

An Interactive Introduction for Youth

# Community of Christ

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



Pastor: Carla K Long

Sunday School for Kids: Sundays @ 10 am

Coffee and Conversation for Adults: Sundays @ 10am

Worship: Sundays @ 11am



# W e l c o m e

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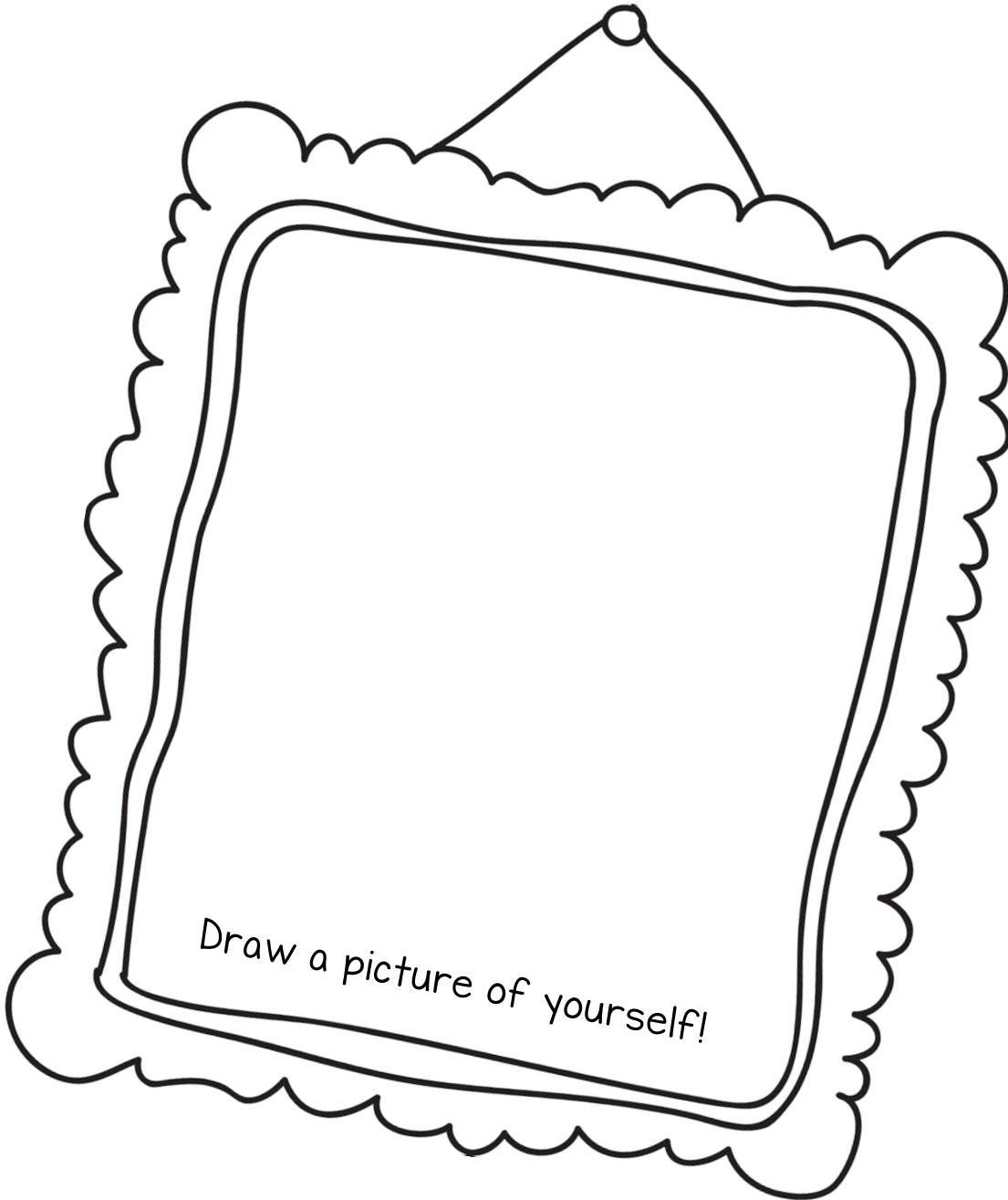
Thanks so much for visiting us at Salt Lake City Community of Christ! As a welcome gift, we created this book just for YOU. It has pictures, stories, and activities that help you learn more about Community of Christ. Some of the pages you'll be able to do on your own. For others, you might want to work with your whole family.

We loved having you with us and look forward to seeing you again.

Sincerely,

*The Community of Christ Salt Lake Congregation*

# Just for Kids



Draw a picture of yourself!

