

"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

Saturday, April 11, 2009

Conference Statistics:

Total Registered Elders as of Friday morning, April 10, 2009: 97. Total registered non-Melchisedec: 60.

Minutes of the business session for April 10, 2009, 9 AM.

The body opened with singing of "The Old, Old Path" followed by a prayer by Brother Roger Graybill.

The Chair then gave instruction to the body regarding the upcoming Quorum time, specifically the three things they needed to accomplish. First, to select members to serve on the Elder's Council throughout the year. Second, they needed to examine the three resolutions brought by the quorums in a previous business session and see if they could harmonize them into one or agree upon one that they could start with during the upcoming business and lastly, close with a season of prayer. He indicated the body would reassemble at 9:45.

The body reassembled at 9:45 with the singing "Rejoice Ye Saints of Latter Days" followed by prayer by Brother Bob Colville.

Brother Brian Mundy asked for a personal privilege mentioning that Brother Sam Agwanda had been taken to the hospital yesterday and was very ill. The Chair asked Brother Mundy if he would offer a prayer on Sam's behalf which he did.

Bob Immer reported from Quorum 1 that they had selected Brothers Jim Daugherty, Ray Wheeler, Roger Graybill and Clyde Noren to serve on the Elder's Council. They recommend to the body that we begin the business session using Quorum 2's resolution with some minor modifications.

Quorum 2 reported that they had selected Brothers Russ Reid, Gary Moreland and Darrell Webster to be on the Elders Council.

Quorum 3 had selected Brothers Pete Hughes, Robert Colville and Robert Taylor to serve on the Elders Council. They too had selected Quorum 2's resolution as being the best beginning point for the business session.

The Chair then asked for a motion to deal with the formalization of the Elder's Council members. Brother Paul Gage moved and Brother Mike Sanders seconded. The motion to accept those men recommended in the quorums passed.

Brother Andy O'Neill then moved from the Credentials Committee that the body accept the name of George Dunning. Brother Gerry Bird seconded and the vote to approve the seating of Elder George Dunning carried.

The Chair then indicated that there had been a challenge to the seating of Brother Arthur Hawley. This challenge had been upheld by the Coordinating Council, reversing the decision of the Credentials Committee to seat brother Hawley. He had the right of appeal to the Elder's Council and the Elder's Council upheld the decision of the Coordinating

Council. Brother Hawley was no longer able to have voice and vote in the body, although the chair extended the invitation to remain in the session as an observer.

Brother Russ Reid then moved that the body accept the minutes as printed in the Daily Tidings Friday edition. Brother Dan Brotherton seconded. Brother Gary Moreland corrected the wording or intent of his resolution on page 5-18 to include that the letter that was to be written would not go directly to the saints from the committee but would have gone to the Coordinating Council for their approval. Also, it was noted that on the top of page 5-15, the date for the Conference Statistics should have been Thursday, April 9, not Wednesday, April 8. The vote to accept the minutes with those corrections passed.

Brother Mark Ballantyne then announced that he was not able to fulfill his elected role on the Coordinating Council and the Chair indicated that the next highest vote total from the election the day prior had been Brother Garry Piatt.

The Chair then recognized the current Treasurer, Brother Brian Mundy for a motion to accept the proposed budget. Brother Mundy moved that the budget be approved as was shown on the screen in the front of the assembly (\$2,400.00 in Rent, \$10,000 in Office Expenses, \$500.00 for the Women's Council and \$15,620.00 for the Publication's Council plus the amounts forwarded by the Cooperative Ministries (ARM -\$142,835.00, SEAAM - \$54,000.00 and LAMB - \$38,804.00) for a total of \$235,639.00. The motion to accept also had two provisions. First, that the treasurer is to make NO expenditures until the entire Office and Rent portions of the budget are met (\$12,400) and second, that the Evangelism council and Missionary boards must keep their expenditures within their fund balances and income restraints. Brother Russ Reid seconded the motion.

