

**Josh Mangelson 00:17**

Welcome to the Project Zion Podcast. This podcast explores the unique spiritual and theological gifts Community of Christ offers for today's world.

**Linda Booth 00:33**

Welcome to the 24th episode of Coffee Buzz, a podcast conversation with a member of Community of Christ First Presidency. My name is Linda Booth. Apostle Robin Linkhart asked me to join the Project Zion Podcast Team a little over two years ago, soon after I retired from serving, uh, nearly 22 years as a Community of Christ Apostle, and Director of Communication. In this Coffee Buzz episode, I'm talking with my friend, Scott Murphy, who serves as a counselor to Prophet/President Steve Veazey. And he also serves as Director of Field Ministry, whi, which means he supervises the Council of Twelve Apostles and the mission in the international fields of the church. And our conversation's going to send her on his life and the experiences that prepared Scott to serve in his present roles. And having said that, and I think I even might have said this when I talked to President Veazey, about his growing up years, I'm not sure, Scott, that anything truly prepares a person to be a leader in a faith movement, especially where members live in more than 60 nations and they speak lots of different languages and they experience diverse cultures and they hold different perspectives and beliefs. So, welcome, Scott, to Coffee Buzz conversation about your life, leadership and ministry.

**Scott Murphy 01:58**

Hey, thanks, Linda. Again, good to be back with you. And, uh, yeah, looking forward this, forward to the time to share together today.

**Linda Booth 02:06**

Well, yeah. And you know, Scott, I was just thinking, you know, I've been doing this now for 24 months which means that I've probably spoken to you, had a conversation with you eight times in 24 months because every third month it's your turn.

**Scott Murphy 02:19**

Yeah, yeah. Well, that's great. Well, it's, it's, you know, in one since, it's, it's one thing to prepare for the podcast, but it, it is just always a joy when this comes around because I get to see you.

**Linda Booth 02:33**

Yeah, so Scott and I served quite closely in the Council of Twelve and then, uh, in other roles, so it is a delight to be with you, my friend. Let's just start with the beginning of your life. I mean, that's a good place to start. Right? So, where were (Yeah.) you born? And, so, like, were you the firstborn? You have siblings? Tell us about your parents? You know, ear, all that early stuff.

**Scott Murphy** 02:56

Alright. Well, um, ye, yes, I am the firstborn, uh, so I am the oldest sibling, uh, in, in my family. I grew up in Vancouver, Washington. Uh, again, right on the Columbia River right across from Portland, Oregon, and, uh, spent 19 years of my life there before moving on and to, you know, other, other phases of my life. Um, my, my mom was born and raised in Vancouver and, and even attended the same high school I did when, when I was going through high school. So, that was, uh, I always remember that, uh, that moment, knowing that we had shared that, that kind of same journey and experience together. My dad was, uh, actually born and raised in Springfield, Missouri. Um, again, which is just a few hours south here of the Kansas City area. And so that's where, uh, where he grew up. Uh, my parents met at a World Conference. Um, and then, uh, which led to my dad relocating out to Vancouver, Washington when they were, uh, when they were married. So, that's how, that's how we, we ended up out there instead of, uh, Springfield, Missouri. Um, I have, uh, I have one brother, Mark, uh, who, who lives out in, uh, Everett, Washington. Mark is, uh, two years younger than I am. And then I have a sister, Rhonda, who's four years younger than I am. Um, you know, in terms of other extended family was, it's really interesting. I really grew up not really having a connection with grandparents. So, you know, my dad's father died when he was an adolescent, uh, and so he was never around. And then, you know, my, my grandmother, his mother, um, you know, being in Springfield, I, I only have memories of, of seeing her, you know, maybe a half a dozen times just because of the distance and, you know, we didn't have the money to travel all the time and, you know, making that long trip. So, it, it was every, you know, probably every two or three years that we would come back here to Springfield or she would come out and visit. So, it just never really had that kind of consistent, ongoing connection with, with grandparents. And, uh, so, you know, my, so that relationship with the family, um, you know, my brothers and sisters, you know, I think was a part of what, what kept us close?

**Linda Booth** 05:19

Yes. Well, it was, so that you, you obviously were raised in the church if your parents met at World Conference, which, interestingly enough, that's where my parents met as well.

**Scott Murphy** 05:28

Did thy really? A World Conference still does it.

**Linda Booth** 05:32

Got that spark, doesn't it? (It does.) So, if you weren't raised around a lot of extended family, I would assume maybe, or maybe I'm making this assumption, that your congregation in many ways was your, that extended family?

**Scott Murphy** 05:47

Yeah, yeah. It, it was, um, you know, so living in Vancouver there that attended the, the Vancouver congregation, again, until I was 19 and, and left for college. Um, so, my, you know, my, my dad, um, you know, worked, um, was, was just extremely active in the congregation, you know, at times served as Pastor. Um, and, and so that, um, that, you know, was always a part of our life. Um, you know, the church and, and, uh, being a part of that community. And, you know, I, I truly can, I truly can say that it, it was a transformative part of my experience in the formation of so many people that, uh, that contributed that, um. So, I, uh, yeah, even thinking about that, as I was, as I was reflecting on that

journey, and, and just, again, names from the past that started to emerge again, that, you know, was so important in the formation of my life. Um, yeah. So, I'm, yeah, really good memories and grateful for that, that time and, and part of the, the real, you know, my young life in, in forming in that way.

**Linda Booth 07:10**

Do you remember any of those people specifically that had that impacted your growing up years, especially, you know, keeping you connected to a spiritual, um, something greater than yourself?

