

Community of Christ

September 5, 2008

Dear Mission Center Leaders,

Please share the following with your congregation:

I write this letter with sadness because I recently accepted the resignation of your mission center president, Kathy Clark, effective October 25, 2008. As I talked with her about the sometimes overwhelming administrative challenges of serving in one of the church's largest U.S.A. mission centers (38 congregations in four states with two campgrounds), I understood her struggle and appreciated her desire to serve and the prayerful journey that led to her resignation.

As I began to pray with her about South Central States Mission Center's future and engaged mission center financial officer, Charles Davenport, in prayerful consideration, we realized that Kathy's resignation provides a unique opportunity for us to consider an alternative leadership model which will provide closer interaction with and support for congregations in signal communities of justice and peace development and empower them for God's mission.

I ask for your congregation's prayerful support as we continue the process of discerning how to better align the rich human resources of full-time and bi-vocational ministers in the mission center with God's call to us. I believe in the power of prayer, especially when disciples unite, asking for God's direction.

On Saturday, September 20, the Mission Center Council will meet to consider and refine a leadership model that uses a mission center president and mission center presidency team approach to provide more direct support to congregations. In late September, you will receive the agenda and budget information for the October 25 mission center conference in Harrison, Arkansas, as well as a leadership model that will be presented for approval. Names for mission center president and mission center presidency team will also be presented for your prayerful consideration. At this conference a new mission center president and mission center presidency team will be set apart to serve with you, and Dia Sawyer and Kenny Wilson will be ordained Seventies and Larry Reynolds Evangelist.

I continue to thank God for Kathy's present and future leadership and her role in this discernment process. I appreciate the strong leadership of Charles and the ministry team of Karen Tillery and LouAnn Lasley. I believe that the South Central States Mission Center will be stronger because of what we discern together.

Your Sister in Christ,



Linda L. Booth
Apostle Southern USA Mission Field

cc: Kathy Clark Charles Davenport Karen Tillery
 LouAnn Lasley Jim Slauter Scott Murphy