The following activity pages offer a kid friendly introduction to Community of Christ. Topics include understandings and values held by Community of Christ as well as church history. While parents are more than welcome to work through these pages with kids, they are designed for kids to navigate independently.

# What Is Church?

People sometimes use the word **church** to refer to a type of building that often includes a tall steeple, stained glass windows, and a chapel – like when we say: “let’s go to the church.”

Other times people use the word to mean the kind of meeting that takes place inside the building: “let’s start church now.”

Church can also mean the people who make up the congregation or community: “we are the church.”

This last meaning – the community of people – is much more important than the type of building or meeting. In Community of Christ, we all become the church when we gather together in community to build meaningful relationships and to live out our shared mission.



# Peace Seal

Community of Christ's seal or logo is a picture of a lion laying down with a lamb being led by a child. This is a vision of a truly peaceful world, which we also call Zion, the peaceable kingdom, the commonwealth of God, and the Community of Christ. We work to make our world more like Zion by pursuing peace and justice everywhere.



*see Isaiah 11:6*

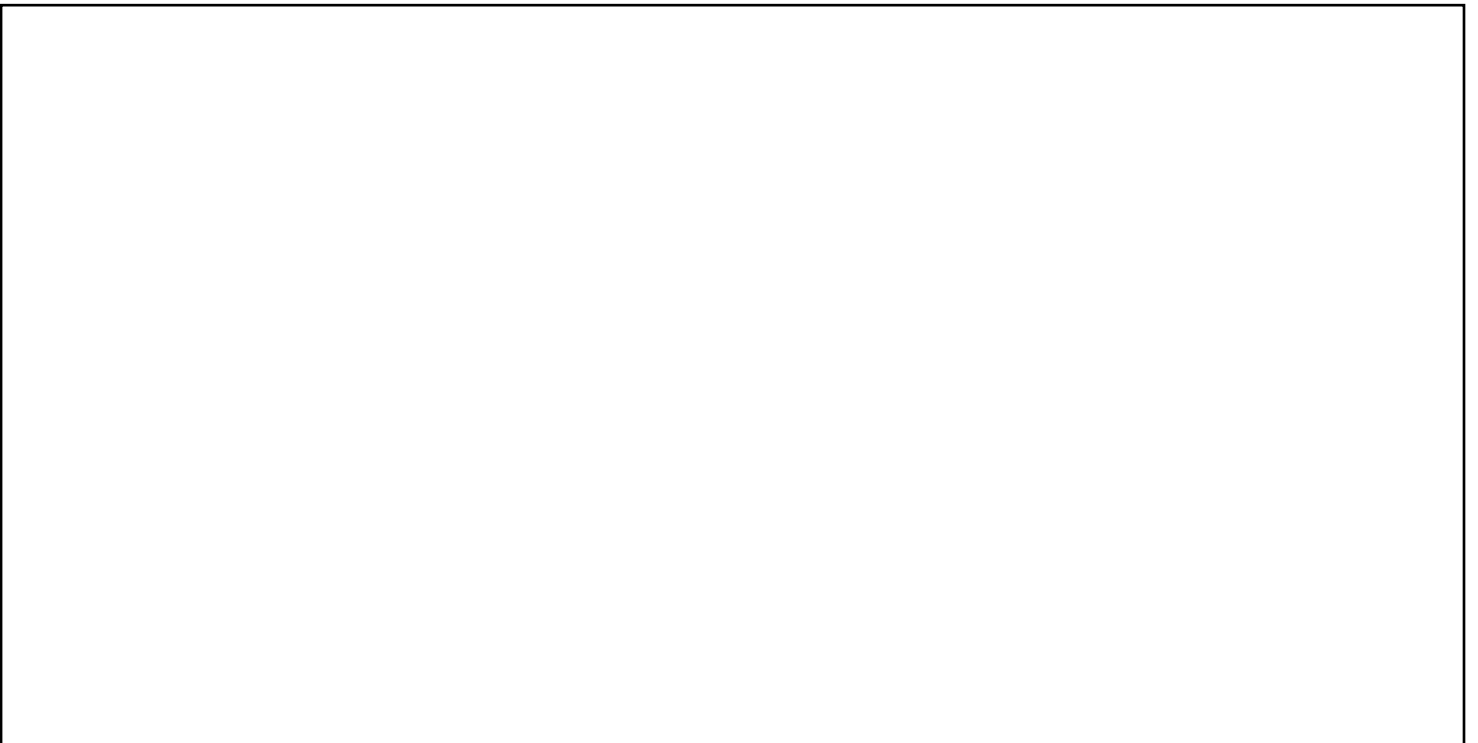
# God

Humans naturally like to have simple answers to questions, but in life we sometimes find that not all questions have simple answers.

