INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

AND

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the Year Ended December 31, 2017



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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Governing Board of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. (the Council), which comprise the statement of financial position as of December 31, 2017, and the related statements of activities and cash flows for the year then ended, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Council as of December 31, 2017, and the changes in its net assets and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Milligan & Company, LLC

Washington, DC

February 19, 2019



Statement of Financial Position December 31, 2017

Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	304,718
Royalty receivables		564,029
Contribution receivable		13,353
Other receivables		11,375
Prepaid expenses		6,527
Deposits	_	1,360
Total current assets		901,362
Non-current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents		38,425
Interest in split interest agreements		21,357
Long-term investments		3,392,273
Investments held by others		670,398
New revised standard version cost		200,000
Property and equipment, net	_	17,775
Total assets	\$	5,241,590
Liabilities and net assets		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$	169,268
Health insurance for post-retirees - current portion	Ψ	124,236
Deferred revenue		30,000
Total current liabilities	_	323,504
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Non-current liabilities:		
Health insurance for post-retirees - non-current portion		814,656
Total liabilities		1,138,160
Net assets:		
Unrestricted		2,874,895
Temporarily restricted		1,141,968
Permanently restricted	_	86,567
Total net assets	_	4,103,430
Total liabilities and net assets	\$_	5,241,590

Statement of Activities

For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Operating revenues				
Revenues:				
Sales, net (literature, film, royalties and rentals)	\$ 1,127,572	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,127,572
Interest and dividend income	55,051	37,977	-	93,028
Support:				
Contributions:				
Member communions	615,007	-	-	615,007
Others (including individual giving)	144,346	-	-	144,346
Reclassifications:				
Net assets released from restrictions	84,256	(84,256)		
Total operating revenues	2,026,232	(46,279)		1,979,953
Operating expenses				
Salaries and related costs	901,775	-	-	901,775
Professional fees	484,148	-	-	484,148
Travel and transportation	63,549	-	-	63,549
Rent and occupancy	55,815	-	-	55,815
Meetings and conferences	41,981	-	-	41,981
Communications	23,180	-	-	23,180
Research and development	22,875	-	-	22,875
Friendship press	18,204	-	-	18,204
Supplies and equipment	14,594	-	-	14,594
Mass incarceration	11,254	-	-	11,254
Publication and duplication	8,515	-	-	8,515
Depreciation and amortization	6,751	-	-	6,751
Insurance	4,125	-	-	4,125
Miscellaneous	116	-	-	116
Total expenses	1,656,882	-		1,656,882
Changes in net assets from operations	369,350	(46,279)		323,071
Non-operating changes in net assets				
Change in accumulated post-retirement benefit obligation	(58,499)	-	-	(58,499)
Change in value of split-interest agreements	2,768	-	-	2,768
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments	202,986	96,737		299,723
Total non-operating changes in net assets	147,255	96,737		243,992
Changes in net assets	516,605	50,458	-	567,063
Net assets at beginning of year	2,358,290	1,091,510	86,567	3,536,367
Net assets at end of year	\$ 2,874,895	\$ 1,141,968	\$ 86,567	\$ 4,103,430

Statement of Cash Flows

For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

Cash flows from operating activities:		
Total changes in net assets	\$	567,063
Adjustments to reconcile total changes in net assets to		_
net cash provided by operating activities:		
Depreciation and amortization		6,751
Change in accumulated post-retirement benefit obligation		58,499
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments		(299,723)
Interest in split interest agreements		14,093
Changes in assets and liabilities:		
Royalty receivables		(43,979)
Contribution receivable		14,995
Other receivables		2,985
Deposits		2,640
Prepaid expenses		3,749
New revised standard version cost		(200,000)
Accounts payable and accrued expenses		50,043
Deferred revenue		(17,600)
Net cash provided by operating activities		159,516
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Purchase of property and equipment		(9,564)
Proceeds from sale of investments		735,096
Purchase of investments		(1,413,515)
Net cash used in investing activities	-	(687,983)
ret easii used iii iiivestiiig activities		(007,703)
Net decrease in cash and cash equivalents		(528,467)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		871,610
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	\$	343,143
Amounts reported as:		
Cash and cash equivalents - current	\$	304,718
Cash and cash equivalents - non-current	*	38,425
	\$	343,143
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Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

1. Organization

The National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. (the Council), since its founding in 1950, has been the leading force for ecumenical cooperation among Christians in the United States. The Council's member communions—from a wide spectrum of Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, Evangelical, historic African-American, and Peace churches—include 45 million people in more than 100,000 local congregations in communities across the nation.

