



JANUARY 2024

**CENTRAL USA
MISSION CENTER**



Community of Christ

**STRATEGIC PLAN
2024-2027**

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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.

Our Purpose

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

Summary

This pivotal moment in the life of the church is accompanied by exciting conversations about our future. With the help of members, leaders, and priesthood, the strategic planning process clarified opportunities for growth and discipleship in Central USA Mission Center. The four strategic priorities of this plan focus our attention on key missional opportunities. The strategic plan is intended as a living document that allows us to adapt to changing needs as we actively contribute to the well-being of our members and the communities they serve. We must continue to respond to our calling to build God's peaceable kingdom and transform the world around us. Each generation of Community of Christ has faced difficult moments, challenges, and cultural shifts that seemed impossible to overcome. It is in these times that we respond together, pursuing God's call.

God is leading us through the changing cultural landscape that we find ourselves, and the church is rising to meet the occasion as it has always done. By aligning our efforts with this strategic plan, we aim to create a resilient and sustainable future. Through vibrant spiritual gatherings; formation and retention of children, youth, and young adults; community engagement and development; and financial sustainability; we will create and nurture vibrant, inclusive, and impactful communities of Christ. Implementing this strategic plan will require continuous reassessment and refinement to remain responsive to our ever-evolving environment, while staying true to our overarching vision. The Central USA Mission Center Strategic Plan 2024-2027 is designed to support and encourage congregations and the collective mission center as we shape our future with God.

PLANNING INVOLVEMENT

Our community, working together to build our future.

Community of Christ Members

A population of 150+ members were involved at various stages of the strategic planning process.

Pastors and Leaders

In late 2021 and early 2022, 70 Pastors and 42 Financial Officers were interviewed to gather feedback, data, and perspectives.

Young Adults

Thirteen members of the Young Adult Ministry Team and four young adult leaders participated in interviews and the strategic planning process.

Central USA Mission Center Council

All 14 Mission Center Council members were included in the strategic planning process.

Executive Team

Mission Center President Team, Financial Officer, and Invitation Support Minister

Thank You

Thank you to all who have supported the creation of this plan through financial support, hours of thoughtful work, and all who will continue to support the implementation of this plan.

VIBRANT SPIRITUAL GATHERINGS

Strategic Priority

- We aspire to gather people in community to experience Christ in culturally relevant ways that align with Community of Christ identity, mission, message, and beliefs (IMMB).

Goal

- Encourage collaboration and partnerships between members and their communities to support existing ministries and empower new expressions of ministry.

Objectives

- Enhance experimentation and exploration through opportunities for collaboration.
- Cultivate holistic spiritual formation and compassionate ministry and action.
- Foster culturally relevant gatherings exploring Jesus Christ, the peaceful One, through a variety of contexts such as history, philosophy, psychology, theology, and personal experience.
- Promote relationship building through increased interaction among members, friends, and their communities.
- Invest in priesthood and leadership development.

Initiatives

- Establish ministry hubs designed to address diverse member interests and community needs.
- Host a Spiritual Gathering Design Summit to create diverse spiritual gatherings.
- Establish a committee to support, foster, and coordinate experimentation in ministry.



CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND YOUNG ADULT FORMATION AND RETENTION

Strategic Priority

- We aspire to empower and equip children, youth, and young adults in our church to live the identity, mission, message, and beliefs (IMMB) of Community of Christ.

Goals

- Enhance children, youth, and young adult ministries in all congregations and the mission center.
- Increase participation of youth and young adults in ministry and leadership.

Objectives

- Identify, train, and support leaders for children, youth, and young adult ministry in congregations across Central USA Mission Center.
- Recruit and retain young adults to organize experience-based events and provide engaging opportunities for spiritual formation, mission, and relationship.
- Support relevant and inclusive, age-appropriate formation experiences.
- Develop strategies to increase attendance in camping, reunion, and retreat ministries.
- Pursue alignment of current ministries with Community of Christ IMMB.



Initiatives

- Create a leadership development program for youth and young adults to cultivate and enhance leadership skills.
- Create young adult education opportunities to support spiritual formation.
- Host annual trainings to support Christian education and spiritual formation.
- Implement a marketing campaign focused on engaging and retaining young adults.
- Create a committee tasked with increasing attendance, communication, and finances for camping experiences.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Strategic Priority

- We aspire to build bridges of connection within our community. The way we approach, engage, and invest in our community is essential to fulfilling our mission.

Goals

- Identify and address systemic issues that create suffering in our community.
- Strengthen the network of relationships and collective actions between Central USA Mission Center and community partners with aligned missions.

Objectives

- Implement missional marketing and education strategies tailored to engage friends, members, and the wider community.
- Evaluate the overall impact our community partnerships have on accomplishing our mission and goals.
- Establish intentional collaboration efforts with partnering organizations dedicated to promoting justice and peace.
- Identify opportunities for expansion and enhancement of new and existing community partnerships.
- Assess the financial, social, and human impacts of our mission in terms of positive outcomes and community change.

Initiatives

- Create entry points for meaningful experiences in mission.
- Support efforts to invite people to Christ-centered community.
- Identify ministers to represent Community of Christ within key organizations, increasing our presence at ecumenical meetings and civic events.
- Host a Peace Colloquy in 2025.
- Advance collaborative efforts with community members, local government, non-profit organizations, and businesses working to address justice and peace issues.



FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Strategic Priority

- We aspire to steward our resources to support and serve our mission, values, and community through increased efficiency and sustainability.

Goals

- Establish sustainable funding models for the mission center and its congregations.
- Optimize the use and sustainability of facilities and land.

Objectives

- Identify new funding sources to support our operations and mission.
- Identify and engage new contributors.
- Encourage legacy giving.
- Where feasible, assist congregations in establishing formal endowments.
- Recommend potential future locations for ministry in line with the church's vision and mission.

Initiatives

- Identify ministers who can engage donors and support fundraising efforts.
- Support congregations in using their facilities to generate additional revenue.
- Establish a committee tasked with providing guidance and support to congregations in the development and implementation of strategies focused on facility and land use.
- Promote the growth of existing endowments.
- Utilize World Church and legal support to identify suitable funding options.



IMPLEMENTATION & TIMELINE

Phase 1 Spring 2024	Resource Development and Action Planning Committees
Phase 2 Fall 2024	Implement Action Planning Committee Recommendations
Phase 3 Spring 2025	Create Ministry Hubs and Identify New Revenues
Phase 4 Spring 2027	Adaptive Response and Development of Next Strategic Plan

This strategic plan serves as an essential tool for shaping the future trajectory of Central USA Mission Center Community of Christ. It is important to view this strategic plan as a living document, requiring continuous reassessment and refinement to remain responsive to our ever-evolving environment, while staying true to our overarching vision.

The advantage of the 3-year scope lies in its capacity to accommodate ambitious goals, while maintaining flexibility to adapt to unforeseen changes such as shifts in leadership, community needs, and economic conditions. This phased approach aims to help the Central USA Mission Center, and its congregations, effectively navigate challenges and capitalize on emerging opportunities.

CENTRAL USA MISSION CENTER



Community of Christ

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