**Scott Murphy 07:22**

Yeah, it, um, you know, what, so when I, when I put myself back, really, as a young child, Ruth Philips, was one of those individuals who was, you know, she, she was just this sort of warm and kind and loving and so she would, you know, she would be teaching the, the, the Sunday school classes for kids and, but it wasn't just what she did on Sunday. It, it, she'd be inviting us over to her home. And, you know, we just shared that, that special time together. And, um, and I just remember Ruth Philips and, and the flannel board lessons. ( . . . ) Well, things like that. You know, my, my best friend growing up in the church, you know, his, his mom and dad, Bob and Lavita Gendry. Um, you know, his family, my family, you know, during the summers would be getting together and making homemade ice cream together and, and just, you know, just how important that was. And, you know, Bob, Bob ran a store and, you know, as a young kid, you know, he, he hired me to come and do work and, you know, those, those things. You know, there were, but it wasn't just the Vancouver Congregation. It was that in, in the Greater Vancouver area and as part of the, at the time, the Southwest Washington District, there were other members that, that were so formative for me, you know, in those congregations that, um, you know, when we were at camps and reunions together. So, you know, the Dynes family. Again, Mary Dynes, um, Mary Jacks Dynes, that at the time that I knew her when she was, when she was, you know, teaching out, uh, in Vancouver and (Oh, my.) Yeah, with her and her, her husband at the time, Dave, who had passed away and, you know, Dick and Janice Dynes, which was, uh, um, Dave's brother and sister-in-law. Uh, Dave and Linda Haynes, uh, Dale and Shirley Rasmussen, I mean, the list could just go on and on. And even, you, you may remember one of the volunteers at the Temple, um, Dean, Dean and Karen Morland who (Yes, yes.) I grew up with in the Vancouver Congregation and they relocated to Independence, so, number of years later, but even as a kid, Dean would, Dean would take the youth, at least those who were interested. He had a, he had a farmer friend who had a pig farm. And so every once in a while, Dean would take some of us kids out and we'd go round up oigs, pigs that would get loose. So, we're out, you know, tackling, you know, young pigs and, you know, wallowing around in the mud. But, you know, so those are all just great memories that I have as a, as a kid growing up in the congregation as part of the youth group and that.

**Linda Booth 10:18**

And they are family. They become our family just as real as blood family. Yeah.

**Scott Murphy 10:24**

I wish I could stand before each of them and just truly thank them for their contributions as a part of my life.

**Linda Booth 10:32**

Yes, yes. So, do you remember, uh, the first time you were aware of the Holy Spirit when you were growing up?

**Scott Murphy 10:41**

Yeah, I, very clear, um, definable moment in my life, um. So, it was my first junior high camp. So, I have reached that age of 13 when, when you were able to go into the junior high camp and, and, so, I, you know, and my friends in the church were always a couple years older than, than I was. So, um, this was a really a, uh, a pivotal moment for me to be able to, to join them in, in this camping experience. Um, and, so, it was a, you know, growing up in Vancouver, the reunion grounds where I attended was Lewis River Campgrounds, um, north of Vancouver, and at the time, Dale Luffman, who eventually became an Apostle, that you and, and I both served with, (Yes, yes.) uh, Dale, who lived out in Oregon, uh, was the, was the camp director. Um, and, you know, and again, I always, Dale and I always laughed about this, and, you know, shared the story. But, you know, I almost got kicked out in that camp. The very first day, even before the camp had really started, uh, but I, I, I won't go into the reasons why. But, you know, Dale, Dale did his job as, as being the camp director and, and gave us a chewing out. But, uh, he also expressed and, and demonstrated grace and allowed us to stay. And it was at that camp, it was, it was in the last part, it was actually, uh, was on a, uh, I think, a Thursday evening and campfire had ended. Um, most of the staff and the campers had left to go into snack time at the, you know, at the night. But there was just a few of us that, for some reason, just ended up hanging around back at the campfire. And I remember that moment of just kind of laying there, it was, a, just, it was a wonderful evening, the ( . . . ), you know, sky was clear. And the stars were just brilliant. And, and I just laid there in this presence of quiet and tranquility and just, just in awe of that moment of, there was just something sacred in that moment that I, I can't even begin to put into words. But it was in that moment of just laying there in the stillness and the quietness that, that I literally felt this embrace of love and, and peace that just, that just covered me. And it was in that moment that I knew, without a doubt, that God was real. (Yes.) You know, up to that moment where it was always built, my faith was built on the faith of my parents and the stories, uh. But in that moment, I knew I had been embraced by the eternal and divine love of God. And it was, it was a pivotal moment for me, um, because I knew in that moment, I had my own story. (Yes.) Um, and it. Yeah, it was an important part of my, my journey from that point on. Um, can't say that I always made the wisest choices as a kid, but I still was grounded in that awareness that, um, of, of God's love for me. And just in that moment of just, just grasping at, at, even at the limited cognitive understanding of what that all meant that the presence of God's love for all of creation. And, uh, yeah, really an important moment for, for me that, yeah, still just brings me a sense of awe when I, when I take time to remember that experience.

**Linda Booth 14:43**

Yes, abs, absolutely. Were there any other of those experiences when you were growing up when you encountered that sense of the living Christ in your life?

**Scott Murphy 14:53**

Yeah, you know, it. So, nature was always a, a, a place for me to connect. Um, and, so, even as I got older and, you know, I would be able to go out camping with my, with my good friends and, you know, when, when my friends and I would, would go hunting up on Mount St. Helens before it erupted, uh,

that used to be our kind of stomping grounds and we'd go up and camp there and that, but there were always these moments of just kind of encounters. Um, you know, it was those, a, a, as you know ou, out of your own experience, there's just these moments of encounter that, that you're not necessarily looking for, but they come. (Yes.) And those moments that just grab your attention and remind you of, of how much you are loved, how much God cares for creation. Um, and so there were those, yeah, there were those disruptive moments still over the periods of my life, um, that, that occurred. I think that there was another really profound moment in my life when I was struggling as, as a, as a young adult. I had just finished college and, and was starting my career. But I was, I was had, things just did not work out the way that I had planned at coming out of college. And in wanting to move on my career. And there was a period of time I was angry with God because I feel like God had failed me. Um, and, and I actually, it, it was so disruptive for me, I had to go back to, and by that time, I had moved away and was living, you know, someplace else in Washington. But I had to go back to those reunion grounds, to that reunion that had been so foundational to me. And in that experience, I was with those people. I had never shared what was going on in my life. Um, I, I kept that all within me. But later in the week, one of those individuals that, um, that I named was an Evangelist, um, Roy Becker. And during a, a worship service, um, a prayer and testimony service, Roy stood up and he, he looked at me and he said, "Scott, you need to know that your life has been blessed in the journey; that this community has formed you. This community has been a part of shaping you. And now God is calling you to share your ministry wherever you are found." (Wow.) Um, that, that, that was such a moment of conviction for me that while I had been angry with God because I did feel like God had, had worked with me to, to make life turn out there, the places where I wanted to go, that conviction that God finally said, "Okay, you've had enough time to be angry. Now it's time for you to do what I'm calling you to do." And it completely changed my, my world around. Um, and that was just another one of those defining moments in my life that, um, I can s, I can truly say that, uh, yeah, God has been a part of this journey with me.

**Linda Booth 18:24**

Yes, I'm so thankful for that experience that you had for you and for the life of the church and all around you. So, you're talking about calling. So, when, when did you first receive your first priesthood call? And what was that experience like?