The Council has worked for over half a century toward the unity of the Christian church, peace and understanding among people of all faiths, and justice for all of God's people. It continues to be the voice of the faith community on Civil Rights, justice for women, an end to poverty, affordable health care, quality education, reformed immigration laws, and the stewardship of God's creation. It also sponsors the New Revised Standard version of the Holy Bible, leadership development opportunities, and expanded young adult ministries and ecumenical formation.

The Council focuses on four integrated areas of work:

- Theological study and dialogue
- Inter-religious relations and dialogue
- Joint action and advocacy for justice and peace
- Christian Education, Ecumenical Faith Foundation, and Leadership

The Council is a convener of the churches that together work toward visible unity in Christ and galvanize prophetic public witness through joint action and advocacy of the churches. The Council's work is organized at overlapping tables that integrate the three-pronged focus and draws upon synergies with partners, especially local and regional ecumenism. The Council's staff is a small group of theologically trained community organizers who facilitate the work and serve as hubs and connectors, linking people, ideas, and resources.

Given the restructure from a program oriented Council to a convening table Council, many of the programs that had remaining funds were transferred into separate companies. The Council's revenue stream currently includes member communion's contributions, royalties, and investment income.

The Council is a not-for-profit organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

Assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses are recognized on the accrual basis of accounting in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAP).

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Net Asset Classification and Fund Accounting

In the accompanying financial statements, the Council has combined its financial resources into the following three classes of net assets:

Unrestricted net assets represent funds that are fully available, at the discretion of management and the Governing Board of the Council, for the Council to utilize in any of its programs or supporting services.

Temporarily restricted net assets are comprised of funds with donor stipulations that limit their use either through purpose or time restrictions.

Permanently restricted net assets include contributions that donors have specified must be maintained in perpetuity. The related income may be expended for such purpose as specified by the donor or at the discretion of the Council in the absence thereof.

Operating and Non-operating

The Council defines operating revenue and expense as revenue/expenses from its primary business activities. Non-operating is defined as revenues/expenses from non-primary business activities. The Council's treatment of interest and dividend income is included in operating revenues because it is included in the Council's annual budget. The realized and unrealized gain or loss investment activity is included in non-operating as a result of the gain or loss not being related to primary business operations.

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, continued

Cash and Cash Equivalents

The Council considers all highly liquid financial instruments, excluding mutual funds held by others, purchased with maturities of three months or less, to be cash equivalents. Cash that is restricted for Ecumenical Ministries Mass Incarceration Fund is reported in non-current assets, since it is not readily available for current operations.

Royalty Receivables

Royalty receivables represent amounts due from publishers for royalties earned on publications of the Bible and Sunday school study guides. They are recorded at estimated net realizable value. Based on historical collections, there is no provision for uncollectible amounts.

Interest in Split Interest Agreements

The Council has an interest in certain irrevocable charitable gift annuities administered by third parties, which have an estimated residual value (fair value of gift less present value of annuity obligation) of \$21,357 as of December 31, 2017. Assumptions used in 2017 included the 10 year average consumer price index (CPI) which was 1.77% and the 2000 CM Mortality table.

Investments and Investment Income

Investments are stated at fair value. Investment income, net of fees are received on an accrual basis when earned, and any resulting realized and unrealized gains and losses are recorded in the appropriate net asset class based on donor restrictions or the absence thereof.

New Revised Standard Version Cost

The balance represents cost incurred by the Council to update and enhance the copyrighted New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) of the Bible, owned by the Council. Once the updated NRSV is complete and available for sale, the Council will amortize the cost over the period of expected sales.

Property and Equipment

Computer equipment, furniture and fixtures, machinery and equipment, and leasehold improvements with an original cost exceeding \$500 are recorded net of accumulated depreciation and amortization. Property and equipment are depreciated on the straight-line basis, using the half-year convention method, over their estimated useful lives of three to five years. Amortization of leasehold improvements is recorded over the shorter of their useful life or remaining term of the respective lease.

