



news nuggets

RMC Executive Committee Approves Preliminary Budget for 2018 »

“As we are nearing the end of the calendar year, we are grateful for the faithfulness and generosity of our believers throughout the Conference,” said Ed Barnett, RMC president, commenting on the financial reports on Tuesday, December 5, the last meeting of the Executive Committee for the 2017 calendar year. “We are hoping to close the year in the positive which can allow us to continue the progress our church continues to make in our territories.”



Reporting on the financial health of the Conference at the end of October, George Crumley, VP for finances said that “we are tracking fairly close to our operational budget so far this year.” He said that total tithe is down .78 percent and base tithe is down 2.55 percent through October when compared to the prior year. “One of the major reasons tithe is lower is because we only have 43 Sabbaths through October this year compared to 44 Sabbaths through October in 2016, with total tithe including windfall tithe.”

“Total tithe is not down by as much as base tithe because we have received more windfall tithe in 2017 than in the previous year,” he added.

The committee approved the 2018 Preliminary Budget Based on where we are this year regarding tithe, a conservative position was taken for 2018 when budgeting tithe. This presented some budget challenges, Crumley

Friday, December 8, 2017



"As long as poverty, injustice, and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest."
-- Nelson Mandela

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explained. He said that a balanced budget could be achieved by using some funds from the RMC Medical Reserve Fund, along with making cuts in other operational areas.

The committee voted a balanced budget for 2018 with the understanding that once final tithe figures are known after the end of 2017, the revised budget will be presented to the committee for approval in February 2018. At the next meeting, the Executive Committee will be presented with the guidelines and membership of the Abundant Blessings Committee, the first draft of which was discussed on Tuesday.

Barnett also announced that RMC is working on establishing a “Bring them Back” reclamation committee, aiming to reach out to inactive church members. In [the] Denver area alone, he said, there are an estimated 3,000+ former or inactive members. “We should be concerned about every member of our church who is missing from our community. We want to concentrate on making this a pastoral priority in our conference, and ‘love them back’ into our community of faith,” Barnett said.

Eric Nelson, VP for administration, appraised the committee members about preparations for the Voice of Prophecy “Revelation Speaks Peace” outreach to begin January 5 at the Ellie Caulkins Opera House in Downtown Denver. “But we are in great need of an additional 150 volunteers to assist with the logistics of the meetings,” he said.

Additional agenda items which were discussed and/or approved, included:

- The student evangelism program Kaleo to take a mission/evangelism trip to Mexico City. The trip program involves holding outreach meetings as well as work on repairing church buildings damaged by the recent earthquake;
- The Industrial Park at Campion is again under contract for sale;
- A loan from the Mid-America Union Revolving Fund was granted to Fort Collins Church and school for a major building campaign;
- A report of the RMC Trust department presented by Doug English, director, informed the committee that they currently manage 355 trusts and 361 wills along with many other documents that are managed within the department. “This is a heavy load requiring significant time and attention. We are thankful for those who are faithful in remembering the conference in their giving,” commented English.
- The Rifle Hispanic congregation was transitioned from a company status to that of a full church,
- The Rocky Mountain Ghanaian congregation was



Upcoming Events

RMC Property & Trust Committee

December 13, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

GVR Board

December 19, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Christmas Day -- Office Closed

December 1, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

New Year's Day -- Office Closed

January 1, 2018



Story Guidelines: We want to share your news! »

News Nuggets is your publication. We strive to provide news and information expressing our church life. Every church, every family, every individual has a story to tell. We are inviting pastors and secretaries of churches and institutions within the Rocky

recognized as a full church. They are anticipating the grand opening of their newly-purchased church building along with celebrating becoming a fully recognized church on April 7.

