us as we discover and celebrate "Hope Is Here."

Onward!

Stassi D. Cramm
prophet-president designate

Background on New Leaders

Kathleen (Kat) Erin Hnatyshyn is a passionate community-builder, advocate for social transformation, and devoted spouse and mother of two. Known for her enthusiasm, creativity, and commitment to simplifying complex challenges, Kat has more than twenty years of experience. Professionally, she works in the financial industry, leading teams, developing and implementing strategies, and optimizing operational efficiencies. She is deeply committed to youth and family ministries, peace and justice, and the inherent Worth of All Persons. Kat has held various leadership roles, including pastor, camp director and mission center financial officer. She serves as the Midlands USA Mission Center president. Kat serves on the World Church Investment Committee and is an elected member on the World Church Finance Board. Kat volunteers as the board chair for a local social-service agency, working to build actionable community connections and foster organizational collaborations that create lasting impact. Kat holds a bachelor of arts in speech communications with a minor in church leadership and religion from Graceland University.

Shannon Jean McAdam is grounded in a deep sense of the Holy all around us. Her ministry flows from her love of people. Shannon believes our strength is in our differences, and every voice is important. As part of the volunteer Canada West Mission Centre President Team, Shannon is known for skillful and kind leadership and meeting facilitation. With Community of Christ Canada's Creating Connection program, she has facilitated retreats where people who identify as "spiritual but not religious" can experience the blessings of community. For the past sixteen years Shannon has worked in technology, promoting digital literacy through sales, support, operations, and training, with a special love for helping entrepreneurs. She is a thoughtful role model and advocate for balancing tradition with innovation. Shannon finds support from her devoted husband Matthew, family, and friends. Shannon holds a master of divinity degree from Vancouver School of Theology and a bachelor's degree in information technology from Graceland University.