

"Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain" (Joel 2:1)

Daily Tidings of Zion

Conference of Restoration Elders

Tuesday, April 3, 2007
Afternoon Business Session Minutes

Br. Paul Gage opened the business session by reading the following scriptures: D&C 136:3; 137:6; 138:3. We then joined in singing Hymn No. 428, verses 1 and 4, with Br. Bob Giertz offering the opening prayer.

Br. Steve Ferdig read the following list of credentialed elders for today.

Credentials Committee Approves the Following Elders

Jason	Anderson
George	Hawkins
Alvin	Lind
Nathan	Sherer
Neil	Simmons
Eugene	Warner

Conference Statistics:

Total Registered Elders at the close of Monday's meeting: 166

Total Registered Aaronic Priesthood registered: 17

Total Non-Priesthood registered: 66

Br. Mark Dietrick moved to accept the above listed Elders. Br. Gary Wilson 2nd the motion. The motion passed.

QUORUM REPORTS

Quorum #1: Following a season of prayer, we engaged in a discussion regarding the need to remain united in the work. Passion coupled with charity prevailed.

We turned our attention to the resolution on 3-5 and examined the other quorums amendments to it. We felt the predominate view expressed was to encourage the CRE and the JCRB, as well as other organizations (i.e., ARM, GEM, etc.) to work together. We unanimously voted to withdraw our own resolution and support Quorum #3's amended resolution (See Resolutions Handout 1-4 and 1-5)

Brian Mundy introduced an action motion which was seconded and passed with an overwhelming majority:

***Resolved** that this Conference of Restoration Elders encourage the formation of districts by branches lying in close proximity; and*

Be it further resolved that those districts meet in conference as the law permits.

Quorum #2:

Action on Quorum 5 Substitute Motion for Section 2-4, 1-2 and 1-3

Motion to amend by Elder James Noland; 2nd by Elder Jack Evans: On page 1-3, line 12, replace *encouraged* with *required*. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

Motion to amend by Elder Robert Giertz, 2nd by Elder Nathan Sherer: On page 1-3, line 18, replace *Elder's Council* with *CRE*. On line 26, after *appropriate* insert *action*; after *according* insert *to* Motion passed by majority vote.

Motion by Elder James Noland; 2nd by Elder Tony Durant to approve Quorum 5 Substitute Motion for Section 2-4 as amended. Pass by unanimous vote.

Action on Quorum 2 proposed resolution, p. 1-1

Motion by Elder Todd Smith, 2nd by Elder Nathan Sherer to amend line 39: After *elder*, insert *or pastor*. Passed unanimously.

Motion by Elder Jack Evans, 2nd by Elder Todd Smith to amend line 40: Strike *Credential Committee* after *CRE* and insert *the* before *CRE*. Passed unanimously.

Action on Quorum 1 New Resolution, p. 1-7

Motion by Elder Howard Parker; 2nd by Elder Tony Durant to amend line 28: Strike *to how* and change *coordinate* to *coordinating*. Passed unanimously.

Action on second Quorum 1 New Resolution, p. 1-7

Motion by Elder Robert Giertz; 2nd by Tony Durant to amend line 33: Before *GCR 222* and *GCR 215*. And amend line 37: After *Book of Mormon* insert all the following *and Doctrine and Covenants. This Conference also reaffirms the full text of GCR 215 and GCR appended herein as valuable reference information.* Passed unanimously.

NOTE: Elders Dale Carrick and Todd Smith elected to serve on Elder's Council.

In Summary, Quorum 2 approved amendments to Quorum 5 Substitute Motion, Quorum 2 proposed resolution, and both Quorum 1 New Resolutions.

Quorum #3: Two members of the quorum opened the meeting with prayer. Two brethren were elected to serve on the CRE Elders Council: Br. Vernon Pearson and Br. Jim Crane.