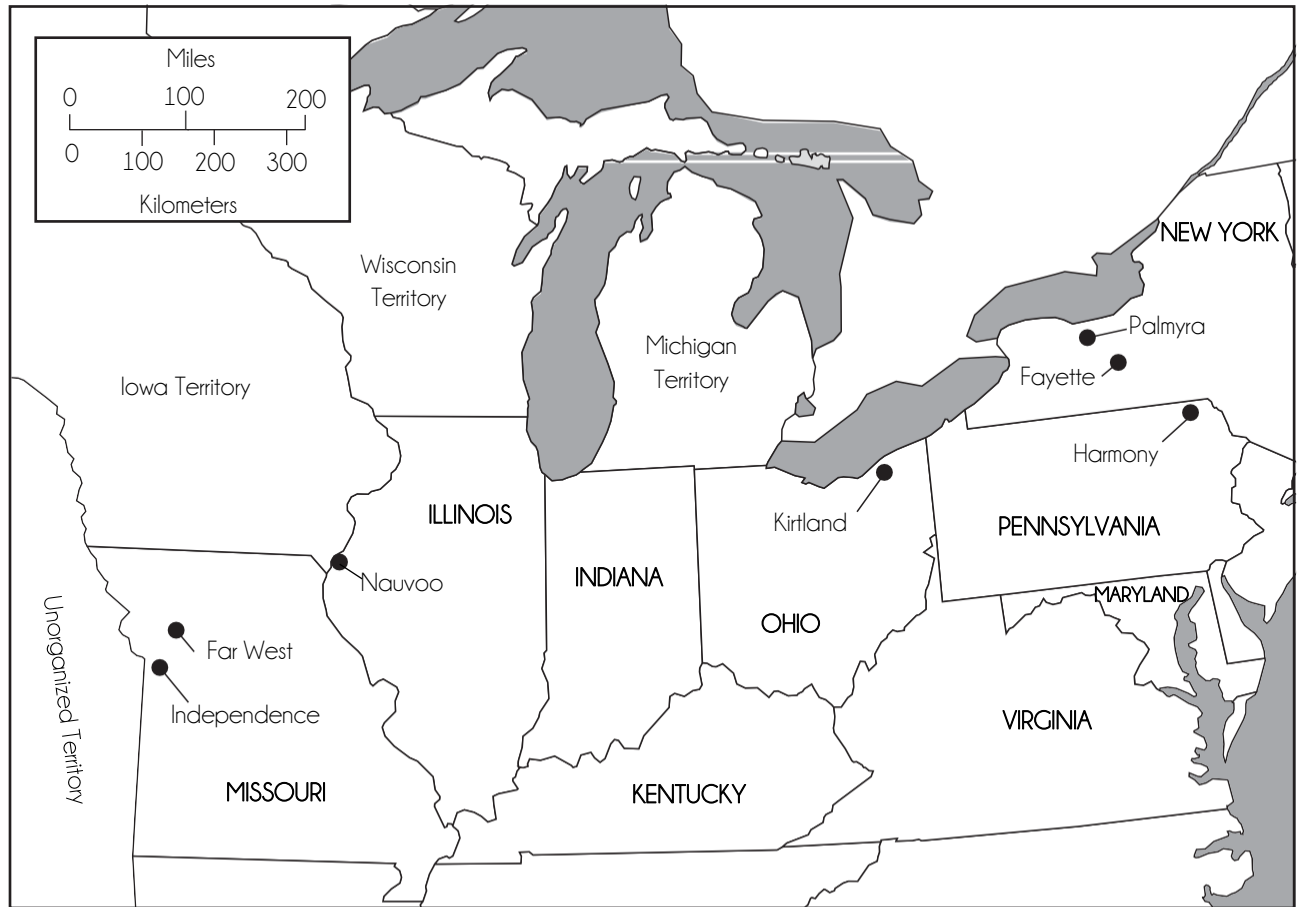
People use words like God and the Divine to refer to many different ideas. Sometimes when people say God they mean the source of everything or the creator. Other times they mean our heavenly parent (heavenly father, heavenly mother). Some people believe God is that which connects us all and that which is good.

It is impossible for us to fully understand God. It isn't important that we have all the answers. It is important that we continue to explore the questions. Rather than having one simple answer, we share and struggle with many different answers as we continually learn and grow in life.

Draw a picture or writes some words describing who and what you think God is. For example, you could write "friend" or you could draw a picture of a question mark.



# Church History



In response to a vision had by Joseph Smith Jr., the church was organized or founded by a small group of people in the towns of Palmyra and Fayette, New York, in 1830. Joseph and his wife Emma Smith were among the first members along with their relatives and friends in the Smith and Whitmer families.