**Scott Murphy 18:39**

Yeah, so, my first priesthood call came when I was 18. And also I had, I had graduated from high school and, you know, had, um, I didn't immediately go off in, into college. I was doing some work and, and then attended, eventually started, about nine months later, started going back to a community college in, in, uh, in Vancouver there. So, you know, I remember that, you know, my best friend, um, Chad, his, his, his father, Bob, who was the Pastor of the congregation at the time, had called up and, and, and, um, you know, my dad had told me that, that Bob wanted to come over and, and visit with, with me and my brother. So my brother and I both were called at the same time. Um, you know, it was like, you know, I guess when you're still young enough, you, you, your first inclination is, you know, I, I must have screwed up or what did I do? But, um, you know, so I wondered why he was coming over and, and, and talking, uh, wanting to talk to us about, but, um, you know, when he, he bore his testimony, uh, to me about my call and, and my first call was to the office of, priesthood office of Priest. Um, you know, it was both a, it was an overwhelming moment, um, and, and I remember feeling both the, the emotions of just feeling humbled, um, that, that somehow I, I, I would be called to, to serve in,

in, you know, the priesthood. But then there was this moment of, of, of fear, um, and uncertainty just because I didn't know if, if, if I could live into that responsibility, you know. So, I have all these, these images of stalwart, you know, priesthood members and leaders in the church and, and thinking about, whoa, what does this mean for me to be called into, into that kind of, of, uh, place, and to serve in that way? So, there was that moment of saying, I'm not sure that I, I have the capacity to do this. Um, but, you know, there was just this, there was just this assurance of that it was right. You know, and I've come to learn, you know, in my own journey, and, you know, maybe you and your young listeners, you know, realize that, um, you know, sometimes there's just not the overwhelming affirmation of the call beforehand because the call comes far before we even begin to grasp it. And, and yet, sometimes the call just is a call that requires just to step forward in faith to say yes. And then we step in and the affirmation comes. Um, and that was what my first call was like, uh, was in that, that moment. And, so, it was in the, it was in my Yes that I began to have the affirmation of, of the rightness and the rightness, you know, the affirmation came in, in the testimonies of, of people in the congregation who began to share their stories and awareness of, uh, the call. And, uh, yeah. So, it was a, uh, it was a special moment, a humbling, but scary moment and, and yet a, a real opportunity to truly live deeper into what it means to, to have faith and, and to trust. Um, and to do that, and, and to be cared, you know, to be formed as, as part of that community. (Yes.) Yeah.

**Linda Booth 22:37**

So, you were, you were still in high school when you receive that call?

**Scott Murphy 22:41**

No, I was, I had, I was out of high school my first year. Yeah.

**Linda Booth 22:46**

So, so tell us, let's just talk about your high school years. I don't know if you did sports. I know that you play the drums and other percussion instruments, uh, so, I'm assuming you were in the marching band. And, well, maybe not, I don't know. What was high school like?

**Scott Murphy 23:05**

You know, um, I, I always loved sports, but I was a serious musician. Uh, so, you know, in, backing up to junior high school, I was, I was always in the band and, and having the, the opportunity to be the first chair drummer, um, I was always in the pep band playing at the football games and the basketball games. And, so, that was, that was my place of, of identity. Um, so, when I was in, when I started playing drums, you know, in fourth grade, yeah, I was always in the band track up, up through junior high. But, but, you know, interesting enough that in, towards the end of my, my ninth grade year, which was still at the junior high level, um, I, I got an invitation from the, the, the choral director at, at the high school where I was going to be going at. Um, I was asked if, if I'd be willing to come and try out to, to play drums with the, for the jazz choir in, in the ensemble, um, which was always made up of, of juniors and seniors. So, here, I would have been a sophomore, I would, you know, be the youngest in, in the group. But, um, so, I thought, Well, yeah. It, hey, it was an opportunity to get out of school for the day and go to the high school. So, I said, Sure. I'll come. So, I, uh, so, I went up and, and I auditioned. And at, at the end of that experience, the, the choral director, said, We'd like to have you come and, and be a part of the, the, the jazz choir. And, so, um, that was a, that was a real shift for me. So, I, in high

school, I shifted from band track and got into the, the choral track, um, and, and started playing drums a, as part of the jazz choir. And, you know, and again, it was such a, you know, we, it was such a great jazz choir. I mean, we were winning, you know, competitions and, and, uh, even, even my first, my sophomore year the, uh, we went to a, a festival where, um, they, they would always recognize, uh, and give an award to one of the musicians, uh, you know, that, of the ensemble on top of the, the choirs. And, um, we, we, we played so well together, they said, We can't even decide who to give the award to so we've made a decision, we're giving the award to the full ensemble, which was the first time. And that started a trend for them at that, that heights or that jazz festival to recognize, um, an ensemble--the piano, the bass and drum player and, uh, (That's amazing.) It was. So, I mean, as a sophomore, I mean, I was, that was, that was pretty cool. It, uh, so, I, yeah, I played drums then in, in the choral track, you know, with the jazz choir all the way through high school. My senior year, I play drums for the, for the, the ( . . . ), you know, the senior jazz choir. And then there was a kind of a, what they called a swing choir or a preparatory for the younger ages, and I played drums for that. Sang in the concert choir. And then I got invited and, um, to play drums for the jazz choir at the, at the college program that the college, community college that was across the street campus, uh, from the high school. So, I, I got special permission and credit to, to be released to go play drums for them. Um, so, yeah, I was, my, my, uh, my high school, um, experience was pretty immersed in music. And then on top of that, then, then I was a drummer in a band, and we paid, this, this was before DJs were play, or coming to school dances, we had a band that, we played a lot of the school proms and, and dances after football games and, and, um, throughout the year and, and, so, it, uh, yeah, that was my, that was what my, uh, my high school experience was like, yeah.

**Linda Booth 27:17**

My goodness. Well, Scott, I, I obviously knew you were a drummer because in many meetings you would tap, you would be sitting there and rhythms during meetings or in between breaks. I had no idea. That is amazing. What a wonderful opportunities that you had in, your giftedness must have been off the chart. Like, (Oh, no.) you're like a Buddy, isn't Buddy Rich, the drummer?