It was moved and 2nd to defer the previous days' motion on the floor made by Br. Skip Robison. A substitute motion was made:

Moved that this quorum recommend to the Conference that no one individual be an officer in both the CRE and JCRB simultaneously.

Discussion followed. The vote was called and the substitute motion lost.

The chair brought the Quorum 5 proposed resolution, (Resolutions Handout p. 1-8) up for discussion. The resolution was moved and 2nd. After discussion the motion lost.

Time did not permit to act on the remaining proposed resolutions.

Quorum #5: Elected two elders (Tyler Crowell and Steve Marshall) to serve on the Elders Council to serve between conferences.

Voted to accept a substitute motion concerning the questions of succession in Presidency of the church. Motion is as follows:

Resolved, that the Conference of Restoration Elders call a general gathering of the elders to meet in worship and study to consider the matter of succession in Presidency, and be it further

Resolved, that the gathering seek in solemn prayer, the mind and will of God in these matters (James 1:5, Section 41:1, 2 and Section 46:3 b, c), and be it further

Resolved, that this body report back to the 2008 Conference of Restoration Elders and the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches.

Voted to approve an amendment to Quorum #1's resolution on the Seventy from yesterday's session. The amended "resolved" is as follows:

Therefore be it resolved: that the CRE ask the Seventy to work with all boards and committees involved with the missionary work, to labor to coordinate the work throughout the world under one umbrella.

Voted to approve an amendment to Quorum #1 resolution on the scriptures.

Resolved, we reaffirm our belief in the divine authenticity of the Inspired Version, ~~and~~ The Book of Mormon, and the Doctrine and Covenants.

Resolved, that we reaffirm General Conference 215 (September 13, 1878), which says: "That this body, representing the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, recognize the Holy Scriptures, the Book of Mormon, the revelations of God contained in the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and all other revelations which have been or shall be revealed through God's appointed prophet, which have been or may be hereafter accepted by the church as the standard of authority on all matters of church government and doctrine, and the final standard of reference on appeal in all controversies arising or which may arise in this Church of Christ."

Aaronic Quorum: (Monday, April 2, 2007)

After singing the first verse of "The Old, Old Path", Br. Glen Gardner offered a prayer. We shared concerning Aaronic Council (FARM), past, present and future.

- Spiritual – Priest (Prayer and Family altar)
- Emotional – Teacher (Reconciliation) personal responsibility and accountability
- Temporal – Deacon (Stewardship) tithing statement and financial accountability

In the afternoon session, we discussed the terms "Functional" and "Structural." We discussed a possible resolution concerning the Aaronic Quorum and its relationship with the CRE and JCRB. Br. Alex VunCannon shared concerning the Youth Council working in concert with the JCRB. We closed the day with a prayer by Kerry Burns.

(Tuesday, April 3, 2007)

Br. Russ Reid shared with the Aaronic Quorum concerning the treasurer for the CRE, auditing concerns, money to hire an auditor, and spot auditing. He also shared concerns about what articles go into the *Tidings of Zion*. We had discussion concerning the subject of council and board members belonging to both the CRE and JCRB; division and differences among us; and the message contained in Br. Jim Daugherty's sermon of Monday evening.

The Aaronic Quorum recommends that the CRE and JCRB continue to work together for the common cause, and recommends that the CRE & JCRB meet together more than once a year to accomplish the task before us, for harmony and to demonstrate unity, and be of one fold. We recommend a study of Deuteronomy 28:1-2. Br. Dennis King closed the session with prayer.

Br. Paul Gage brought the resolution from Section 2-4 in the binder as tabled from Monday, to the floor. Br. Rudy Leutzinger then moved a substitute motion to Section 2-4. (Resolution Handout 1-2 and 1-3). Br. Gary Whiting 2nd. Br. Leutzinger explained why their council brought this resolution to the floor. Br. Jack Evans amended the substitute motion replacing the word "encouraged" with "required" on line 12 of page 1-3, and replacing "Elders Council" with "Coordinating Council" on line 18. The motion received a 2nd. Br. Brian Mundy amended the amendment, restoring the "Elders Council" wording. Br. Rudy Leutzinger 2nd. The amendment to the amendment was approved keeping the words "Elders Council" of line 18 of page 1-3. A vote was taken on the amendment, as amended and passed.