Joseph and the Latter-day Saint church moved West on various occasions. Most of the time, they had to move because of the tension and hostility between them and people who were not members. The church headquarters first moved to Kirtland, Ohio, where members built a temple, and later to Far West, Missouri, and Nauvoo, Illinois.

After Joseph Smith Jr. died, many members moved West to Utah with a man named Brigham Young. A small group stayed behind and eventually reorganized with Joseph Smith III (Joseph Smith Jr.'s son) as their leader. This reorganized group is now known as Community of Christ.



# Emma Hale Smith<sup>9</sup>

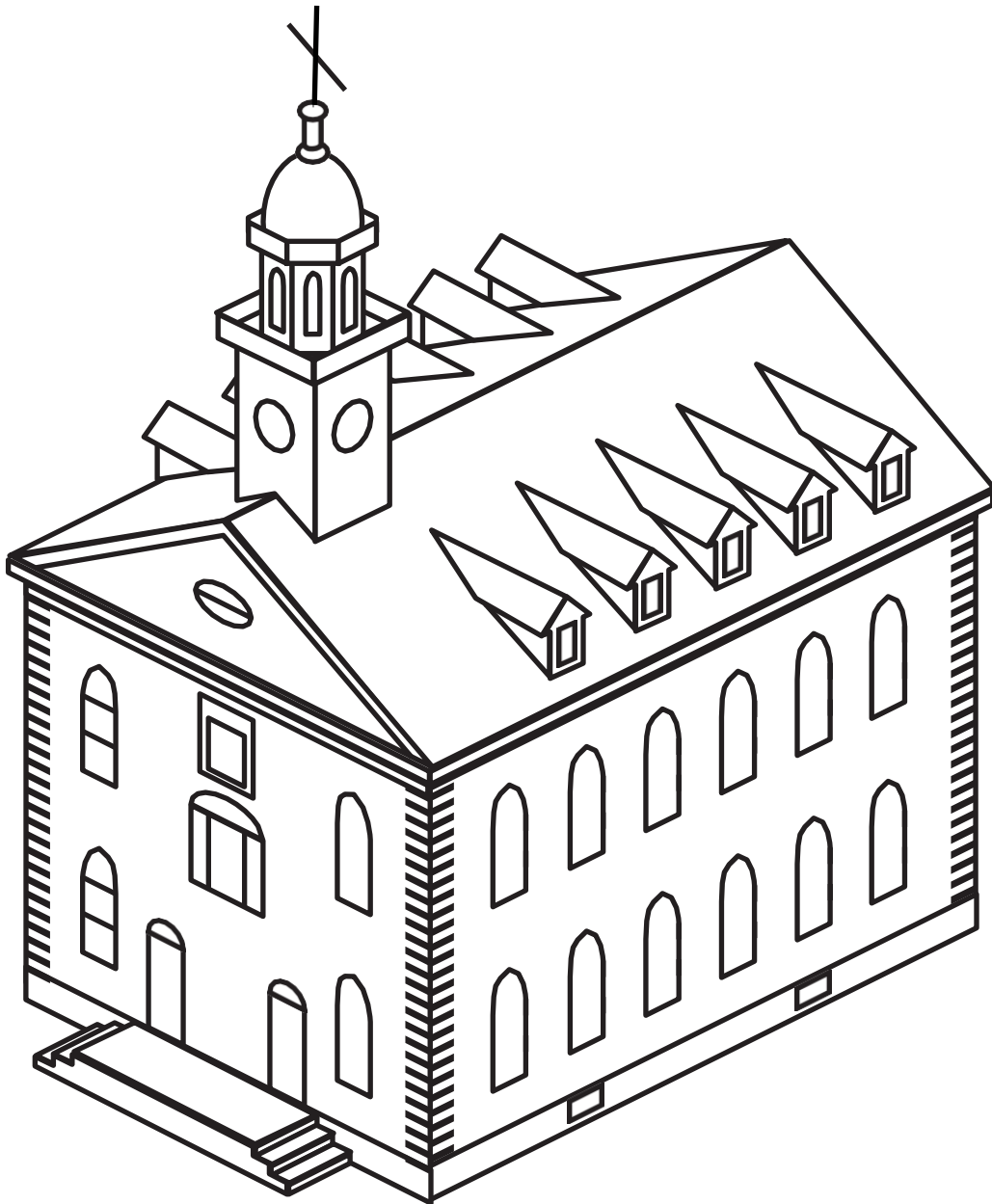


The "Elect Lady" and Mother of the Restoration

Emma Hale Smith was married to Joseph Smith Junior. She was among the first members of the Restoration Movement. Emma contributed to the early church by selecting hymns for four church hymnals and serving as president of the Nauvoo Relief Society. Her son, Joseph Smith III became the first prophet of the Reorganization.