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

2. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies, continued

Endowment Funds

Accounting standards require an organization to disclose information about the net asset classification, net asset composition, changes in net asset composition, spending policies and related investment policies of its donor-restricted endowment funds. Certain Council gifts are subject to donor restrictions requiring that the principal be invested in perpetuity and only the resulting income be utilized.

Endowment funds are supervised and monitored by respective administrative committees or governing bodies. An administrative committee or governing body may appropriate for expenditures and for the uses and purposes for which an endowment fund is established. The date and amount to draw the appropriation is determined by the committee or governing body unless otherwise regulated by the endowment.

Endowment funds are maintained in the Council's long-term investment portfolio and subject to the general provisions of the Council's investment policies and procedures. The spending policy for endowment funds is administrated in accordance with the terms of the donor endowment. Management's policy is to maintain the original endowment amount intact.

Contributions

Contributions are recognized as revenue when awarded and are considered to be unrestricted unless they are received with donor stipulations that limit their use either through purpose or time restrictions. Contributions with donor stipulations that limit their use are considered to be temporarily restricted until the donor restrictions expire, that is, when a time restriction ends or a purpose restriction is fulfilled. Upon the expiration of donor stipulations, temporarily restricted net assets are reclassified to unrestricted net assets and reported in the Statements of Activities as net assets released from restrictions. Temporarily restricted contributions received and expended in the same accounting period are classified as unrestricted support.

Royalties

The Council receives royalties from various license agreements for the rights owned by the Council for curriculum and a revised standard version of the Bible. Royalties are recognized as revenue ratably over the terms of the respective agreements or based on a percentage of sales, depending on the specific terms of each royalty agreement. Royalty income for 2017 of \$1,120,125 is included in the Statement of Activities in "Sales, net (literature, film, royalties and rentals)."

New Accounting Standard

In August 2016, the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) issued ASU 2016-14, *Presentation of Financials Statements of Not-for-Profit Entities* (Topic 958). This ASU will make the following changes to financial statements and disclosures: reduce the current three classes of net assets to two: with and without restrictions; enhance disclosures related to board designations, liquidity, investments expenses, donor restrictions and underwater endowments; and require a schedule of functional expenses. The ASU is effective for years beginning after December 15, 2017. The Council expects to adopt the ASU in 2018.

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

3. Fair Value Measurements

The fair value of investments is categorized into a three-tier hierarchy, which assigns priorities to inputs of valuation techniques used to measure fair value. Inputs refer to assumptions market participants would use when pricing an asset, and are classified as observable (i.e. assumptions based on market prices obtained from independent sources) and unobservable (i.e. assumptions based on best information available or the reporting entity's own assumptions). The hierarchy of inputs is summarized below:

- Level 1 observable, represents assets with quoted market prices for identical assets (registered securities).
- Level 2 other observable, not quoted market prices for identical assets. Inputs that are obtained from the utilization of models or other valuation methodologies.
- Level 3 unobservable, reflects reporting entity's own assumptions and significant management judgments that would be made by market participants.

The fair value of the Council's long-term investment portfolio as of December 31, 2017 consisted of the following:

	_	Observable Inputs (Level 1)	Other Observable Inputs (Level 2)	Total
Mutual funds	\$	729,965	\$ -	\$ 729,965
Common stocks		1,319,175	-	1,319,175
Fixed income:				
Corporate bonds		-	667,728	667,728
U.S. government obligations		-	442,548	442,548
Real estate investment trusts		35,732	-	35,732
Exchange traded products		197,125	-	197,125
Total long-term investments	\$	2,281,997	\$ 1,110,276	\$ 3,392,273

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used to measure assets at fair value. There have been no changes in the methodologies used during the year ended December 31, 2017.

Mutual funds – Shares of mutual funds are valued at the quoted net asset value ("NAV") of shares held at year-end.

Common stocks – Stated at quoted prices based on an active market.

Fixed income – May be valued based on quoted prices or by the pricing vendor using a variety of techniques to estimate value.

Real estate investment trusts – Stated at quoted prices based on an active market.

Exchange traded products – Stated at quoted prices based on an active market.