Several Brothers stood to offer their support and opposition to the substitute motion. The vote was taken, and a Division of the House was requested. The substitute motion passed 50-38 as follows:

Restoration Branch Defined

Whereas, the Conference of Restoration Elders recognized the primary right of branches in determining their membership and priesthood but have not adequately defined a Restoration Branch; and

Whereas, the Pastors of Zion and the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches have both provided direction in this area; therefore be it

Resolved that the following definition as given in the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches, Resolution #2, Article 1 in November 2005 shall be adopted by the Conference of Restoration Elders to substitute for articles 1 & 2 of the Melchisedec Credentials Guidelines:

“1. A Restoration Branch has been organized under the legal authority granted by the *Articles of Incorporation of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. (1872)* and in accordance with the directions in A Manual of Practice and Rules of Order and Debate for Deliberative Assemblies of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, compiled by Joseph Smith and Thomas W. Smith, and approved by General Conference action in 1876 and 1891. A Restoration Branch has three primary characteristics:

- It has been organized by one or more priesthood members who trace their authority to the Reorganized Church.
- Its membership is composed of six or more members who are in good standing and are under the pastoral charge of an elder, priest, teacher, or deacon. (“Elder” includes the offices of high priest, seventy, bishop.)
- It preaches and practices the original tenets and doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints originally founded April 6, 1830, by Joseph Smith, Jr., and perpetuated in the Reorganized Church by his son, Joseph Smith III, April 6, 1860.

A Restoration Branch has certain rights which include, but are not limited to, the following:

- The right to elect its leadership;
- The right to identify and qualify its membership;
- The right to administer in the ordinances of the gospel as traditionally administered by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints;
- The right to approve priesthood calls and ordain men limited to the offices of elder, priest, teacher, and deacon;
- The right to conduct business relative to its particular area of operation;
- The right to associate (or disassociate) in secondary and governmental organizations; and
- The right of representation at conferences.

2. A Restoration Branch does not practice such doctrines as the ordination of women to priesthood offices, the serving of the sacrament to persons without authoritative baptisms, the ordaining of men to priesthood offices other than elder, priest, teacher, or deacon. Any branches previously associated with an organization which participated in such practices are required to renounce the same in order to function as an independent Restoration Branch.”

And be it further resolved that Restoration Branches may apply for recognition to the CRE secretary by submitting (1) a brief history of the branch which identifies the founding officers, (2) a copy of the branch’s by-laws, and (3) a list of qualifying elders; and be it further

Resolved that branch applications shall be reviewed by the Elder's Council and a list of qualifying branches shall be published in the *Tidings* annually

Resolved that the 5th paragraph of article 6a be amended as follows:

“Upon the written statements of two or more credible witnesses to conduct on the part of any Melchisedec priesthood member that is unbecoming to that priesthood member or conduct that is detrimental to his ministry or the ministry of others, the Credentials Committee - or Coordinating Council between Conferences, should advise the Restoration Branch and request the branch to investigate and take appropriate action according to church law, and to report back to the conference on his status. Priesthood members who are not affiliated with a Restoration Branch would be reviewed individually by the Credentials Committee - or Coordinating Council between Conferences-and may, if necessary, refuse or remove the person’s authority to participate.”

The Melchisedec Credentials Guidelines, adopted April 1997, amended April 6, 2005, and amended during this conference, will be published in its newly amended form in a future edition of the *Tidings of Zion*.