# Kirtland Temple

Called the “House of the Lord,” the temple was dedicated on March 27, 1836, in Kirtland, Ohio. Although the members were extremely poor, they sacrificed everything (and even went bankrupt) in order to build this sacred structure, which was the first place of worship built by the church.



*Emma Smith's first hymnal was published in time for the dedication where members sang "The Spirit of God Like a Fire Is Burning"*



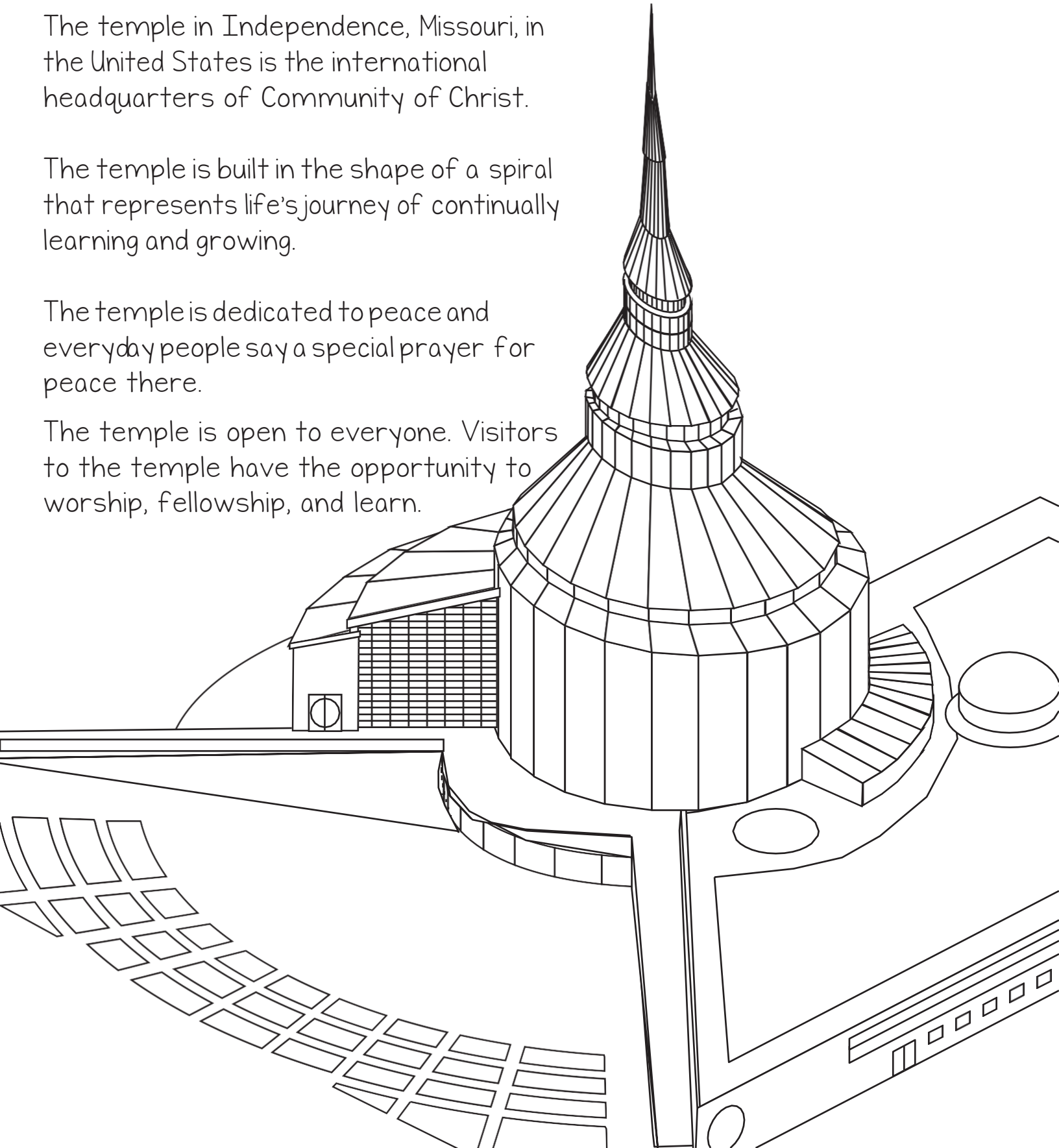
# The Temple

The temple in Independence, Missouri, in the United States is the international headquarters of Community of Christ.

The temple is built in the shape of a spiral that represents life's journey of continually learning and growing.

