

"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

Monday, April 7, 2008
Afternoon Business Session Minutes

Br. Richard Neill opened the business session.

Br. Jack Hagensen of the Credentials Committee gave the report of the following Elders credentialed as of the beginning of the session on Monday morning.

Credential Committee Approves the Following Elders

ALEC BAILES
WAYNE KENT
VERNON KENT
MARK BALLANTYNE
GARY WILSON
DAVID JOHNSON
RON LIDBERG
MARK ETTER
GEORGE THOMAS

GEORGE KNOTTS
ELDON CUNNINGHAM
REX CURTIS
DAVID BRONSON
VAL GROSS
JAY HAVENER
BILL HEROD
JAMES HOOD
KERRY LANCASTER

BRUCE LUEDEMAN
DENNIS MORELAND
JAMES SHIMEL
NEILL SIMMONS
CHARLES PERRY
MARK BURNARD*
GREG THOMAS*
WES LASLEY*

*These brothers were not listed on Monday's Tidings but spoke up from the floor. All were verified as having been credentialed and were added to the list. Br. Aaron Smith, secretary of the CRE, then read the names of the following individuals who should have been on the list from Sunday (in the Daily Tidings - Monday edition):

MIKE SANDERS

MICHAEL JORDISON

RON VERMELAND

Conference Statistics:

Total Registered Elders at the close of the morning meeting: 193

Br. Richard Neill asked the body to seat those elders having been credentialed by the committee. Br. Chuck Sperry challenged one name and was referred to the new procedures, which involved submitting a written statement to the coordinating council of elders.

Br. Richard Neill then asked for a vote to seat the elders and it passed.

Br. Neill turned the business session over to Br. Jim Daugherty. Br. Daugherty asked the conference to sustain Br. Richard Neill as chairman. He was sustained. Br. Daugherty then turned the business session back over to Br. Neill.

Br. Neill asked the conference to sustain Br. Aaron Smith as the secretary of the conference. He was sustained.

Br. Neill then made some personal comments regarding his role as chairman and reviewed the proposed agenda for the afternoon business session on page 1-3 in the conference notebook. The succession of lineage will not be discussed today, but would be dealt with at a later time. He also indicated that the Coordinating Council would be submitting a resolution as the first item of business.

Br. Dayn Cederstrom then read the resolution from the Coordinating Council.

“CAN/SHALL THE CONFERENCE OF RESTORATION ELDERS MERGE WITH THE JOINT CONFERENCE OF RESTORATION OF BRANCHES?

YES – WILL SIGNIFY THAT WE WILL MERGE

NO – WILL SIGNIFY THAT WE WILL NOT MERGE”

This was seconded by Br. Gary Whiting.

Vim Horn offered a substitute motion. Because of the length, it was copied and handed out to all the elders present. During this time, Br. Jim Daugherty spoke regarding his role as parliamentarian and the history of the conference in doing business under a modified version of Robert’s Rules of Order. He encouraged the men to act with wisdom.

Br. Neill recognized Br. Steve Ferdig who objected to the substitute motion. The initial vote was ruled not a 2/3 majority. Several questions were raised and a revote was taken and a division of the house requested. The objection was not sustained, 54 in favor of the objection and 69 against.

After several had the opportunity to discuss both sides of the issue, Br. Frank VanFleet offered an amendment to the motion.

“GIVEN THAT THERE EXISTS A CONFLICT OF INTEREST EXPERIENCED BETWEEN THOSE THAT SERVE IN BOTH THE CRE AND JCRB, THAT ANYONE WHO:

- 1. IS A CURRENT OFFICER IN THE JCRB, OR*
- 2. IS A CURRENT BOARD MEMBER OF THE JCRB, OR*
- 3. SERVES IN A LEAERSHIP CAPACITY (E.G. COMMITTEE CHAIR OR MEMBER), OR*
- 4. IS A REGISTERED MEMBER OF THE JCRB*

BE PRECLUDED FROM VOTING ON THE MERGER AND/OR ACQUISITION OF THE JCRB”.

Br. Dan Brotherton seconded the motion.

Br. Mark Deitrick objected to the amendment. Steve Ferdig seconded the objection.

Br. Paul Gage offered a point of order that there were many who were there who had registered for the JCRB as voting members. Br. Jack Evans asked the question of the chair if

this wasn't changing our credentialing process. Br. Daugherty responded and the chair ruled the amendment out of order.

After 14 brothers spoke in favor or against the original substitute motion that Br. Horn moved, the chair urged patience on behalf of the elders if we have a vote and it doesn't go your way. He urged the body to consider what an impact the united body of elders would have on the Restoration movement.

Br. Paul Gage moved to table the motion for 30 minutes and have discussion, to be led by two prayers. Dayn Cederstrom seconded.