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

4. Investments Held by Others

The Ecumenical Trust (the Trust) is a not-for-profit organization that was formed for the purpose of receiving and managing assets on behalf of WCC, Church World Service, Inc. (CWS), and the Council to support the ecumenical ministries of these entities. Investments held by others, reported in the accompanying statement of financial position consist of mutual funds, stocks, bonds, and other equity investments held by the Trust for the WCC, CWS, and the Council. As member organizations of the Ecumenical Trust, these entities are related through common Board membership.

5. Property and Equipment

As of December 31, 2017 property and equipment, net, consisted of:

Computer equipment	\$	64,247
Furniture and fixtures		8,077
Leasehold improvements		21,480
Machinery and equipment	_	10,215
		104,019
Less accumulated depreciation and amortization		86,244
Property and equipment, net	\$	17,775

Depreciation expense was \$5,833 and amortization expense was \$918 for 2017.

6. Post-Retirement Health Care and Pension Benefits

Post-Retirement Health Care

The Council provides certain health care benefits for retired employees. Employees hired prior to January 1, 2000 are eligible to participate upon reaching age 62 with at least five years of service or age 55 with at least 15 years of service. Employees hired on January 1, 2000 and thereafter are not eligible for post-retirement health care benefits. The measurement date for the post-retirement health care obligation is December 31, 2017.

Prior to January 1, 2012, the Council provided eligible retired employees and their spouse's post-retirement health care through its various fee-for-service and health maintenance organization health insurance plans for active employees. Effective November 1, 2011 for non-union employees and January 1, 2012 for union employees, the Council began providing eligible retired employees and their spouses' post-retirement health care through Medicare Supplemental and Medical Advantage plans with the assistance of a private Medicare exchange manager. The Council pays a fixed amount per month for each eligible retired employee and spouse into a Health Reimbursement Arrangement for each. Retirees and spouses then purchase individual Medicare Supplemental and Medicare Advantage health plans that best meet their health insurance needs with the assistance of the Medicare exchange manager. This change results in a fixed amount that the Council contributes to health care for each retiree and spouse.

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

6. Post-Retirement Health Care and Pension Benefits, continued

Post-Retirement Health Care, continued

The Council is required to recognize the over-funded or under-funded status of its retirement plans in the Statement of Financial Position and to recognize changes in funded status in the year in which they occur. The funded status represents the difference between the fair value of plan assets and the actuarially-determined benefit obligation as of the measurement date. The underfunded status of the Council's plan is shown as a liability under "Health insurance for post-retirees" on the accompanying Statement of Financial Position. Changes in the funded status are shown within "Non-operating changes in net assets" on the accompanying Statement of Activities.

Accumulated post-retirement benefit obligation		
at beginning of year	\$	991,448
Interest cost		27,670
Actuarial loss		51,918
Retiree benefit payments	_	(132,144)
Accumulated post-retirement benefit obligation		
at end of year	\$ <u></u>	938,892
Fair value of plan assets	\$ <u></u>	
Health insurance for post-retirees reflected in the		
statements of financial position	\$	938,892
Less: current portion		(124,236)
Non-current portion	\$	814,656
Cumulative amounts recognized in unrestricted net assets:		
Prior service cost	\$	(240,781)
Net loss	_	311,168
Total	\$_	(70,387)
	-	

The expected amortization to be included in net periodic post-retirement benefit cost for fiscal year 2018 is as follows:

Prior service cost	\$ (62,218)
Net loss	26,401
Total	\$ (35,817)

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

6. Post-Retirement Health Care and Pension Benefits, continued

Post-Retirement Health Care, continued

Net periodic post-retirement benefit cost for the year ended December 31, 2017 includes the following components:

Interest cost	\$ 27,670
Net amortization	 (41,096)
Total net periodic post-retirement benefit cost	\$ (13,426)
Weighted-average assumptions:	
Discount rate as of December 31 – obligation	 3.01%
Discount rate for the year ended December 31 – cost	 3.01%

The weighted-average annual assumed rates of increase in the per capita cost of the covered benefits (i.e. health care cost trend rate) began at an initial rate of 8% and decreased gradually to 5% over six years.