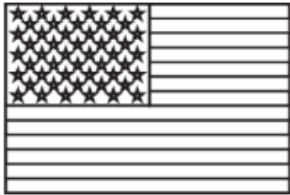
The temple is dedicated to peace and everyday people say a special prayer for peace there.

The temple is open to everyone. Visitors to the temple have the opportunity to worship, fellowship, and learn.

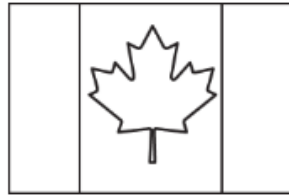


# Worldwide Community

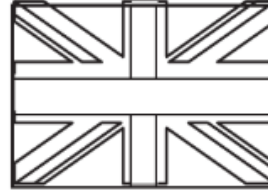
Community of Christ is established in 43 countries worldwide.



United States of America (1830)



Canada (1833)



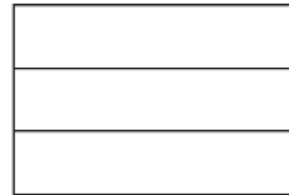
United Kingdom (1837)



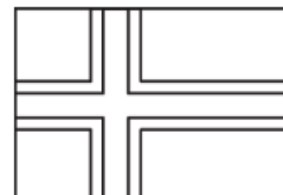
Australia (1840)



French Polynesia (1844)



The Netherlands (1869)



Norway (1874)



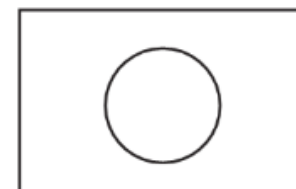
New Zealand (1890)



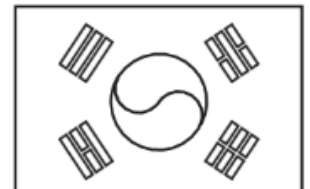
Germany (1914)



Cayman Islands (1921)



Japan (1960)



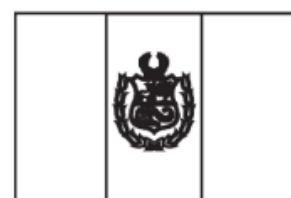
Republic of Korea (1960)



Mexico (1964)



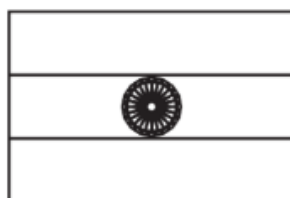
Brazil (1965)



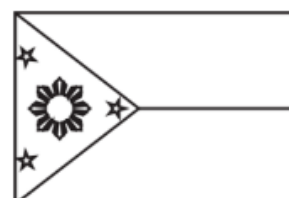
Peru (1965)



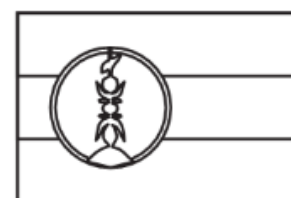
Nigeria (1966)



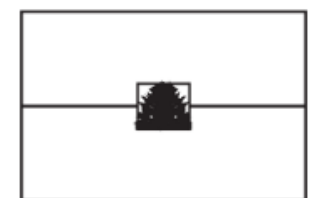
India (1966)



The Philippines (1966)



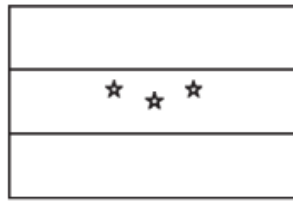
New Caledonia (1968)



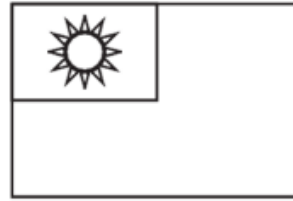
Haiti (1968)



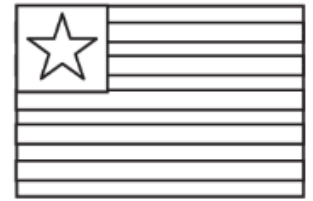
Fiji (1968)



Honduras (1972)



Rep. of China  
Taiwan (1976)



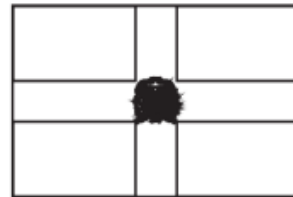
Liberia (1976)



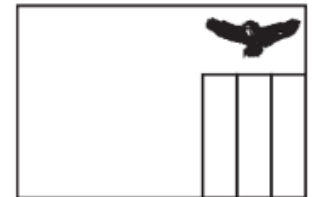
Kenya (1976)



Democratic Rep.  
of Congo (1981)



