



# Community of Christ

## Central USA Mission Center Annual Report 2021

CHRIST'S MISSION, OUR MISSION

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# Community of Christ

@Colonial Hills

@Parkview

@Raytown

@Osage Hills

@New Hope

@Grandview

@New Walnut Park

@Gudgell Park

@E 39th St

@Liberty Street

@Buckner

@Special Ministries

@Heritage House

@Beacon Heights

@Cornerstone

@Blue Ridge

@Oak Hill

@E. Independence

@South Crysler

@The Groves

@Grain Valley

@Eden Heights

@Summit Grove

@Open Arms

@Walnut Gardens

@Impact

@Village Heights

@Stone Church

@Lee's Summit

@Mission Woods

@Good Shepherd

@Woods Chapel

@Colbern Rd

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*"Participating in the Central USA Mission Center online communion worship services was very formative for our family. Even though online, we loved the sense of community and connectedness we shared with neighboring congregations. It allowed us to connect, share ideas, and worship with a broader base of members and seekers in Christ."*

*-Chad Godfrey*

# MISSION OUTLOOK

## Our Mission

We proclaim Jesus Christ and promote communities of joy, hope, love, and peace.

## Our Vision

To share God's vision of reconciliation, salvation, wholeness, justice, and peace expressed in Shalom; meaning a fullness or completeness of peace.

*"The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the fatling together, and a little child shall lead them...They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea."*  
- Isaiah 11:6-9

## Our Purpose

Our call is to reclaim that same vision and passion for the whole mission of Jesus Christ today through five life-changing, church-changing, and world-changing

Mission Initiatives:

- ✝ Invite People to Christ**  
—Christ's mission of evangelism
- ✎ Pursue Peace on Earth**  
—Christ's mission of justice and peace
- ♥ Abolish Poverty, End Suffering**  
—Christ's mission of compassion
- 👤 Develop Disciples to Serve**  
—Equip individuals for Christ's mission
- 🌐 Experience Congregations in Mission**  
—Equip congregations for Christ's mission

*"How might we think, speak, and interact differently as disciples of the peaceful One?"*  
— President Stephen M. Veazey



# Toward a Future of Peace

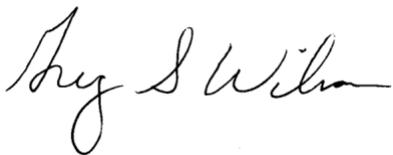
Dear Friends,

As Central USA Mission Center you are creating and living transforming pathways as disciples of Jesus. Your covenant relationship with Jesus Christ, expressed in Community of Christ, is modeling for others a way of life that can bring meaning, hope, purpose, and peace. Together we are ONE.

In our culture it is easy to think each person is independent of anyone else, that our choices and decisions effect only ourselves, but that simply is not the case. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Galatians 3, “So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.” In Central USA Mission Center we will not be defined by where we attend, where we live, what ministry we support, or how we respond as generous disciples. We will be defined by sharing Christ’s unifying love with the community.

As we move forward together, discerning and creating a plan toward a future of peace, we must rely on one another, act as one body, and invite others to join us in this community that has changed us for the better. President Veazey has asked, “How might we think, speak, and interact differently as disciples of the peaceful One?” This question is key to discovering how we can successfully communicate our 191-year-old witness of the risen Christ, who is still speaking, still calling, still revealing himself to the world today. People are yearning to experience God’s love. Let’s embrace one another and move forward together as we explore new avenues for sharing the Good News!

Together in Christ,



**Greg S. Wilson**  
Central USA Mission Center President Chair  
gregwilson@centralmission.org  
August 23, 2021



# FINANCIAL SUMMARY

## Central Mission - Ministry & Support 2021 Budget Detail

	2021 Budget
<b>RECEIPTS</b>	
Contributions-Mission Center	455,000
Interest	165,000
Other Income	56,000
Transfer Account	9,800
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>	<b>685,800</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>	
<b>Support &amp; Outreach Ministries</b>	
Ministerial Education/Leadership	1,500
Missionary Ministries	15,000
Worship	700
<b>Total Support &amp; Outreach Ministries</b>	<b>17,200</b>
<b>Youth Ministries</b>	
Youth Program	
Middle School Program	1,500
Leadership	100
Rallies	3,500
Senior High Program	1,500
<b>Total Youth Program</b>	<b>6,600</b>
Youth Miscellaneous	
Camperships	7,500
Resources	500
Summer Intern	6,000
<b>Total Youth Miscellaneous</b>	<b>14,000</b>
<b>Total Youth Ministries</b>	<b>20,600</b>
Stewardship Resources	750
<b>Total All Ministries</b>	<b>38,550</b>