Brother Dan Brotherton moved to change the Women's Council line item from \$500 to \$1000 and to adjust the amount down \$500 in the Publication's Council (\$15,120). Brother Mike Sanders seconded the motion. The vote carried the amendment.

After some discussion Brother Mundy pointed out that the existing "balances" that each council had would be at their disposal to use until provision 1 was met in his original motion. Vim moved to change the first provision in the budget motion to say that as long as the office expenses and rent are being met each quarter, that the treasurer could disperse other funds that have come in above those amounts. Brother Lyle Smith seconded the amendment.

After some lengthy discussion surrounding this procedural provision in the budget and how it would possibly limit certain funds and groups within the conference, Brother Michael Stephenson moved a substitute amendment that would replace the first provision in the budget motion. It states,

"We allocate 50% of our income to the general fund until such time as the fixed expenses of the office and rent are covered."

Brother Vim Horn seconded the motion. Brother Paul Gage asked a point of inquiry whether the conference treasurer in past years had already come up with guidelines for these type of situations. One of the previous treasurer's in the assembly was not able to remember specifics surrounding any such guidelines. The Chair pointed out that if we did have such guidelines in place that this legislation would super-cede those provisions.

More discussion ensued and then Brother Sanders moved the question on all matters before the body. The motion to vote was seconded by Brother Clyde Noren and it carried. The vote was then taken on the substitute amendment and it carried and then the vote carried for the entire budget.

The Chair moved to take a short break and regather in 5 minutes. The body reassembled at 11:05 and Brother Howard Parker asked for prayers for Brother Don Deason who has become increasingly ill. A prayer for Brother Deason was offered from the floor.

The Chair then asked for a motion from Quorum 2 (since it was the Quorum's resolution that suggested as beginning point for the business from the other Quorums) to bring the resolution forward regarding the conference's response to the actions taken by the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches. Brother Don Norman moved and Brother Russ Reid seconded the following motion.

“Whereas, the JCRB has supported the setting apart of Presidents of Seventy and the ordaining of other Seventy, and;

“Whereas, the JCRB has declared themselves to be the General Conference representing the whole church, and;

“Whereas, the JCRB represents a small faction of the church of Jesus Christ scattered abroad, and;

“Whereas, the last CRE conference passed an olive leaf resolution declaring our desire not to “disassociate” from our brethren – pending the decisions made at their last conference, and;

“Whereas, the CRE has not communicated clearly to the saints abroad, nor to the JCRB concerning their actions, and;

“Whereas, the actions of the JCRB have caused division and strife among the saints, and;

“Whereas, the ordinations to the office of Seventy have caused a great deal of confusion among the various missionary boards as to how to deal with these men, and;

“Whereas, the CRE credential guidelines recognize priesthood calls limited to the offices of elder, priest, teacher and deacon, and;

“Whereas, the CRE has given an “uncertain sound” to the saints with regard to the actions taken by the JCRB at their last conference, and;

“Whereas, this has led to further confusion, doubt, and mistrust among the saints who have disapproved of JCRB actions, and;

“Whereas, there are men who once publically advocated JCRB proposals, who have not publically renounced the same or repented for leading the saints astray, and;

Therefore, Be It Resolved,

First, that this conference send forth a “word of consolation” to the scattered saints that clearly communicates that this conference does not approve of JCRB actions – as noted above.

Secondly, that it communicates to the faithful saints everywhere concerning the CRE commitment to take every lawful means which will build trust, unity, and a spirit of cooperation among the restoration branches.

Thirdly, a committee of seven be appointed by the conference chairman to compose a letter and report back to this conference. This letter should be composed in charity, but clearly stating the feelings and belief of this body towards the actions taken by the other body. If this letter is agreed upon by the elders the letter would THEN be sent to the other restoration branches, published in the Tidings of Zion and sent to the officers of the JCRB.”