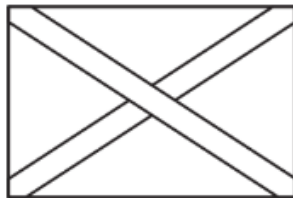
Dominican  
Republic (1981)



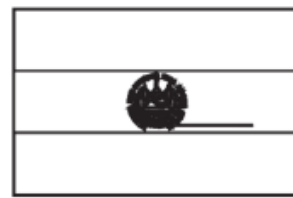
Zambia (1987)



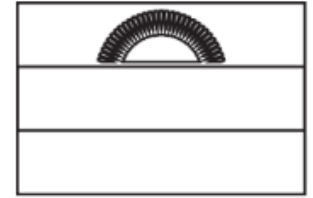
Cote d'Ivoire  
(1988)



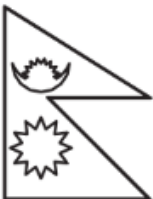
Jamaica (1989)



El Salvador  
(1990)



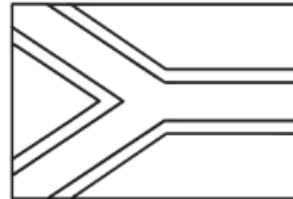
Malawi (1992)



Nepal (1999)



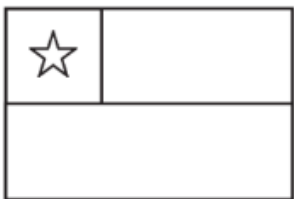
Bolivia (2000)



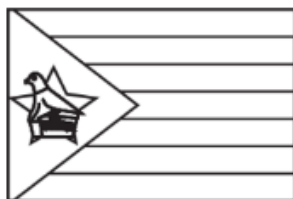
South Africa  
(2002)



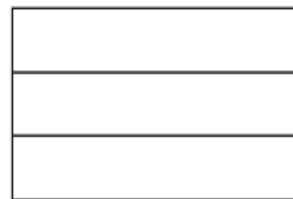
Aruba (2007)



Chile (2007)



Zimbabwe (2007)



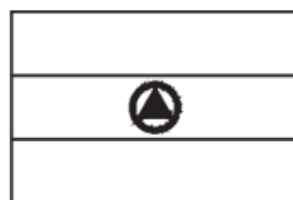
Russian  
Federation (2007)



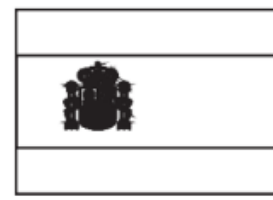
Ukraine (2007)



Republic of the  
Congo (2007)



Nicaragua (2007)



Spain (2015)

# Enduring Principles

Our nine **Enduring Principles** define the essence, heart, and soul of our community. They describe the personality of our church as expressed throughout the world. Each principle has its own symbol:



grace & generosity



sacredness of creation



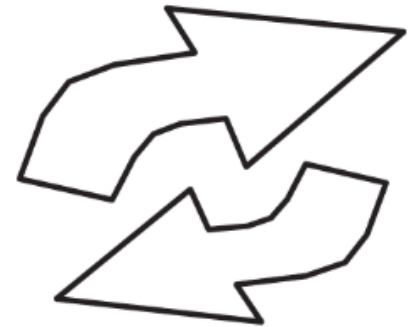
continuing revelation



worth of all persons



all are called



responsible choices



pursuit of peace (shalom)



unity in diversity



blessings of community

# Community of Christ Enduring Principles

N N R E S P O N S I B L E C H O I C E S S B J G Z  
 T O O S J J J U R H M Z S M E B B V H S N L N L R  
 I R I I E X E P M H Q V C S W U K I O F O E X B C  
 U U L T T T M C Y L K S C I T W K E E Z S S B K C  
 M C X U A A Z Y R A W T A W R V B A C R R S C Q F  
 B Z C W E E L O V L E K A A G A W L N Z E I P U E  
 C X X A C R R E W W S U X S I J Y L U C P N U N M  
 Y D H L F S R C V K I P J F N S N A U Y L G R F X  
 E T P X V O A F F E O T V W L S D R P X L S S Q N  
 D H I W A M A L N O R P B Q F V R E Z R A O U F K  
 G O Q S F A J J V B S G P T S N Z C I V F F I X E  
 C U L M O X O T Y K W S N W S V I A E R O C T N S  
 X E G E U R C C C X H J E I D U B L X D H O O Z A  
 R Y L G L V E R K U N P O N U K N L H X T M F Q J  
 G T F M N A F N D V T M M V D N V E Y D R M P Y H  
 N Z C J C V V J E U Z W F N H E I D Q S O U E P H  
 E X Z T H K I E V G O R B P F D R T T Y W N A H U  
 G C F G N L T Y X I D E V X R O Q C N X L I C G A  
 R S W Z P Q G V N A V N Y P S H I O A O V T E F X  
 C N H J S U Q G L O J B A I H J W R I S C Y L C S  
 C Q N V Y T M M U F L T O E E V D G V W J Z Y Z Q  
 H T J D Z B O T X J P W B S C H S B K Q U R Z R P  
 X T L M X D I X O S M Z X E R A A I R F O K K H Q  
 U N I T Y I N D I V E R S I T Y R M M M D F Y L N  
 N B B R C P P V V H B I Y A X B E G J W F Y Z S U