**Scott Murphy 27:43**

Oh, yeah. Yep. Yep. Well, it was, you know, just being able to play with other great musicians is, is such a joy and, you know, then thing going off to, to university, I was invited to, got a scholarship to play drums for the, for the jazz choir at Eastern Washington University outside of Spokane. And, and, uh, so it was a really natural progression for me to, uh, you know, when I finally made a decision on a career I wanted to, to take on, you know, becoming a music teacher, um, (Yes.) was that case. But I went the vocal route and not the instrumental route because I just fell in love with the natural instrument of the voice. Um, and, so, yeah, went on and, and, uh, became a, a, yeah, a choral director, um, you know, in my early part of my profession as an educator, yeah.

**Linda Booth 28:36**

So, you went to, you went to university and got your, you got your degree in teaching with a specialty in vocal? (Yeah, in choral directing, yeah.) Choral directing. And so then you ended up in a school district near where you were raised, or where did you end up?

**Scott Murphy 28:52**

Um, ye, yeah. You know, it was interesting that it, uh, I ended up in a, um, a school district on Whidbey Island which is north of Seattle, Washington. Um, and it's a, there's a, a Navy Air Base there, uh, Whidbey, Whidbey Island Navy Air Station there. Um, and, so, I was, uh, yeah, I got a, I got a teaching position there. Um, and, and that, I was there for for 10 years. That was part of my struggle that I talked about having to go back when I was angry with God, because I always wanted to go someplace, you know, where, where the, there was an active presence of the church and, you know, as a young adult, you know, Sandra and I could be a part of things and, and that, you know, and here I am, I, I end up in Whidbey Island, on an island. There was a, there was a one, you know, you could go across the bridge to get on the mainland or you had to take a ferry. The, the closest church was a, an hour away on Samish Island. Um, and, and, and, so, at first I was really frustrated and just, it, it just was not what I wanted. Um, but after that experience, it, it just changed the way that I looked at my situation and, and what I had and I just fell in love with it. I was there for 10 years. Um, yeah.

**Linda Booth 30:09**

So, you mentioned Sandra. So, where did Sandra come in? Did you go to school together? I mean, were you sweethearts in college? Or, how did that happen? Sandra's his wife.

**Scott Murphy 30:19**

Yeah, yes, Sandra is my wife. Um, we actually met at Lewis River, uh, Campgrounds at, at a reunion. Um, so at the time when we were still in, in districts, so this is before, you know, mission center structure, um, uh, you know, Vancouver was a part of the Southwest Washington District. And Sandra, at the time, you know, was living with her, her mom and stepdad and, and, and sister and that in, um, just outside of Portland, Oregon, and they, that was the Northern Oregon District. And for some reason, um, you know, leaders made a decision that, uh, they were going to do a combined reunion that year. So, Southwest Washington, Northern Oregon did a reunion together. Um, and that's where Sandra and I met. So, she, uh, so we met and, and we dated for a year. Um, so I had just, I was out of, of college for, uh, uh, er, out of high school, uh, yeah, a little over a year. She was in her senior year. We dated for a year. Um, and then when she graduated, she went off to Graceland. Um, I went off to Eastern and, you know, we kind of separated, you know, at that point. But the interesting thing is it occurred that Sandra was born in Spokane, Washington. She, her family is there. So, during the summers, she came back to Spokane, and we just kind of reconnected in and after that, um, yeah, and ended up getting married. We've been married now for, um, over 39 years and, uh, (Congratulations.). So, it a, yeah, been, yeah, definitely one of the blessings in my life. And we have, we have as a family, we have two sons. Uh, our oldest son a, and his family live up in Des Moines, Iowa. So, he, he stayed up there after we, uh, you know, move down to Kansas City, and then our, our youngest son and his family, um, moved back out to Washington. And, so, he, um, he lives out north of Seattle.

**Linda Booth 32:20**

And you haven't mentioned your grandchildren?

**Scott Murphy 32:22**

Well, we do have, uh, yeah. So, we're fortunate enough to have a, we have a 13-year old grandson, um, up in Des Moines. And, uh, we, uh, yeah, we just, uh, uh, Michael and his wife, McKell, they have a



two-year old daughter whose name is Lennon. And then this summer, she, uh, McKell had another baby and her name is Nora. So, we, we had a chance, Sandra had a chance to go out and, and spend several weeks with them helping out and I was out there this summer and, and, uh, yeah. So, we have three,uh, three grandkids.

**Linda Booth 32:57**

Congratulations on that, too. So, Scott, you've talked about you taught for many years, but then you ended up in the principal track. You ended up being a principal and how did that happen?

**Scott Murphy 33:10**

Yeah, not by my choice. Um, that was one of those moments of surprise and disruption in my journey. Uh, you know, I thought it'd be a music teacher for, you know, my whole career. And, uh, you know, I, I made a choice after, you know, as an educator, at least in Washington State, you, you had to go back and, and get, you know, further credentials. Or you could go get a master's degree. Well, I thought, if I'm gonna get a master's degree, you know, I was the type that always wanted to have options. So, I, you know, and, and I always had kids come into my office during lunch and hanging around afterwards. And, you know, I spent a lot of time just talking with kids about life. And, so, when I thought about it, I thought, you know, may, maybe someday down the road I'd become a school counselor. And, so, I went back and got a counseling degree, you know, my first graduate degree that way. Um, so, um, about, about, you know, I taught music for about seven years. And then my last three years in, in the old Carver School District, I, um, I became a, one of the school counselors there, um, for part time and then did the advanced choirs, um, the other part of my time, so I, yeah, so I kind of had the best of both worlds. (Yeah.) I loved it. Yeah. But it was in the midst of that, that time, I had, I, I had a teacher say to me one time, Have you ever thought about being a principal? I thought, yeah, that's why I got a, that's why I got my graduate degree in counseling. Who would, who would want to do that? But interesting enough, it just, I, I had other individuals say, You should think about becoming a principal. Um, and, and an opportunity opened up that at the University of Washington, they had put in I'm a, a, a principal preparation program that was in its fourth year, and it had been rated, un, as one of the top 10 principal preparation programs in, in the nation. And, you know, and I was encouraged to apply, and, and I did, and, and I got selected to, to be in that program. And, so, I, I went on and did postgraduate work as, and, and became, um, I got the training to become a principal. And, um, as soon as, even before I was done with my program, I had, um, I had been hired by another school district to, to come and, and to be, you know, served with, with one of the middle school principals who was just well known throughout the state of Washington and had the privilege of working with her as the associate principal for two years. And then was given the, the opportunity to become a principal for another school in that, in that district in Lake Washington, or in the Lake Stevens School District. And, so, um, yeah, so I served as a, as a principal for, for nine years. Um, and so a total of 19 years as, as an educator before, you know, this call that disrupted my life to, to come work for the church. So, you know, and again, which, uh, um, I loved being a principal. I loved my experience of, of working with the staff. I mean, I, I just had the most wonderful group of teachers that I was so privileged to serve with them. I mean, it was just, I constantly was learning from them, and the, the privilege of working with them and taking a school that drew from the lowest socioeconomic development in the whole county of where we lived. And, you know, that was just rampant with drugs and abuse, and all of that. And, and so my school was made up of that population. And then a district boundary change occurred and I, we brought in, um, people and,