Equipment	3,500
Insurance	5,500
Utilities/telephone	14,000
<b>Total Facilities</b>	<b>23,000</b>
<b>Administration</b>	
Bank Charges	10,000
Printing, Postage & Office Supplies	15,000
Professional Fees	750
Mission Center Events, Conference	500
Computer Operations	4,500
Audio Visual	3,000
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>33,750</b>
<b>Human Resources</b>	
Salaries & Benefits	588,500
<b>Total Human Resources</b>	<b>588,500</b>
<b>Miscellaneous</b>	
Miscellaneous	1,000
MC President Contingency	1,000
<b>Total Miscellaneous</b>	<b>2,000</b>
<b>TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS</b>	<b>685,800</b>
<b>NET RECEIPTS</b>	<b>0</b>

*"It's my hope that the Justice and Peace Action Team can provide opportunities for people in the Mission Center and the community to be involved in educational and action oriented events that make a difference in the lives of others."*

*-Jared Sloan*

*Justice and Peace Action Team*

# CENTRAL MISSION YOUTH MINISTRIES

## Youth Ministries Development

- Youth Council
- Congregational Youth Ministries
- Youth Worker Trainings
- CIT, Director, Camp Staff Trainings
- National Community of Christ Youth Forum
- American Camping Association Workshop

## Elevate

Elevate is an opportunity for 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders to come together for fellowship, games, interactive activities and conversation surrounding meaningful topics. Throughout fall of 2020 Elevate focused on the struggles and injustices depicted in the Old Testament of the poor and displaced. Utilizing the knowledge gained from these conversations we were able to parallel the difficult situations our world is facing today in order to learn how we can be advocates for God’s justice.

## Summer Youth Camps

Central Mission Youth Ministries successfully hosted four youth camps during the Summer 2021 camping season at Lake Doniphan. More than 85 families received \$28,942.50 in camperships provided by Central USA Mission Center congregations. With a team of 65 incredible camp staff volunteers, we were able to serve a total of 179 campers. Collectively, our staff donated more than 5,256 hours of their time to ensure our campers had a safe, fun, meaningful, and Christ-centered experience. The summer youth camp programs continue to be the leading ministry of Central Mission Youth Ministries. As a Mission Center, we are committed to ensuring their future success.

	High School Camp	Middle School Camp	Junior Camp	Children’s Camp
# Of Campers	71	49	46	13
# Of Staff	22	18	28	7

**In Summer 2021 camp staff donated 5,256 hours of their time. Total onsite hours valued at \$20 per hour equates to \$105,120 worth of time donated to our Summer Youth Camp Programs.**

## Looking Toward the Future

Central Mission Youth Ministries remains devoted to serving our youth throughout our mission center. As we look towards the future, we are hopeful to engage and connect our youth in new and exciting ways. Plans for Elevate are in the works with a focus on exploring their relationship with Christ. The Central Mission Youth Council will resume meetings this fall, to continue developing and implementing strategies that will change the lives of our youth. Central Mission Youth Ministries continues to work with leaders throughout the United States to organize a National Community of Christ Youth Forum, providing space for church volunteers and leaders to share about youth ministry ideas, projects, and resources. To close out 2021 Central Mission Youth Ministries will host a Christmas retreat in December to provide an opportunity to come together in a sacred community to offer fellowship and discipleship formation.