A point was raised as to the current time (approx. 3:30 pm) and if they delayed the JCRB was to convene their conference at 4:00. This might mean some of the brothers would not be here to vote on the matter if it came up for a vote after the 30 minutes of discussion.

Br. Gage withdrew his motion after those effected were asked to stand and Dayn agreed to withdraw it as the second.

Again, after several more brothers had the opportunity to voice their support or opposition to the substitute motion, Br. Lowell Augenstein moved an amendment that the last (only) resolved be struck from the substitute motion. Jack Delany seconded the amendment.

Br. Neill, seeing no major discussion upon this issue called for a vote and the amendment failed.

Br. Garland Schnack moved the question on the substitute motion. (2nd was not recorded by the secretary).

Br. Neill called the question and the substitute motion failed 70 against, 50 for. (Br. Neill asked for a division of the house).

Br. Neill asked Br. Cederstrom to reread the original motion which was now back on the table for discussion.

Br. Russ Reid moved to table this item until tomorrow morning so that the body could fast and pray about it tonight. Br. Glyn Carpenter seconded the amendment.

Br. Neill offered to have prayer now (after an amendment was offered by Br. Cloyce Coffman in this regard). Instead of having the amendment, Br. Neill asked Br. Jason Anderson pray.

Br. Neill then asked for the vote on Br. Reid's amendment. The amendment failed.

Br. Mark Etter asked two questions, both of which Br. Neill answered in regards to the reasoning of why the original motion was worded by the Coordinating Council in the way that it was.

After more discussion, Br. Dayn Cederstrom offered the following substitute motion:

“Whereas there is strife and disunity among the saints in the restoration branches of the Church of Jesus Christ and such conditions have been expressed in accusations of brethren, rumor mongering, disassociation and discontinuing of fellowship with each other,

And whereas such conditions are injurious and detrimental to the "body of Christ" by giving aid to the enemy of all creation, and do not advance the cause of the Kingdom, And whereas the disunity of the Church of Jesus Christ is antithesis to the commandment of our Lord Jesus Christ, "BE ONE; and if ye are not one, ye are not mine," Section 38:6a,

And whereas there is a general feeling among the Saints that "time" is short and the work of the Kingdom must hasten,

Therefore be it resolved that this conference suspend all legislation until it has devoted a day to worship through fasting and prayer seeking the Lord's forgiveness and to seek reconciliation with one another,

And be it further resolved that this conference suspend all legislation until it has humbly sought the mind and will of God through prayer and fasting upon the following questions:

- 1. Does the organization known as the "Community of Christ" still possess authority as your Church?*
- 2. Do the Restoration branches possess authority as your Church?*
- 3. Is it the Lord's will for the Restoration Branches of the church of Jesus Christ to remain disorganized? (Or Should the Restoration Branches of the church of Jesus Christ remain as independent entities?)*
- 4. Should the Restoration Branches of the church of Jesus Christ organize?*
- 5. To what extent should the Restoration Branches of the church of Jesus Christ organize?*
- 6. By what name should the organization of Restoration Branches be called?*

Be it further resolved that should the Lord speak on these matters that the elders of this conference convene to consider words received as to whether they be the word of the Lord to the church and if found to be the word of the Lord give recommendation to their implementation by the body of Christ, His Church”

Br. Schnack objected to consideration and Br. Neill called for the vote. The objection failed.

Br. Ron Vermeland seconded Br. Cederstrom’s substitute motion.

Discussion ensued and during the time in which the third person was speaking and the floor was objecting to comments that were being made, again, the chair stopped the debate and asked the body to consider the words we use as we make our points. He urged the body to avoid contention and to please be careful.

After several more had the opportunity to discuss, Br. Clyde Warner called the previous question on the whole matter. Mike Sanders seconded.

The substitute motion was being passed out and in order for all the elders to have it in their hands; Br. Neill asked if we could take a short break. (This was approx. at 4:35pm). Br. Neill reconvened the body at 4:40 and presented the substitute motion before the assembly. The motion passed.

Br. Neill then indicated that since this has changed the agenda, he invited all the elders present to make every effort to be there tomorrow and join in this time of prayer and fasting. The Conference would gather at 8 am in the sanctuary for worship on Tuesday morning with an agenda to be presented to the brethren regarding this motion after the morning worship.

Br. Paul Gage closed the session with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron J. Smith
Secretary

Credential Committee Approves the Following Elders

David Bates

Robert Hayes

These brothers will be seated at the opening of the next business session. They were credentialed Monday afternoon.

Schedule for Tuesday, April 8, 2008 Evening worship

Hymn Sing at 6:30

Worship at 7:00 – Jack Hagensen in charge

Schedule for Wednesday, April 9, 2008

8:00 AM – Worship in Sanctuary led by the Patriarchs.

10:00 AM – Business session convenes in sanctuary for credentialed elders.

This business session length and the length of the conference will be determined by the elders.