



# Community of Christ

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

## Continuation of Letter of Counsel about World Church Leaders

### Preface

*The previous Letter of Counsel about World Church Leaders (Sept. 6, 2022) presented anticipated changes in World Church leadership at World Conference that were to be confirmed then. Subsequently, additional information relevant to World Conference consideration has become known.*

To Community of Christ and the World Conference:

**John S. Wight** will conclude his service as senior president of Seventy and as a president of Seventy at the 2023 World Conference. He has served in these roles in a self-sustaining (volunteer) capacity since his retirement from church employment in 2019. While the president of the church does not call or release the senior president of Seventy or presidents of Seventy, these roles are sustained by the World Conference. Also, the senior president of Seventy serves on the World Church Leadership Council. Therefore, it is appropriate for the World Conference to become aware of John's transitions.

John is a minister of integrity, humility, and unusual devotion to the gospel and the church. He stands out as one "not ashamed of the gospel" of Christ as the "power of God for salvation for everyone who has faith" (Romans 1:16 NRSV). John embodies the spirit of those who first responded to Jesus's call to discipleship regardless of personal consequences. John's commitment to the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19 NRSV) through tireless advocacy and training for missionary outreach ministries has blessed the church everywhere he served. His leadership as a president of Seventy and as senior president of Seventy multiplied his especial witness of Christ through the worldwide efforts of the Seventy.

John is called to the office of evangelist in response to the witness of the Holy Spirit. In that ministry he will find familiar and new opportunities to bless people through gospel witness and spiritual formation. He will discover that offering the sacrament of evangelist blessing will enrich his capacity to bring inspired ministry to individuals and groups at their points of greatest need, transition, and opportunity. He will be a trusted spiritual companion to people from all walks of life.

### Background

In addition to his self-sustaining roles as senior president of Seventy and as a president of Seventy, Professional Registered Parliamentarian (PRP) John Wight is serving as the 2023 World Conference parliamentarian in support of the First Presidency.

As a church employee, he served as a regional executive minister in the East Central States Region. As a World Church appointee, he served as Chicago District president, Central Mission Center missionary coordinator and field missionary coordinator (1981-1986, 2003-2022). John was ordained a seventy in 1982 and set apart as a president of Seventy in 1998 (self-sustaining for five years). He became senior president of Seventy in 2010. Prior to church employment as a regional executive minister and as a World Church appointee, he served as a district youth leader and in other volunteer church roles.

John received a Bachelor of Arts in Communication Arts and Journalism from Michigan State University in 1974. He received a Master of Arts in Religion from the Community of Christ Seminary at Graceland University in 2006.

## **Conclusion**

I submit the call of John S. Wight to the priesthood office of evangelist for World Conference action. I am grateful for the Holy Spirit's guidance, the confirming testimonies of other World Church leaders, and John's giftedness and desire to serve as a minister of blessing.

In the Peace of Christ,  
Stephen M. Veazey, president