*“I left retreat more positive and happier than I was before. Connecting with church friends and deepening my relationship with Christ was just what I needed.”*  
– High School Camper

# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND INVITATIONAL MINISTRIES

## Expanding Partnerships

Central USA Mission Center is working closely with local organizations to develop partnerships focused on addressing issues of justice and peace throughout the Jackson County community. Existing partnerships include:

- Hawthorne Place Apartments
- Boys and Girls Clubs of GKC
- Community Services League
- Independence School District
- Drumm Farm Center for Children
- Independence Ethnic Council

## Mission Matters

The continuation of outreaching ministry at the Mission Center Level is vital to the success of Community of Christ. As we continue working towards creating communities of peace, mission must remain our top priority. Our mission initiatives of invite people to Christ, abolish poverty, end suffering, pursue peace on earth, developing disciples to serve, and experiencing congregations in mission should guide us as we work to serve our community.

## Invitation is Central

Invitation is the key to who we are called to be as Christians. When Jesus gave the Great Commission, we were challenged and assigned to invite people to him. Do not underestimate the significance invitation plays in our lives and the lives of others. We must embody the welcoming spirit of Jesus Christ and share the love of God with all whom we encounter.

## Community Development

Community development will be central to the future of our church. We must develop structures which improve and value the lives of all persons. The implementation of proper community development strategies will equip Community of Christ with the tools necessary to create resilient and diverse communities that are able to sustain and support the ministries of the church. Our utilization of community development strategies must remain steadfast to the creation of peaceable kingdom.



*“With more awareness of each others’ stories, needs and gifts, we can work more effectively in creating God’s shalom in our part of the world.”*

*-Gwendolyn Hawks-Blue  
Mission Center Diversity & Inclusion  
Team*

# OUTREACHING MINISTRIES

## JAM

The Jesus and Me programs are created to share the love and story of Jesus Christ with the youth in our community. With a dedicated group of volunteers who have participated for approx. 20 years we serve around 150 kids each week. This program successfully reaches youth in all corners of Independence, MO.

## Hawthorne Ministries

Hawthorne Place Apartments in Independence, MO is a ministry that evolves to meet the needs of those most vulnerable in our community. This ministry responds to the spiritual, emotion, and physical needs of the community. Examples of needs include: turkeys for Thanksgiving, prayer requests, and offering wellness checks during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

## CSL Food Distribution

In May of 2020, Central USA Mission Center began partnering with Community Services League to provide a food distribution site for those in the community experiencing food insecurity due to economic hardship.

**Total Distribution: 5,200**  
**Total Volunteer Hours: 1,516**  
**Total Volunteers: 73**



## Looking Toward the Future

The Outreach Ministry Team is devoted to serving our community and as we begin looking toward the future, we remain focused on providing meaningful, impactful, and relevant ministries to all people living in our communities. As the hands and feet of Christ Jesus we must take action to heal the sick, feed the hungry, free the slave, and bring good news to the poor.

Christ's Mission, Our Mission.  
Elias Wilson, Carole Price, and Ben Byrne



## Boys and Girls Club of GKC

The partnership with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City has remained vibrant through the COVID-19 Pandemic. Central USA Mission Center has continued to serve our neighbors by providing necessary resources and volunteers to support the education, health, and well-being of the youth in our community.

## Coat Drive

The Central Mission Coat Drive primarily serves families in the Independence area. This ministry supports children and adults who are in need of warm clothes including coats, gloves, blankets, and hats to use while walking to school and commuting to work. In winter 2020, twenty-two volunteers gave their time and effort to provide dignity to our friends in need.

**Total Raised: \$8,015**  
**Total Volunteers: 22**  
**Total Coats: 412**

**Greg Wilson**

*Mission Center President Chair*

**Amy Estep**

*Mission Center President Team*

**Jim Resch**

*Mission Center President Team*

**Carina Wilson**

*Mission Center Financial  
Officer*

**Tyler Horinga**

*Mission Center Youth Minister*

**Elias Wilson**

*Invitational Support Minister  
and Community Development  
Specialist*

*Accounting Specialist*

**Bonnie Painter**

*Accounting Specialist*

**Kevin Clark**

*Assistant Financial Officer*

**Dana Speigle**

*Accounting Clerk and  
Printing Services*

**Ben Byrne**

*Outreach Minister*

**Carole Price**

*Outreach Minister*

**Laura Reed**

*Communications and  
Administrative Support*

**Catrina Rittenhouse**

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