

Proposed Resolution #1

Resolution to Refocus, Reorganize, and Rename the Conference of Restoration Elders

Whereas, the overall purpose of the Conference of Restoration Elders (CRE), established in 1993, remains the same today: to bring solidarity to a growing number of Restoration Branches—and Latter Day Saints in general—during this period of disruption and fragmentation (Source: Conference “Operating Guidelines,” accepted 1996); and

Whereas, the scope of this purpose has been to offer ministry and support to any and all Restoration Branches and Saints within the Restoration Branch Movement who desire such support; and

Whereas, this purpose has been carried forward through the following functions, which have guided the work of the Conference throughout its existence:

The Conference exists to:

1. **Organize the coming together of the Melchisedec Priesthood, as well as Aaronic Priesthood members, for the purposes of:**
 - Spiritual preparation and the unifying of our efforts on behalf of the work to which we are called;
 - Fellowship and fraternity in preparation to defend and preserve the faith;
 - Identifying and seeking divine guidance concerning the critical issues confronting the church; and
 - Charting a course of action that will maintain the gospel as restored in 1830.
2. Supporting Restoration Branches in their efforts to work together;
3. Providing needed resources to Branches and members as requested;
4. Offering ongoing support and resources to Restoration priesthood; and
5. Supporting the elders as they carry the gospel message to the world.

Whereas, it has been previously stated that *“The Conference is not the Church, but rather a gathering of the Melchisedec Priesthood to share in testimony, prayer, legislation, and preparation, that we may return to our branches better equipped and unified to perform our duties to minister to our brothers and sisters in Christ”*; and

Whereas, in recent years the Conference has experienced diminishing participation by elders and others in the annual conference gathering, as well as in certain inter-conference ministries sponsored by the Conference; and

Whereas, while several factors may contribute to this decline in participation, one contributing concern has been the perception of the Conference as primarily an “Elders Conference,” and the questions that designation raises within the broader Restoration Branch Movement; and

Whereas, the function most closely associated with that perception is the first function listed above—organizing the gathering of the Melchisedec Priesthood—while the remaining functions, which focus primarily on providing ministry and resources, continue to be widely regarded as beneficial; and

Whereas, some confusion has developed among the Saints concerning the identity and purpose of the CRE; and

Whereas, the CRE has sought to remain in harmony with the practices and beliefs of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints as organized April 6, 1860, and maintained to the present day; and

Whereas, the CRE does not exercise authority over the Restoration Branches, their pastors, or the Restoration Elders;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Conference of Restoration Elders engage in a process to reconsider its primary function, moving from the model of an Elders Conference toward a conference focused on coordinating the provision of ministries within the Restoration Branch Movement.

Be it further resolved, that in refocusing the work of the Conference toward coordinating ministry, the following assets and ministries shall be maintained:

1. Protect the financial assets and income of the CRE and place them under the Conference of Restoration Ministries (CRM);
2. Continue councils necessary for the organization and coordination of the Conference (CRM), such as a Coordinating Council;
3. Continue those councils that have borne fruit, including but not limited to the Aaronic Council, Technology Council, Women's Council, Youth Council, and Education Council;
4. Continue the International Council and the missionary ministries of ARM, GEM, and SEAAM;
5. Continue the Domestic Missionary Outreach Council;
6. Establish additional ministries and councils as needs arise;
7. Encourage and strengthen the ministry of the Melchisedec and Aaronic priesthoods;
8. Continue the publication of *Tidings of Zion* and its distribution to the Saints throughout the world; and
9. Maintain an office to respond to the needs of the Saints and assist with inquiries requiring attention.

Be it further resolved, that the Conference of Restoration Elders shall change its name to **The Conference of Restoration Ministries (CRM)**.

Be it further resolved, that the Conference shall meet annually to consider organizational matters (including leadership and financial needs), receive reports of ministry carried out during the inter-conference period, and review and approve plans and priorities for the coming year.

It is the desire of the Conference of Restoration Elders to extend the hand of fellowship to the Restoration Branch Movement by clearly stating who we are and who we are not. Let us therefore labor together, as Jesus prayed that his followers might be one (John 17:21; I Nephi 3:187–188; Doctrine and Covenants 38:6a). Let it be done.

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