you know, children and families from multi-million dollar homes that ( . . . ) lake. Having those two extreme dichotomies of life and culture, trying to bring them together. And, um, I, I remember one family coming and visiting with me that was struggling so deeply of, of their children coming to that school and they were going to take their kids and put them in a private school. But after meeting with me, they, they gave it a chance and, I remember, just before I left, that, that family coming to me and saying, This was the most wonderful experience that we could ever, expe, you know, expect for our children. Because that, that school grew to be such a wonderful community and, and test scores were, were going up. And again, I just give so much credit to, to the teachers in creating that space that parents were welcome and a part of all of that. It was, again, it was a wonderful experience that, um, I still hold very deeply as a, a true blessing in my life.

**Linda Booth 38:17**

As you talk about that experience, Scott, it helps me to understand why you're so good at working with people, working with people and listening to people with, that have very diverse thoughts and cultures and, and, uh, even, even in your counseling degree I sense the way in which you respond to the needs of people. So, that part of, that time in your life was in preparation for where you are now, don't you believe?

**Scott Murphy 38:45**

Well, well, thank you for those kind words. Um, yeah, you know, it. It's, it's one of those, it, it is for me personally, it is one of those deep blessings to be able to reflect on the journey of my life. You know, again, being where I'm at was never a part of my goals or aspirations. Um, I would have been a happy being a music teacher for the rest of my life. And yet, God kept taking me on this journey that I, was not part of my plan. But these doors just kept opening up. And in, in sometimes I, I just felt like I wish God would stop disrupting my life, but it just kept me on a journey in a way that I never saw where my path would lead. Um, and, and again, I have no doubt at all that where I'm at today is, is because of the experiences that I've been privileged to have a, as part of that journey of shaping and forming and helping me learn and so I'm deeply grateful for that.

**Linda Booth 40:00**

So when were you approached to work for the church, because I'm assuming someone approached you? How did, how did that start, that journey to begin to work full time for the church?

**Scott Murphy 40:11**

Yeah, so I'll try to collapse this as quickly as I can, you know, to be respectful of time. Um, I had, I had received a call at the time and, and Paul Davis, who, um, was, was at the time serving as the, this was beyond the, way before mission center structure. So, Paul Davis was serving as the Stake President. Um, and at the time, Paul worked for the church in, in that regard. Um, Paul called me one day, I happened to just be, had an appointment down in Seattle, and he said, You got a time that we can, I'd like to visit with you? I said, I'm going to be down in Seattle, can we have lunch? Well, it was at that point that Paul presented a call to High Priest for me (Yes.). Um, and so I'm driving back, um, after that appointment and just kind of processing that. But I remember I'm on Interstate 5 heading back north, you know, in the midst of the traffic, and all of a sudden, this, this thought emerges in my head. Maybe you should think about working for the church. It was like, What? You know, I loved the church, I was

active in the church, and, and, uh, at the time, even serving as Pastor, but, um, and I thought, Where in the heck did that thought come from? Um, and then a couple of weeks later, I, I was in a process that I was preparing for a continual life blessing with Susan Oxley who a time hadn't come to work for the church. (Yes.) She was, she was an Evangelist in that area and Susan and John, um, at the time was John S, or Susan Score. Um, (Yeah.) and, and, and so Susan, I, I'd approached Susan about a life blessing. So we were meeting for the first time in preparation for that. And in the midst of that, Susan raised this question, Have you ever thought about working for the church? She worked in the Seattle Stake office, and you know, she knew all of that. Well, over a, a, it took me two and a half years that that call kept coming. Um, and individuals throughout that time kept approaching me and saying, Have you ever thought about working for the church? In the, in the meantime, Paul Davis had invited me to become a member of the Seattle Stake Presidency. Um, and it was just this, this constant disruption. I kept saying, No, no. I, I love what I'm doing as a principal and all of that, but it kept coming. And it kept coming until I had just this profound experience. Um, and, and I finally at the moment said, Okay, I'll submit my application and, and I'll see what happens. (Yes.) And, and a few months later, I was, um, I had gone through all the interviews, as you know, at the time,

**Linda Booth** 43:11

Yes. I was probably your, I would say probably one who interviewed you.

**Scott Murphy** 43:15

You were. I'm in interview with every member of the Council of Twelve and with all of the Presidency and the Bishopric, and the, you know, Office of General Counsel, and geez. I think Sandra and I started at 8:30 that morning, and even over lunch, we were going through interviews, and I don't think we left the Temple there until 5:30. Um, but, um, it was a, it, it was quite an experience. But, um, yeah, I got the call from Bill Barnhart at the time. And, uh, I was, yeah, I was hired. So, I, I notified my superintendent in, in April. I ended my, my tenure as a principal on June 30. Um, and began my, my journey, uh, working full time, um, serving full time in, in Community of Christ on July 1, 2001. Um, and that's where it began. Well, hallelujah. So, wha, what was your first assignment, Scott? Yeah, my first assignment was, um, as the Des Moines Stake President. Um, so, here I was, here I was 4, 42 years of my life living in the northwest, you know, and with the mountains and the ocean and all of that, and my first assignment was to Des Moines, Iowa. I couldn't hardly, I couldn't even hardly say Iowa. It was like, Oh, no. It's, uh, but I tell you, Linda, it, I could not have asked for a better first assignment. You know, the, the people of, in, in that stake just embraced me with so much love and I just, I just grew to love them so much. Um, and it, um, I served as the Stake President and then a couple years later, the, the, the president of, of Lamoni Stake had, because of some, uh, personal reasons, had to, to step out of that role. So, I was asked to take on the acting president, so I was doing Des Moines Stake and then I became the, the, uh, Stake President for Lamoni. And that was at the time when, a, as you know because you were in the Council of Twelve, that mission center structure was starting to take on and so, um, I, I then facilitated with a, a, a team out of Lamoni Stake and Des Moines Stake to form the, uh, what's known now as Lamoni Heartland Mission Center. Um, (Yes.) and so I served, uh, I served in that first assignment for six years. And, again, just, I could not have asked for a better first assignment.