Br. Vim Horn brought to the floor the Coordinating Council's proposed resolution Section 3-5 and read a report from the Coordinating Council on the results of the efforts in working with the JCRB. Bro. Bob Immer moved to accept Section 3-5 and Br. Garry Piatt 2nd. Br. Patrick McKay offered a substitute motion (Resolutions Handout 1-4), vs. 38. Br. Brian Mundy 2nd.

Br. Brian Mundy moved to amend the substitute motion to remove lines 38 and 39, after the word "resolved". Br. Harry Williams 2nd. Some discussion followed. A question was asked whether the original motion had received a 2nd, which it had. The body voted on the amendment, which passed.

Br. Vim Horn offered an amendment to restore lines 3 through 5 on page 5 of the Resolutions handout. Br. Garry Piatt 2nd. Br. Jack Evans moved to strike lines 5 and 6, after the word "head". Br. George Gross 2nd the motion. The amendment passed. A vote was taken on the substitute motion, as amended, which passed.

Br. Jim Noland moved to replace lines 41 through 43 with lines 30 through 33, on page 1-4 of the Resolutions handout. Br. George Gross 2nd. Br. Aaron Smith objected to the amendment. A vote was taken on the objection, with 55 for and 35 against, less than the required 2/3rd majority. The objection failed.

Br. Paul Gage admonished the body of the CRE to keep their focus on Christ. Br. Dayn Cederstrom offered a special prayer for the body. Br. Jim Noland spoke to the amendment and several brethren spoke against the amendment. Br. Marlin Guin spoke against the amendment stating that he loves the Saints, and desires to leave the CRE intact. He stated that the JCRB is still trying to define its mission, and that this is bigger than the two conferences; it's about the Church of Jesus Christ, as Alma stated in the Book of Mormon. He encouraged the body to come outside the parliamentary process to come together as a priesthood, to figure out how to allow the Lord to work with us.

Br. Brian Mundy called the question to vote on all matters before the body. A vote was taken on the amendment, which did not pass. The vote on the substitute motion passed as follows:

Resolution for continued relations between the CRE and JCRB

Therefore be it resolved,

That the CRE continue to function in seeking to provide a venue for all Restoration Elders, from all Restoration Branches, to be able to confer with one another on matters of common concern within the Restoration Branch movement; and

That the CRE leadership and councils work cooperatively and in harmony with the JCRB; and

That this body of Restoration Elders acknowledge and recognize that there exists a common desire amongst the elders to find ways for Restoration Branches to work together and to ultimately function under a singular head, and

That this body of Restoration Elders acknowledges and recognizes that Jesus Christ is the head of His Church, and all of us need to humble ourselves before Him, and all of us need to acknowledge that fraternal harmony is the consequence of charity ruling in the hearts of the Brethren.

And, Be it further resolved, that the CRE work with the JCRB and other Restoration Branch Groups to seek out ways to reach out to all restoration branches to identify and address concerns that may be contributing to the differences that exist between the Branches; and

Be it further resolved, that the sole purpose of this effort be to reach out to all Restoration Branches in love to help build trust and a sense of oneness between the Branches and within the body of Saints in accordance with the Word of God.

The next order of business was for nominations for 2007-2008 CRE officers and committee members. (See separate nomination form)

Br. Brian Mundy presented a motion from Quorum #3 to encourage the formation of districts, to meet in conference, for consideration during Wednesday's business session.

Br. John Mundy presented a motion from Quorum #1 to consider adding a line item for Future Hope Orphanage in Liberia.

Br. Vim Horn stated that the Conference Chair requested no new business be brought to the body after Monday's business session.

Br. Jack Evans presented a motion to consider the amendment on the Orphanage. Br. Jim Crane 2nd. Several brethren spoke to the motion. Br. Rudy Leutzinger moved to refer the motion to the CRE and ARM treasurers, and to return with a report to the next business session. Br. Mark Dietrick 2nd. Motion passed.

Br. Paul Gage closed the session at 5:00 pm, and Br. Darrell Webster closed the session with prayer.