- The Holyoke Church story was the highlight of reports presented to the committee and was presented by Pastors Rex Bell and Don Lopes. For many years, the church was led by Ray, a retired minister, and Phyllis Bailey. After Bailey's passing, the church declined to the point that Phyllis would come alone to the church to pray, listen to worshipful music, and study her lesson. Her prayer was that the church would experience a revival. She continued worshiping alone for more than five years. A couple of families began meeting with Phyllis over the last few years. This was followed by more believers moving into the area, as well as other Seventh-day Adventists who began coming from outlying towns until now there are 15 active adult church members attending. Repairs to the building are under way and plans to provide a school are advancing as well. Their excitement was contagious among the committee members as The Holyoke Church requested to be recognized as an active church group again. The committee is anxious for them to be recognized as a company of believers allowing a short time for them to further develop the organizational and leadership structure of the church. Eric Nelson expressed hope that "within a few months they will be transitioned to full church status.

The next Executive Committee meeting is scheduled for February 20, 2018.

[Text and photo by Rajmund Dabrowski]

Porter and Parker hospitals giving free joint replacements in time for the holidays » Throughout the month of December, surgeons at Porter and Parker Adventist hospitals will participate in the nationwide Operation Walk program to give life-changing operations to patients in dire financial need at no cost.

Greater numbers of Americans are insured than ever before, but many still fall through the cracks and are forced to live with debilitating and painful conditions that drastically impact their quality of life. For these patients, the gift of a free joint replacement can be the difference between a lifetime of pain and reduced activity or a future filled with hope, mobility and independence.

Operation Walk USA takes place each December as an annual tradition of giving back and allows for greater hospital, surgeon and medical staff participation. The program provides all aspects of treatment — surgery, hospitalization, and pre-and post-operative care — at no cost to participating patients who may not qualify for government health coverage,

Mountain Conference to share with us relevant information – about developments, issues, notable events, as well as experiences of church members.

Please email your story to nuggets@rmcsda.org so we can share how God is working through His people in your territory. When submitting your story, please include the following: the Ws (who, what, where, when, why...also how), a personal quote, a photo and the name of the photographer.

Please consider time constraints and always send in fresh new stories instead of outdated ones. Submission deadlines are Wednesdays by noon.

have insurance or be able to afford surgery on their own.

“Operation Walk is one time each year when we can give back and give patients a chance at a life they didn’t have before,” said Dr. Jason Jennings, an orthopedic surgeon practicing at Porter. “For some that may mean going to the grocery store without pain or traveling. The bottom line is we improve their quality of life.”

Terry Bothem, one such patient, is a firefighter in St. Mary’s who’s lived with debilitating knee pain for more than 15 years. Scheduled for a total knee replacement on Dec. 7, Bothem choked up when he realized he would be able to return to the front lines, fighting wildfires next to his “brothers and sisters” in the department.

“I don’t have health insurance. My bosses and my employer are good to me, but it’s a small district and there aren’t a lot of funds,” Bothem says. “It’s a beautiful program. I just want to get the word out for other people in the same situation as me so they can get it done.”

Operation Walk, now in its 23rd year, connects dedicated orthopedic surgeons to uninsured or underinsured patients around the United States, and in Central America with no access to orthopedic care. To date, nearly 650 patients received help through Operation Walk USA, held in the month of December, annually since 2010. More information about the program can be found at:

<http://www.operationwalkdenver.org>.

[Chrissy Nicholson/Porter Adventist Hospital]

God's Plan is Greater Than Ours » Coming to Champion Academy was by no means an easy decision. I am from Texas and grew up attending a day academy that only went to 10th grade, so I knew that I would need to find a new school to attend by my junior year of high school. I had heard of Champion from my cousin Cori who graduated from Champion, so I visited last year, along with 4 other schools that I was considering.

I’m not very good at making decisions and kept putting it off into the summer. I would pray about it every once in awhile but late June was when I really began praying hard. I had considered the pros and cons of all the schools I was considering, but I knew it would really come down to where God wanted me to be. Little signs started showing up and I just had this feeling that I would have a family at Champion and that it was the right place to go.

So, I jumped in and I went with my gut, and I haven’t regretted it ever since.