Assumed health care cost trend rates have a significant effect on the amounts reported for the plan. A 1% change in assumed health care cost trend rates would have the following effects as of December 31, 2017:

	19	1% Increase		1% Decrease	
Total interest and service cost components	\$	27,670	\$	27,670	
Accumulated post-retirement benefit obligation	\$	938,892	\$	938,892	

The Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement and Modernization Act of 2003 (the "Act") introduced a prescription drug benefit under Medicare. The employee obligations and the net periodic post-retirement benefit cost for the year ended December 31, 2017 reflect the effects of the Act.

Benefits expected to be paid are as follows:

	Gross Benefit Payments		Gross Subsidy Receipts		et Benefit ayments
Year ending:					
2018	\$	124,236	\$	-	\$ 124,236
2019		113,287		-	113,287
2020		102,843		-	102,843
2021		92,985		-	92,985
2022		83,756		-	83,756
2023 to 2027		303,781		-	303,781

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

6. Post-Retirement Health Care and Pension Benefits, continued

Pension Plan

The Council had sponsored a defined contribution retirement plan covering substantially all employees. The plan required the Council to deposit with the trustee an amount equivalent to (a) 11% of the employee's annual compensation for certain eligible employees and (b) 18.65% of annual compensation for ordained employees who were considered self-employed, as defined in Article IV of the Federal Social Security Act. This plan was frozen effective December 31, 2002.

403(b) Defined Contribution Retirement Plan

The Council sponsors a defined contribution retirement plan under Section 403(b) of the Internal Revenue Code. Benefits are based solely on the amounts of plan contributions and related earnings, if any. Employer contributions to the plan for the year ended December 31, 2017 were \$67,798.

7. Commitments

The Council leases office space in Washington, DC and is obligated under an operating lease for space expiring on March 31, 2020.

Future minimum lease payments under the operating lease are as follows:

Year ending December 31:	
2018	\$ 55,445
2019	57,666
2020	14,556
Totals	\$ 127,667

Rent expense was \$55,815 for the year ended December 31, 2017.

8. Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

Temporarily restricted net assets are available for programs for a specific time period or purpose and are as follows as of December 31, 2017.

Mass Incarceration	\$	437,269
M. A. Magnuson Memorial Fund		75,347
Department of Children's Work		314,800
Athern Scholarship		101,251
Responsible Parenthood	_	213,301
Total	\$	1,141,968

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

9. Permanently Restricted Net Assets

Permanently restricted net assets consist mainly of donations received for the Education and Leadership Ministries Commission. Earnings on these net assets may be used for the Council's operations.

10. Functional Classification of Activities

The Council is required to present expenses on a functional basis if natural classifications are presented in the Statement of Activities. The functional allocation of expenses is based primarily on the amount of direct cost spent on the programs or activities and is presented below.

Education and leadership	\$ 600,093
Joint advocacy and justice	237,714
Faith and order	115,958
Interfaith relations	115,958
Total program expenses	1,069,723
Management and general	587,159
Total operating expenses	\$ 1,656,882

11. Income Taxes

The Council is a not-for-profit organization exempt from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Since its initial filing for tax-exempt status, the Council has not received any notice from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) that such tax-exempt status has been challenged or changed. There was no taxable income as of December 31, 2017; therefore, no provision for income taxes has been included in the financial statements.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with GAAP requires the Council to report information regarding its exposure to various tax positions taken by the Council. The Council has determined whether any tax positions met the recognition threshold and has measured the Council's exposure to those tax positions. Management believes the Council has adequately addressed all relevant tax positions and that there are no unrecorded tax liabilities. The Council is subject to routine audits by the taxing jurisdiction; however, there are currently no audits for any tax periods in progress. Management believes it is no longer subject to income tax examinations for years prior to 2014.

12. Concentration of Credit Risk

The Council is required to disclose significant concentrations of credit risk, regardless of the degree of such risk. Periodically throughout fiscal year 2017, the Council maintained bank deposits that exceeded the limit of insurability under the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Notes to Financial Statements For the Year Ended December 31, 2017

12. Concentration of Credit Risk, continued

The Council has investments in stocks, bonds, mutual funds, and other equity investments and is therefore subject to normal risks inherent with investing activity. Though the market value of investments is subject to fluctuations on a year-to-year basis, management believes the investment policy is prudent for the long-term welfare of the Council.

13. Subsequent Events

The Council has evaluated subsequent events that occurred after the statement of financial position date but before February 19, 2019, the date the financial statements were available to be issued.