**Linda Booth 45:54**

Yes. And then you ended up as, uh, Director of Human Resources Ministries for the church. (Yeah.) That was a big jump.

**Scott Murphy 46:04**

That was another major disruption. And, you know, I, I just remember that, you know, at the time Bill, I get this call. So, Sandra and I are out on a walk, it was on a Monday, and I get this call from, from headquarters, and it was, um, from one of the members in the, uh, in the HR, uh, staff saying, Bill Barnhart and Ken, um, Robinson would like to meet with you. They would like to meet with you on Thursday. And, and we, we identified a place halfway between Independence and Des Moines. And, and I remember hanging up the phone and looking at Sandra and I said, They're going to move us! You know, I had no idea what, what this was all about. But they, you know, when I met with them, they, uh, they approached me and, you know, and simply said, We'd like you to consider, um, being, being interviewed for the HR director position. You know, uh, Bill and I, you know, had, had talked. Bill knew that the profession I came out of, you know, as a principal, I did a lot of HR work, um, you know, for my school and that. While I had not served as a, a formal HR director, I had done a lot of functions that way. And, so, you know, after she's just wrestling with that, um, there was again, just this moment of, of awareness, um, that it, the thought of leaving that mission center and the people just, it just made my heart ache. But I remember this moment of, of reading, uh, I was reading a reflection that Velma Ruch had written a, a, in a devotion, um, talking about Jesus and, and, and the two disciples that were up on the mountain with Jesus during the, the Transfiguration. Um, and it was this moment of, I had this awareness that, You have been blessed beyond the mountain with, with this, this mission center, these group of people that have just blessed you. But now it's time to go into the valley and, and, and begin a new journey. Um, and, so, it, I expected my wife and my youngest son, Michael, who was a junior at the time, to, to make the decision for me, like, No, we're not moving. You know, I didn't want to move my son, you know, in his high school year, but both of them said, Yeah, we're okay with that. But I, so I said yes. Went through the interview. And, and, uh, yeah, I was asked to, to come and serve in that position. Yeah.

**Linda Booth 48:42**

And so how long did you serve there? Because I remember, I was so thankful because I was secretary in the Council of Twelve and I served on that human resource team. And I remember being so impressed by your leadership and your thoughtfulness. So how long did you do that?

**Scott Murphy 48:56**

Um, three years. (Three years.) Yeah, from, from 2007 to, uh, 2010. Yeah.

**Linda Booth 49:04**

And then you got a call.

**Scott Murphy 49:07**

Then I just, my life was disrupted again.

**Linda Booth 49:10**

It was ca, you, and you got a call to go into the Council of Twelve Apostles. (Yeah. Yeah.) So, tell us about that call and your first assignment.

**Scott Murphy 49:19**

Yeah, you know, what was interesting, Linda, is, is probably six months before that call came, I, I was having these moments when, you know, I'd just be, I'd literally be sitting at my desk working on some things, um, you know, as, as the HR director, and just sitting there and working on some things this thought would emerge for me, um, of serving in the Council of Twelve, (Yes.) you know, and, and I struggled with that and I thought, Geez, where's that coming from? You know, and I get that human ego stuff out of here. I just, I'm, I'm who's gonna do that? Who wants to be in that role? (Absolutely.) I worked with you guys, I knew that, that is not an easy assignment position uh, but multiple times over that six month period, that thought would just pop in my mind. And then that day that, that Steve called me and he said, you know, Can I come down? I want to see you. What, you know, it wasn't uncommon for Steve and I to periodically have some conversation. Um, so he came down to my office, and, um, he presented the call for me, to me, and bore his testimony. And as I sat there, just in awe, I mean, I literally was just in awe, this, there was also this moment of profound disappointment, in the sense that I had become aware in that setting that the Spirit had tried, had been trying to prepare me for the call. And I kept pushing it away. And, and, and in that experience came the awareness, Never doubt. Never doubt. (Yeah.) And, so, yeah, so I, uh, um, after wrestling with that, and in responding to the call, then, yeah, I served in the Council of Twelve. My first assignment was with the Western Field, um, which, a, again, which was everything from kind of Colorado to the west coast, you know, from California and Arizona, up to, um, you know, Idaho and Montana. And, man, I just, again, it was just this profound blessing that, in many ways, it took me back home, (Yeah.) because it took me and, and while I was excited, I was also nervous. I mean, geez, what would these people think of me? I mean, they knew me as a kid growing up and all my faults and things I screwed up on as a kid. I mean, what's this, what's this gonna feel like going back now as the Apostle and, and that? But, and I, I just could not have asked for a better assignment for my first apostolic role. Um, yeah, pretty amazing.

**Linda Booth 52:11**

And then the Council members, myself included, we elected you to serve as the President of the Council of Twelve. Uh, and then Director of Field Ministries. So, uh, we realize, obviously, that your experience in HR, etc., would be a good fit for that role. So, then we elected you as the President, Director of Field Ministries.

**Scott Murphy 52:35**

Yeah, you know, Linda, ( , , ) I know you, you remember this very vividly. So, when, when Jim Slauter needed to make a, a, a decision, you know, he and his wife, Jan, needed to make a decision for, for the welfare of family, and he, he needed to retire. So, you remember that the Council met at your home. (Yes, I do remember that.) And, and Dave Schaal, um, in the Presidency at the time, came and met, um, and wanted to listen to, you know, what the Council of Twelve thought, what, you know, those perspectives. Well, you know, I'm in the Council of Twelve for, at that point, at just a little over the year. And, and, so, I literally remember sitting there thinking, There's nothing that I need to worry about here.

**Linda Booth 53:23**

Famous last words.

**Scott Murphy 53:25**

Yeah. And, so, I, you know, it must have been a week or two after that experience. And, and Dave Schaal calls me and says, you know, I'd like to visit with you. Um, well, Dave and I were friends anyway. So, I mean, we'd go listen, we, we had a, had a pattern of going to the jazz club, you know, in Kansas City, and go and listen to music. And so I just thought maybe Dave wanted to find the time for us to go listen to another band or something. Um, and it was in that moment that Dave, Dave shared with me that the Presidency wanted me to become the Director of Field Ministries. And I just, seriously, I looked at him and I said, You cannot be serious. I said, This doesn't even make sense, Dave. So, I tried to fight it and push back. But they, uh, they were pretty persistent. And, and then again, as, as you've indicated, the, the Council was so, the Council of Twelve was so gracious in their responsibility. The Presidency has the role of defining the Direct, Director of Field Ministries, but it's the Council of Twelve who defines and, and decides who will serve as the President. (Right. Right.) And again, I, it was just, again, one of those humbling moments in my life that, that the Council was willing to, um, approve me and support me to serve in that role with them. And, so, I, yeah, so, I, uh, yeah, in August of 2011, I, I became the Director, the President of the Council of Twelve and Director of Field Ministries. Yeah.