The small things I was concerned about have worked themselves out, and I believe Champion is providing me with

the opportunities that I desired. Music is a huge part of my life, and now I get to work in the Music Department, participate in the programs I enjoy, and be involved with music in worship services at both the church and school. I feel very blessed to have these opportunities that allow me to grow my talents and use them to serve. Getting involved is the best way to adjust to a new place and that is why I think I have found my place here so quickly.

I have also found a family here at Campion. Never in my life had I moved to a new place and needed to start over with new people; and to be honest I was quite scared. Even then, there has yet to be a day where I have felt alone, excluded, or unloved. I have met some people here that I believe will be in my life for a very long time, and it's hard for me to imagine my life without them. Being away from home is hard, but I have found a family in my new friends and the staff that makes it a lot easier.

Now don't get me wrong, no school is perfect, and that includes Campion, but I truly believe that God is working in this place. He knew exactly where I needed to be and where my talents could be put to use for Him. These past few months have put my faith to the test, but it has only proven to me how real God is in my life and that He has a plan for all of us. If we allow Him to lead in our lives, He will reveal His plan for us and take us to places we never thought we could go.
[Josie, Campion junior]

Union College Receives Nebraska Service Award

» Every year Union takes one day off from classes to send students into the Lincoln community and volunteer. Project Impact has been a part of Union's campus life since the 1980s. This year, because of Project Impact, Union received the Step Forward Award in the volunteer group category from ServeNebraska.

ServeNebraska is the state's volunteer service commission that coordinates and supports community involvement.

"It's an honor to be recognized by the state for all that the

Union College family does in the Lincoln community," said Pastor Rich Carlson, Union's vice president for spiritual life. "Project Impact is part of the spirit of Union."

In 1981, Union launched Project BRUSH (Beautifying Residences Using Student Help) planning to paint 100 homes



for elderly and disabled persons before the college's centennial in 1991. They exceeded the goal, painting 113 homes. At that point, the project day shifted to serving the organizations that serve Lincoln all year long. Now more than 800 students and employees take a day off from school every September to serve at more than 60 sites around Lincoln. To date, more than 22,000 volunteers have given 135,000 hours to Lincoln as a part of the project.

The ServeNebraska ceremony was attended by Elissa Lombard, student coordinator for Project Impact 2017, who accepted the award on behalf of Union. Lombard, a junior from Maine, arranged for the service sites, recruited student leaders for each site, and designed the t-shirts for the event.

“The hardest part this year was keeping up with all the sites and communicating effectively with each one,” said Lombard. But the leadership experience taught Lombard to be adaptable when everything didn’t go as planned.

“When Nebraskans ‘Step Forward’ and work together in the best interest of others, they are strengthening the communities and families that make our state unique,” Foley said in his address to finalists. “The volunteers and organizations we honor today make Nebraska stronger through their generosity and goodwill.”

Project Impact introduces Union students to the rewards of community service, and many choose to continue volunteering throughout their time at Union. But Carlson has even bigger plans for the future. “I hope we can expand it to being club or group driven so that we can do more than provide a day of service, but actually integrate it into the ongoing campus life all year long.”

[Maren Miller; *NAD NewsPoints*]

COMMENTARY

When tithing puts a smile on your face . . . If someone asked what you liked most about your church, what would you say? My guess would be you would mention things like the preacher (hopefully), the people, the music, the programs, etc. But how about tithing? Do you like your church because it gives you the opportunity to give 10 percent of your income to the Lord?

A few weeks ago I had someone come to my house to put in an Internet connection. His name was Hank. After Hank got me connected, we began to talk about life. As we were talking he asked, “You are Christian, aren’t you?” I replied, “Yes, I am,” and he said he was also. Then he went on to tell me about how much he loved his church. After hearing this, I was very curious as to why he loved his church so much. Before I

could even ask him this question, he said “I like tithing at my church.”

Tithing? Did I hear that correctly? Yes, I did. He went on to explain how happy his wife and he have been since they started tithing. I wish you could have seen the smile on his face as he was sharing this.

