

Community of Christ

GREGGORY S. McDONALD
NORTHERN GREAT LAKES CANADA
U.S. MISSION CENTER

May 30, 2009

Northern Great Lakes Canada/US Mission Center

Friends:

Cathy Hopkins, the Mission Center Financial Officer, Bill Dodds, President of the Park Board of Directors and I want to take this opportunity to make you aware of the current financial needs of the Park of the Pines.

Over the previous three years the operating expenses have exceeded our annual income by a significant amount. The specific short falls are identified as follows:

Park of The Pines Budget History			Operating
Year	Income	Expenses	+or -
2006	\$90,763.79	\$93,571.07	(\$2,807.28)
2007	\$82,012.23	\$91,805.63	(\$9,793.40)
2008	\$83,542.54	\$102,609.23	(\$19,066.69)
Totals	\$256,318.56	\$287,985.93	(\$31,667.37)

As a result of the shortfall we are now in a position where our operating reserves have been depleted.

There is a significant balance in our investment account that is committed to the new dining hall. However, these funds are restricted contributions and are not available for the operating budget.

In an attempt to address the income shortfall, the Mission Center Conference/Park of the Pines Association last September, took action to significantly increase congregational assessments. This action shifted anticipated income from grounds usage to congregational assessments. Previous budgets had projected greater grounds usage income than what was actually generated.

The annual Park budget was thoroughly discussed at the Park Expo held on May 17th and several indicated that they were not aware of the critical need for increased assessment and income and suggested that we communicate the need to every congregation.

We are hopeful that the increased assessments will meet the current budget income projections; however your participation in the various events at the Park is also an important component that provides critical income for the budget.

It was suggested at the Expo that perhaps congregations might hold bake and rummage sales and/or that perhaps individuals could give their “stimulus checks” to the Park. These are great ideas and any additional funds received will be applied first to the operating budget and more specifically allow for several maintenance projects that are overdue and pending.

Please feel free to visit with members of the Park Board of Directors (parkorthepines.org) and Mission Center leaders (cofchristngl.org) with thoughts and suggestions on how we might increase financial support and create additional opportunities for using the campgrounds.

The Board of Directors and the Mission Center Council will continue to faithfully provide both a comfortable facility and meaningful programs at the Park, but right now we need your increased financial support is needed to meet the current budget.

We will be closely monitoring the income and expenses and we will provide a detailed financial report at the Mission Center Conference scheduled for September 11th & 12th. If, at the time of conference, it is projected that there will be a shortfall, we will need to consider a resolution for a special assessment.

Please make sure that your current congregational assessment is up to date and be assured that additional gifts and contributions will be gratefully received.

You are invited and encouraged to visit the Mission Center and the Park of the Pines Website for information concerning reunion and the various camping opportunities that will be happening this summer at the Park.

May God’s spirit be present with you as you consider the needs identified in this letter.

Sincerely yours,

Gregg McDonald, President
Cathy Hopkins, Mission Center Financial Officer
Bill Dodds, President Park of the Pines Board of Directors