**Linda Booth 55:04**

And so I think I, I think, I don't know if I was reelected Secretary or if I just continued to be Secretary of the Council. But, (Yeah.) So, I worked closely with you and, and, but it wasn't long, uh, before you were called into the First Presidency as a Counselor to Prophet/President Steve Veazey. So, how long did you serve as, as President and Director of Field Ministries in the Council of Twelve before you went in to the First Presidency?

**Scott Murphy 55:38**

Well, again, I, I took on the role of President of the Council of Twelve and Director of Field ministries in August of 2011, and was, um, went into the Presidency at the World Conference in 2013.

**Linda Booth 55:50**

So, it did feel like it was really quick. (Yeah.) And that presented a, a real challenge at the time for the Council of Twelve because it was, um, President Veazey, um, determined that he wanted, uh, the Director of Field Ministries to move into the First Presidency and then the Council of Twelve would have, would elect a President to serve. And, so, that was, uh, I don't know how many years it was traditional for that, those two roles to be together. But there, that was a challenging time if you remember, Scott, even in the Council of Twelve to, um, I don't know if the word accept is right, but to live into that new relationship. You want to talk about that? Because I remember it vividly.

**Scott Murphy 56:41**

Um, ye, ye, yeah. So, I, you know, a, a, again, I, I, I think it's fair to say that, yeah, the Council of Twelve kind of really struggled with that. Um, and, um, you know, it was this, it was this real kind of dynamic of, of, of the Council of Twelve and the Presidency kind of trying to journey and understand

this. Um, but, you know, Steve, Steve was feeling very strongly of the need, um, you know, of, there, there were two primary factors. One, Steve was trying to move towards this, this more integrated model, um, not of control, but bringing functions together rather in places where it really fit. Um, and, and so, um, you, you actually were one of the first in, in that role, when, when you were serving in that integrated model of being a member of the Council of Twelve, but Director of Communications. (Yeah. That's true. Yes.) You really took a, a lead in that. And, and again, Steve started to have this sense of needing to bring functions together that work together, um, in, in important ways, as, as a, as a means of trying to have so many people in that kind of general officer position. So, it was trying to ( . . . ) define and, and collapse some of that in, in a more intentional way. Um, you know, so Steve had served as Director of Field Ministries and President of the Council of Twelve and, and I did, so when we had that conversation, we both had the experience of knowing that the Director of Field Ministries always worked so closely with the member of the Presidency who was, who had responsibility and oversight for the field, the mission of the church into the field. (Yes.) So, you know, when, when I was in Director of Field Ministries, I was always working with Dave Schaal. Um, you know, I was not making decisions on my own when we were working with budgets and, and, you know, other strategies and that. I was always working with President, um, member of the Presidency, Steve in the same way. Um, you know, he was working with, um, with Ken Robinson and that. So, we understood how, how that role actually could work together, um, you know, in a way, and I don't mean this in any demeaning way, it's just other members of the Council just didn't have that experience. Um, but, and, and, so, you know, Steve, you know, when he had presented the call for me, you know, that's a whole nother dynamic. But after I finally, you know, said yes to the call and we started talking about this integrated model, I thought, Yeah, I, I think it could work. Um, you know, my challenge is I hadn't served in the Presidency, so, I didn't know all of the other pieces that went along with that, but, but I knew how the positions could work together. The other factor into this is that it was the vision of how to make it possible for all 12 positions and members of the Council of Twelve to have field assignments. So, that was another critical part of the conversation, because up to this point, the, the President of the Council of Twelve and Director of Field Ministries did not have a field assignment which meant only 11 Apostles were actually serving the, you know, the fields of the, the global church. And, so, there was something really important in that same, mission is important, the Council of Twelve, as leaders of mission in the church, having 12 Apostles serving in the field rather than 11, this, the church needs that. And, so, this, it was, that was the other part of the strategy here of, of the integrated model was to free up the, the 12th member of the Council to, uh, to serve in the field. So, when, when you stepped into the President of, of the Council of Twelve position, you continued to have a field assignment. (Yes.) So, you didn't have to deal with all of the, the Director of Field Ministry functions of, of all of, of all of just the, the employment, the, uh, uh, the issues that would come up in all of the different international fields. You didn't have to deal with that. You know, that's, that's what I was dealing with. You know, in, in some ways, you know, now that we've, we've been in that, I've, what, it's, it's, it's now almost going on 10 years that we'll have had that model. You know, Steve, and I've talked and, you know, and Stassi, as the Presidency. Ron and I have talked, um, I mean, (Because Ron is the President of the Council of Twelve. Ron Harmon is President of the Council of Twelve.) You know, that, yeah, we're, we're trying to assess what's this look like going forward? Um, you know, what, are we learning out of this and there have been some learnings and, and a, and again, Ron and I have talked about it and you would, you know, it, I do my best to, to try to, you know, when you served as the President of the Council of Twelve, I tried to do my best to keep you aware an, and informed of issues taking place in, in the field and, and some of the

dynamics of what the Apostles were having to deal with. And I'm, I'm trying to deal with the same with Ron. And yet, as you know, when you're sitting around the table leading those Council of Twelve meetings, talking about mission, sometimes when you don't have the background information, and just the learning of the culture, um, it can, it can have an influence that you, you kind of feel, kind of feel like you, you just don't have all of the information, you know, possible. And, and so Ron and I have talked about that. What's that mean? And so, yeah, we're, we're in the process of exploring, Yeah, what's that look like going forward?