After Hank left that day, I thought to myself. Wow! Here is an example of someone who likes their church not only for what they can get, but also, mainly for what they can give. How cool is that?

How is it with you? Have you experienced the joy of giving at your church? Have you returned 10 percent of your income and then, like Hank, watched how the Lord blessed you? If not, I would encourage you to give it a try. As we read in Malachi 3:10, if we are faithful to God, He will open the windows of heaven and pour out a huge blessing.

I am thankful that God led me to meet Hank, the IT guy. He not only helped me get connected to the Internet, but he also helped me remember my most important connection, the one between me and God and the joy I experience not only when I receive His gifts, but also when out of a heart of appreciation, I give a gift to Him. It put a smile on Hank’s face and I am sure it will put one on yours, as well.

[Mickey Mallery]

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Revelation Speaks Peace Volunteers Needed

» Join us in equipping the world for Christ to come. The series begins January 5 and runs through February 3, 2018. To volunteer, click [here](#) for a volunteer form which can be emailed to ericn@rmcsda.org.

Rice for Iraq » The Student Association at Mile High Academy is currently collecting rice to feed refugees in Iraq through Adventist Help. The Student Association’s goal is to raise 40,000 pounds of rice. With the help of our churches, we are hoping to reach this goal by the end of January. We are in the process of buying and cleaning out shipping containers that Adventist Help can use to store water once the rice is taken out of it. The school has currently collected

over 3,000 pounds and is expecting to receive more soon.

If your church is willing, we would love your help. If each church collected 5,000 pounds of rice we can easily reach our goal. Any collections that are made at the churches, our Student Association is willing to pick up and transport to the school for shipping. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Agape Hammond at 303-607-4915.

Franktown Church Christmas Program » Celebrate the season! You are invited to an evening of Christmas celebration as the Franktown Church youth and adult choirs present, "The Gift" on December 9. The program will begin at 6:30 p.m. with carols by the Christmas brass ensemble led by Jerry Lange. The Franktown Church is located at 905 N. Highway 83, Franktown CO 80116.

Discovery Mountain Returns With All-New Holiday Episodes » An all-new season of the Voice of Prophecy's *Discovery Mountain* audio adventure series for kids has begun. This special six-part holiday season is called "The Perfect Gift," and it will immediately be followed by Season 4, which means there will be new weekly episodes through the end of July 2018!

Discovery Mountain recently won the Award of Excellence as well as a Best in Class Award at the Society of Adventist Communicators. While Jean Boonstra has designed this Bible-based program for kids ages 5-12, people of all ages have been enjoying it, so anyone who's a "kid at heart" is invited to listen.

Stream the audio and enjoy behind-the-scenes videos and bloopers at discoverymountain.com, or download the first three seasons from your favorite podcast platform, such as iHeartRadio (just added!), iTunes, Google Play, AudioVerse, TuneIn and SoundCloud. It's perfect for long drives too!



Lighthouse Christian School » To Adventist schools around the world, we want YOU in our school's International Christmas program! Watch this video, and read the comments for details. We want your school to make a short video for us and our students want to interview you for a report in our program. Help us create a truly international "Christmas Around the World" program. Together, we are one family, and we want to celebrate that.

HMS Richards School » The students of HMS Richards Pre-K through 4th Grade invite you to participate in their project-based learning service project for Campion Church. They are developing a prayer garden and can use your help. If you are interested in helping sponsor this project, please make donations out to HMS for PBL Prayer Garden and send to:
HMS Richards School
Attention: Prayer Garden
342 42nd Street SW
Loveland, CO 80538
Or, you can donate online at www.campionchurch.org and mark it Prayer Garden. This project will take a few years to be fully developed, but plans include terraced flowers, benches, stone paths, gazebo, fountain, and a prayer box. Phase One includes a bench and a prayer box. We want this to be a special blessing for the church, campus, and community for many years to come!



