

What is Our Name Calling us to Become?

How do we discern, embrace, and risk living into our identity and calling as Community of Christ in a changing world?

Reflections:

“Community of Christ,” your name, given as a divine blessing, is your identity and calling. If you will discern and embrace its full meaning, you will not only discover your future, you will become a blessing to the whole creation. Do not be afraid to go where it beckons you to go.

Doctrine and Covenants 163:1

a. Beloved children of the Restoration, your continuing faith adventure with God has been divinely-led, eventful, challenging, and sometimes surprising to you. *By the grace of God, you are poised to fulfill God’s ultimate vision for the church.*

d. If you truly would be Community of Christ, then embody and live the concerns and passion of Christ.

e. The challenges and opportunities are momentous. Will you remain hesitant in the shadows of your fears, insecurities, and competing loyalties? Or will you move forward in the light of your divinely instilled call and vision?

Doctrine and Covenants 164:9

The challenge before the church is not to withdraw but to boldly move forward in the light of its divine call and vision.¹ We live in a world with new challenges that require us to rediscover our prophetic heritage as a people on the move with God. There is no map to lead us in such a world, only the timeless navigational practices that have guided disciples throughout the ages – practices that awaken us to God’s movement and unfolding mission all around us!

LCM Overview

Perhaps our inclination to grasp for answers is symptomatic of a much deeper problem – one that is both opportunity and gateway to the future. Imagine a people who rediscover inspiration and hope in their relationships with God, one another, and their neighbors. Consider a future dependent on our willingness to *risk* going deeper – much deeper in relationships that courageously embody and live Christ’s love and mission.

¹ Doctrine and Covenants 164:9e

LCM Overview

In all eternity God lives and loves as Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. In God's own eternal being there is movement, life, personal relationship, and giving and receiving of love.

—*Faith Seeking Understanding: An Introduction to Christian Theology*, pg. 77

God's nature is relational. The mission and ministry of Jesus Christ are relational. Mission and ministry focus on reconciling people to God and one another through loving, just, and peaceable relationships. Reconciling and redeeming people, relationships, social systems, cultures, and the whole creation is Jesus Christ's mission. We look to Jesus Christ to show us how to engage in relationships that express God's nature and purposes.

Part 1: Theological Foundations for Ministry and Priesthood - December 2013

God moved toward us in Jesus Christ. We are now called to join God's *movement* toward others in Christ. We are also called to have a *movement mind-set* that calls us to discern and follow the disruptive promptings of the Holy Spirit in mission.

LCM Overview

THE BIG ESSENTIAL QUESTION THAT LEADS US DEEPER INTO MISSION

How do we discern, embrace, and risk living into our identity and calling as Community of Christ in a changing world?

Personal Reflections:

1. What is God trying to *reveal* to us in our name? Consider D&C 163:1 and the quotes above. What are some words, phrases, ideas, or images that are beginning to emerge for you?
2. How might it look different than what currently happens in congregations or small groups?
3. How might it look the same?

Group Reflections:

1. Take some time to share your personal reflections at your tables. Pay particular attention to what you are hearing!! What are some insights or important ideas you want to explore further?

2. Refer to ***Framework for Discerning and Leading Mission***. How does our identity and calling as Community of Christ specifically relate to the three trends that describe our context in the USA and Canada? (i.e. renewal, relationships, relevance)

3. Now find the table at the end of the document entitled ***Mission Planning Grid for Congregations and New Expressions of the Church***. Focus on the first row with the heading “How We Encounter God Together” and follow these steps:

- a. Make a list of what happens on Sunday morning in the far left hand column. This would include things like fellowship, adult and childrens classes, worship, etc.
- b. Choose one of the activities above (example - Worship) and work through each question related to the three trends (i.e. renewal, relationships, relevance).
- c. What are you currently doing that relates to the trends?
- d. How might our identity and calling as Community of Christ lead to new or deeper expressions of the activity/ministry chosen above?