**Linda Booth** 1:02:35

Well, I re, I remember when the Director of Field Ministries went into the First Presidency and I, and as I served as the President of the Council of Twelve, it felt like we were doing this dance together, Scott, trying to figure out which ro, what, what the, the, the definition of each role was and we came up with, with that list of responsibilities that each of us had. And then it was a learning experience for the Council of Twelve, quite honestly, to not have the Director of Field Ministries sitting around the table during the meetings. But it did, we did, we did come to a place, I believe, that really supported the Council and helped each of us to understand what those roles were. So,

**Scott Murphy** 1:03:19

Yeah, I, I would agree with you, you know, and again, for me, I have always approached the role of Director of Field Ministries as working with a council of directors of mission. Um, so, I look to the Council of Twelve members as being the real directors of mission. My, my role as Director of Field Ministries is, is to, to deal with some of the logistics of that and, and the best way I can to support them as directors of, of mission out into their fields. And, um, you know, is that the right model or not? I don't know. But that's the way that I have approached it in this position in, in relationship. But I would, yeah, it was a, um, it, it was always a dance and, and trying to find that balance. And, you know, fortunately, you know, Linda, you and I, I just felt like you, you and I worked so close together. We, (We did.) we never, (No.) territories were never a part of our issue. It was (No. No.) how do we put together and Ron and I, uh, serving in the same way and, so, it, yeah, it's, uh, we keep working together and we keep learning together.

**Linda Booth** 1:04:26

Absolutely. So, that was, that was a, a, a big challenge in the beginning when you worked with the First Presidency, when you went in to serve with the First Presidency. So, what are some of the, I only have two more questions left. This has been a great, a great learning about your life and ministry. Um, so, what was, what do you think is one of the greatest challenges that you face now in the First Presidency?

**Scott Murphy** 1:04:55

So, one of the greatest challenge is trying to lead the church and, and who we have been called to be in a, in a, in a rapidly changing cultural dynamic. Um, you know, the fact is is that life and culture is, is changing faster than what we can keep up with. Um, and, and then you, then you add to that complexity, not only, not only the changing dynamics in, in, in the Western world context, now you bring in the, the global context of, of, of other cultures, um, that, um, are, have not moved at the same pace, um, as, as, as the, you know, Western world has. As you so well know, the, the dynamics in, in some of



the non-Western cultures, you know, in, in many of the nations in Africa, in Central America, and that, they are so formed in, um, communal life, in villages and that and, and yet in the Western world, the progression of individualism, um, is, is so rampant. And, so, one of the biggest challenges that I face, but as Steve and Stassi and I, that working together as a Presidency, is trying to stand in that breach, a, a, and how to lead the church and who we're called to be in those kinds of times of extreme, um, positions and identities and struggles and what, what all comes with that. I mean, you know, places in Africa and Central America, in Asia, and that, sometimes gets so frustrated, because they feel like, you know, the church is, is, is moving so fast and, and the Western world gets so frustrated because they feel like the church is moving so slow. And, and then, then you add into the complexities of social media, which, um, constantly ha, has this impact of things always being in flux, and, and stirring emotions up, and there's, it's just a different world than what it was even, even 10 years ago. (Yes. Yes it is.) And, and, so, the challenges of that, then, I mean, then you add in the added complexities of, you know, what we're experiencing in the US with such divergent political, um, perspectives taking place and, and people moving to the extremes rather than finding that common place in, in the middle. Um, so you have that dynamic, and then you have all of the, the issues of the, of the wars in different nations, you know, and again, just the, as, as an example, the, uh, the dynamics in, um, occurring in Haiti, you know, we have, you know, with our church members there, and, you know, now we're seeing in the news, all of the, um, individuals who have tried to come through Mexico up, and, and, you know, the immigrants and that, and the challenges with that, um, you know, the COVID situation that has just impacted us now going on for two years. Those, a, a, those kind of dynamics are having such dramatic impact on the church and trying to lead in, in the midst of that is very difficult because I think that, I think one of the things that, you know, if I'm honest, one of the things that hurts, that's frustrating is, is when members of the church get so angry with the Presidency because anytime we attempt to respond, it is always interpreted through a political lens. And we're not trying to, to play the political game. We're not trying to be in the partisanship basis. We're trying to be as faithful as we can to the gospel. And, and, you know, and again, in the continuing revelation that, that speaks to us in, in Doctrine and Covenants calling us on who we are called to be--Community of Christ. That's our identity and, and so trying to create community when everything else around us is trying to pull people apart and create division and, yeah, I mean it, sometimes it gets hard when, when you're constantly feel like you're getting bruised, um, and hammered because people feel like you're, you're trying to take sides and if there's anything I would want the listeners to hear is that we're, we're not trying to take sides. Um, we're trying to be faithful to the gospel and, and our responsibility for who, who the church has been called to be in the midst of life.

**Linda Booth 1:10:35**

Yes. Well, I asked you for the greatest challenge and you gave me a litany of multiple greatest challenges. So, in the midst of all those challenges, what brings you hope for Community of Christ?

**Scott Murphy 1:10:49**

You know what brings me hope? And it's, it's these, it's these moments of disruption that, that occur. Um, it, it's the moments of, at, at times, seeing messages on social media of, of people being so grateful for what Community of Christ is trying to stand for and its message. People have come from, you know, other traditions or struggles in their, in their faith journey, um, being so grateful to be a part of this community. Had, had the privilege a few weeks ago of a Pastor from a congregation that you know,

um, who were working with some individuals who have been in some very difficult life situations. And this pastor asked if, if, if members of the Presidency would be willing to share some, just some messages of congratulations and affirmation. And it, uh, in hearing back from that, that pastor, of just how, how touched he was that we would actually take the time to do that, and, and how meaningful it was for the individuals who received that. Um, for, during this, this time, of disruption with, you know, with the Afghan, you know, refugees situations taking place, and, you know, members of the ecumenical and interfaith team putting out suggestions to the church about how they might respond and hearing that there are members and mission centers who are looking for ways to, to help be partners and, and to support these individuals whose lives and world have been turned upside down. How do we, how do we offer that compassionate situation not judging, you know, the decisions if it was right or wrong to bring them, but in the moment to say, they just need support. Those moments of, of seeing the church be the church, um, and the expression of Christ. That's what gives me hope that, that Community of Christ has a place and a voice and a message to bring in the midst of, of all of these dynamics that I talked about earlier. That's what keeps giving me hope and, and what empowers me to keep wanting to serve in the best way that I can.

**Linda Booth 1:13:36**

Yes, absolutely, Scott. I thank you so much for sharing your life and ministry with us. And I'm personally thankful for you. You've supported a lot of people in their ministry and you're an excellent leader and minister and a good friend to so many people. I want to thank you for allowing God to form you and to direct you and to lead the church through you. So, thank you, my friend. (Thanks for the privilege.) And thank you Coffee Buzz listeners for joining our conversation. I hope Scott's words have inspired you and will bless you in your lives and ministry. Please watch for next month's episode of Coffee Buzz. I'll be having a conversation with Prophet/President Steve Veazey.

**Josh Mangelson 1:14:30**

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