Campion's Study Abroad Trip » Reserve your spot now for the study-abroad trip to Spain next summer! Improve your language skills and earn college credits while immersing yourself in the beautiful and historical Spanish culture. The deadline for the initial down payment (chaperone fee) is due December 18. A minimum number of students must confirm and pay by December 18 in order to make this trip a reality -- so don't delay! Please email Jill Harlow at jill.harlow@campion.net for more information.



Become a Warrior for Campion » Our mission at Campion Academy is to bring young people into our school family and not only educate them for the future, but train them as disciples for Christ. We cherish our students deeply at Campion and want nothing but the

best for their futures.

However, we cannot do this alone - we need your help! **Warriors for Campion** is a new campaign geared toward raising money for our Worthy Student Fund that goes to give students who cannot afford full tuition financial help. As a Warrior for Campion, we are asking for a pledge of \$100 a month for the two years or \$1,000 per year for the next two years.

In raising this money, you will be guaranteeing that students and staff will be able to remain at Campion Academy and continue to grow in Christ.

Do you want to become a Warrior for Campion? Please

click [here](#) to learn more! Deadline: February 1, 2018

Cookbook Benefitting Lighthouse School »

Eric Aakko, husband of Lighthouse teacher Jodie Aakko, authored a 200-page, full-color cookbook printed by Pacific Press. Profits from the sale of this first edition go to Lighthouse. Eric Aakko, MCHES, is a certified, plant-based, chef educator. The book is available for \$24.95 at the Denver ABC, Eric's website www.speakingwellness.com or Old Firehouse Books in Fort Collins. It features gluten-free, oil-free, plant-based recipes.

Mile High Academy Kindergarten Visitation

» Kindergarten Visitation at Mile High Academy is a great way for your child to get to know our teachers, meet new friends, and get to know what a future at MHA means. Join us from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Thursday, January 11. Designed especially for any family who has an interest in MHA and would like to try it out for themselves, families are encouraged to spend the morning with us at our Open House to talk about the programs we offer, meet Administration, discuss the application process, and enjoy a continental breakfast with us. Your child will want to start school right away. For any questions about Kindergarten Visitation or the Open House RSVP to Agape Hammond at ahammond@milehighacademy.org.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Campion Academy » is looking for a part-time English teacher with a master's degree and SDA certification. To apply, send your resume to Don Reeder at don.reeder@campion.net.

Mile High Academy » MHA has an immediate opening for a PT Accountant (20 hours/week, Monday - Friday). The position reports to the Director of Finance, completing job duties such as check disbursements, reconciliations and billings. For more information regarding job duties, expectations and how to apply, visit the job posting at <http://www.rmcsda.org/hr-accountant>.

NOW AVAILABLE ON THE WEB

NewsNuggets Archive Now Online »

The *NewsNuggets* archive is now online, and can be found at <https://www-rmcsda-org.netadvent.org/newsnuggets-archive>.

FROM THE EDITOR

We want to share your news -- Change is a part of the communication age. With online media experiencing constant evolution, the *NewsNuggets* is also experiencing an increased access from our readers and contributors. We will continue to encourage news sharing from our churches, institutions, and individual church members.

In order to make our eNewsletter accommodate an increased volume of announcements, our editorial work proposes to present information in a more efficient approach, ensuring that all timely promotions and announcements be included in a weekly, Friday release

of *NewsNuggets*. **Submission deadline for stories, news, and announcements is at noon on every Wednesday.**

Please send all your submissions to nuggets@rmcsda.org.

Thank you for your contribution, but also comments, as *NewsNuggets* continues to serve the church in an efficient and effective way.

We are inviting all correspondents and contributors to follow a general Adventist News Network *Style Guide*, including glossary. For guidelines,

see: <http://news.adventist.org/styleguide/>

--Editor

Share the News Nuggets with your congregation » Add a note to your church bulletin or newsletter with the following URL: www.bit.ly/RMCnews

Members can follow the link to sign up for weekly news and to keep up-to-date on what's happening around the Rocky Mountain Conference.

**Rocky Mountain Conference Mission Statement
Tagline:**

Knowing Christ and Making Him Fully Known

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