After some discussion Brother Sanders moved to put back in the first 'resolve' the phrase, "those actions being highly irregular and unlawful for a conference of a local character" and strike the dash and the phrase "as noted above." The amendment was seconded from the floor.

Discussion proceeded and then Brother Bob Immer made an amendment to the amendment stating that we replace the phrase "of a local character" to "which is not a General Conference". Brother Sanders seconded the amendment. After much discussion the vote on the amendment failed.

Brother Sanders then moved to strike everything after the word "unlawful" and add a period. Brother Andy O'Neil seconded the amendment and the vote to amend passed.

Brother Paul Gage then moved that we replace the phrase "JCRB" with "all groups that have deviated from the law of the church". Brother Lowell Augenstein seconded the amendment. Discussion ensued and the vote failed to carry the amendment.

Brother Robert Whenham then moved to strike the last 'whereas' from the resolution and Brother John Mundy seconded. After discussion, Brother Sanders moved the previous question and Brother Gary Moreland seconded the move to vote. The body was then asked if they were ready to vote and the response was yes by a show of hands. The vote was then taken on striking the last 'whereas' and it carried 23-10.

Brother Doug Smith shared a concern about the wording in the second 'whereas' claiming that the JCRB has declared themselves the General Conference representing the whole church. Brother Whenham then moved to strike the second 'whereas' and Brother Smith seconded. The vote carried, but upon a request for a recount lost 18 to 19. The second 'whereas' remains as part of the resolution.

Brother Bob Immer then moved the previous question on the whole matter and Brother Reid seconded. The body was then asked if they were ready to vote and by a show of hands they voted yes. The vote was then taken on the whole resolution with the amendments as passed and it carried.

The Chair then asked Brother Pete Hughes to come forward and move the letter that the committee had written over the previous evening. Pete Hughes moved consideration of the letter and Brother Immer seconded. Brother Hughes then spoke to the process of writing the letter and how the committee came to finalize the request from the conference body. He indicated that their desire was to also send out a copy of the CRE's purpose with each letter and Brother Brotherton also added that a copy of the just passed resolution would go with it as well. All on the committee (seven) were in agreement with the wording of the letter.

Discussion was then opened up surrounding the letter. Several of the brothers had some concerns with how the issue of the district was presented. So after the chair had allowed lengthy discussion surrounding the entirety of the letter he then asked the body to deal with one amendment at a time so as not to get sidetracked into too many different legal settings and questions.

Brother Vim Horn then moved to strike the portion of the letter stating, "The JCRB has formed a district" and the associated scripture associated with that statement from D&C 120. Brother Brotherton seconded the motion. The vote to strike that portion of the letter was unanimously approved.

Brother Ron Lidberg then moved to alter the words "actions" to "action" since we had removed one of the two 'bulleted' items. This was simply a grammar change to the letter. Brother Doug Smith seconded the motion and it carried.

Brother Paul Gage then offered an amendment which added, “and subsequent calls to other offices higher than elder” at the end of the first bullet point. Brother Allen Howen seconded the amendment. The vote to change this passed 17-12.

Brother Gage then moved to change the word “faithful” to “all” preceding the word “saints” in the final paragraph. Brother Doug Smith seconded. After Brother Gage spoke to the issue the vote carried the amendment.

Brother Mark Etter then moved that we strike the word “faithful” in the first paragraph and Brother Dayn Cederstrom seconded the motion. After some discussion the amendment passed.

Brother Doug Smith then moved to strike the sentence “This action has caused division within, and among, various branches because of differing perspectives.” Brother Cederstrom seconded the motion. After some discussion Brother Bob Immer moved that we add a ‘period’ after the word “branches”. Brother Lyle Smith seconded and the vote to accept Brother Immer’s substitute amendment carried 14-13.