ALL ARE CALLED  
 BLESSINGS OF COMMUNITY  
 CONTINUING REVELATION  
 GRACE AND GENEROSITY  
 PURSUIT OF PEACE  
 RESPONSIBLE CHOICES

SACREDNESS OF CREATION  
 UNITY IN DIVERSITY  
 WORTH OF ALL PERSONS

Match each Enduring Principle with its description. After you have matched each one, check your answers with the key written upside down on the bottom of this page.

1: All are Called

A: God is generous and offers grace. We see God's grace in Jesus. God's grace is there no matter what we do. We want to respond to God's generosity and grace by being generous and sharing our resources and ministry with others.

2: Unity in Diversity

B: God the creator continues to create. God wants us to help take care of creation and respect its power.

3: Responsible Choices

C: The Bible, Book of Mormon, and Doctrine and Covenants share stories about people's experience with God. God still engages with us today. Both by ourselves and with others, we try to listen to God and understand God's vision better as it is continually revealed.

4: Blessings of Community

D: God views all people as having equal worth. Nothing changes that. God wants all people to feel this worth. Sometimes, people are told they don't have worth. We join with God to tell them they are worthy and challenge those who say differently.

5: Continuing Revelation

E: Jesus invites people to follow him by sharing his life and ministry. Some disciples are called and ordained to priesthood responsibilities and ministries that help the community, the congregation, and the world. We try to hear God and follow God's call so that we can use our gifts and talents to make the world a better place.

6: Grace and Generosity

F: God gives humans the ability to make choices. Sometimes making good choices is hard. Good choices help good happen in the world and bad choices can make bad happen in the world. We try to make good choices that make the world better.

7: Pursuit of Peace

G: God wants peace for all of creation. Jesus is a good example of peace. The way we live together can help bring Zion. Zion is God's peaceful kingdom. We courageously and generously share peace with others. We try to bring peace throughout the world and celebrate peace when we see it.

8: Sacredness of Creation

H: Community of Christ has many different members that come from all over the world. Rather than being afraid of our differences, we celebrate them because they make us better. We listen to each other when making decisions and when we don't agree we continue to be friends.

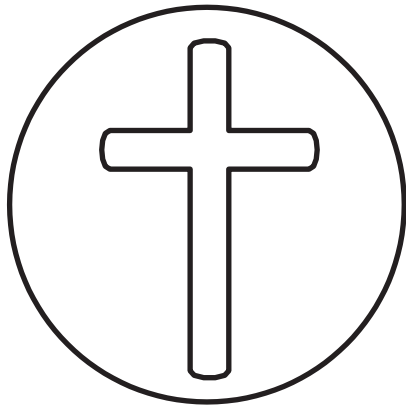
9: Worth of All Persons

I: We understand God best when we are together in community. To have a real community, we must include everyone. In community we learn from each other and grow together.



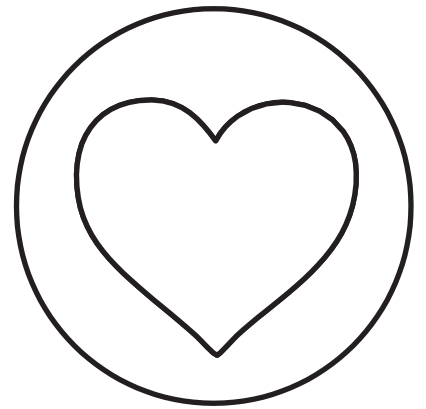
# Mission Initiatives

The word **mission** refers to an important goal or purpose. In Community of Christ, we share five mission initiatives. These are modeled after the way Jesus lived and ministered. Each one of our initiatives has a symbol to help us remember it:



◀ #1: Invite People to Christ

#2: Abolish Poverty, End Suffering ▶



◀ #3: Pursue Peace on Earth

#4: Develop Disciples to Serve ▶



◀ #5: Experience Congregations in Mission

# Christ's Mission is Our Mission

Can you help the Mission Initiatives find their way out into the world?