Brother Smith then moved that we add a second ‘bullet’ point back in regarding the ordaining of Presidents of Seventy and new Seventy. Brother Mike Sanders seconded the motion. After discussion the vote to add the following passed:

- “The JCRB has supported the setting apart of Presidents of Seventy and the ordaining of other Seventy.”

It was then noted that the words “actions” which had been changed earlier to “action” would need to be modified again, and without objection the change was made. At this point Brother Sanders then moved the previous question on the whole matter and Brother Reid seconded. The body showed their readiness to vote by raising their hand in the affirmative. The vote then was taken to accept the letter as amended and it carried. (Please see the final approved letter attached).

Brother Brotherton then moved a new resolution from the Coordinating Council regarding the missionary work as read below:

“Whereas the JCRB has set apart Presidents of Seventy and ordained other Seventy,

“Whereas these ordinations to the office of Seventy have caused a great deal of confusion among the missionary boards as to how to work with these men,”

‘Whereas the CRE credential guidelines * recognize priesthood calls limited to the offices of Elder, Priest, Teacher and Deacon, therefore be it”

“Resolved that the elders and missionary boards discontinue the performing of ordinances with these men or their representatives in missionary fields until they deny their ordination to the office of Seventy and repent**.”

* item 2 of the CRE Melchisedec Credentials Guidelines

** items 2 and 6 of the CRE Melchisedec Credentials Guidelines”

Brother Sanders seconded the motion and then Brother Brotherton explained that the conference had voted on a substitute motion to deal with the original motion from the Evangelism council, but because the substitute motion did not end up addressing the

concerns expressed by the Evangelism Council the Coordinating Council wanted this issue addressed so that there could be direction given.

Discussion ensued followed by an amendment offered by Brother Vim Horn. He moved to replace the words “to work” with “the performing of ordinances” and Brother Paul Gage seconded the motion. The vote to amend passed.

Discussion followed on the main motion with several speaking against. Brother Sanders then moved the previous question on all matters and Brother Noren seconded. The vote (2/3 required) on whether the body was ready to vote or not failed.

Discussion continued both for and against the motion from multiple elders. Brother Pete Hughes then moved to table the motion seeing there was no consensus on the matter and Brother John Mundy seconded the move to table. Several Brothers spoke against tabling and the vote to table lost 13 to 16.

Brother Sanders then moved the previous question on the resolution and Roger Graybill seconded. The body approved the action to proceed with the vote. The vote to approve the resolution failed 15-16 with two separate counts being taken.

The Chair then recognized Brother Howard Parker and he moved to table the remaining resolution on “credentials” (as found on page 3-6/7 in the notebook). Brother Gage seconded and the motion to table passed.

Brother Gage then moved that next year’s conference be from Monday, April 5, 2010 through Friday, April 10th, including a worship service on Friday evening. Brother Gerry Bird seconded the motion. Some discussion ensued about the 4th of April and why we wouldn’t start the conference on that Sunday night. The Chair indicated it would be Easter Sunday that day. Brother Russ Reid moved a substitute motion that the conference would convene beginning April 4th in the evening and Brother Lyle Smith seconded. The substitute motion passed.

The Chair then closed the conference by discussing the days we live in and our required diligence and prayer to maintain the work. Brother Richard Neill formally closed the conference by offering a benediction.

Respectfully submitted,
Aaron Smith
Secretary

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

-Every attempt has been made to insure the accuracy of the minutes from Friday’s business session, but if you were there and see something that needs correcting please contact Aaron Smith (section90design@aol.com) and let him know.

-If you’ve had any experiences with the Lord this week please take the time to write them down and give them to someone on the Publications council. They would like to consider them for a future issue of the Tidings of Zion.

-There are almost 15 extra notebooks if you’d like to have one from the conference. They are at the office and the cost is \$10.00.

-The entire Daily Tidings and also the entire Conference Notebook will be uploaded to the CRE website in the following weeks. You can go to <http://www.eldersconference.org/> and download or read the material from the conference.