

**AN APPEAL TO THE AREA PASTORS OF ZION IN THE FORM OF A
RESOLUTION TO SUSPEND PLANNING FOR A JOINT CONFERENCE OF
RESTORATION BRANCHES**

Whereas, the Pastors of Zion and Joint Conference Committee have erroneously presented a united front to the saints regarding the level of support from the Pastors of Zion regarding the holding of a joint conference of restoration branches; and

Whereas, the Pastors of Zion has rushed to vote upon the support of a joint conference of branches without adequate time for prayer, reasoning, dialogue, or preparation of the saints to come to agreement and rightly divide such matters; and

* **Whereas**, there is no consensus or unanimity among the Pastors of Zion, as evidenced by this appeal, that this is the most needful or appropriate course of action at this time. In fact, recent proposals only represent a small percentage of the general membership of the restoration branches; and

Whereas, there has been no spiritual witness, direction, or revelation widely accepted by the saints to mandate such a course of action at this time; and

Whereas, the conferences of branches in the 1852-1853 time period were accompanied with spiritual manifestations directing the saints along those ends which are lacking from current proposals; and

* **Whereas**, we ~~too~~ desire to have unity among the several branches and labor together for the cause of Zion; and

Whereas, it is believed by many saints that the Community of Christ has been in a state of disorder for some time, and that any change made by the Community of Christ at its June Conference has no bearing on events among Restoration branches, and therefore should not be the driving force to rush into a joint conference following the Community of Christ special conference in June; and

Whereas, the Rules of Order and Debate direct that "by the common consent of two or more branches lying in near proximity to each other, for mutual improvement, religious association, and for the permanent organization of the local ministry" they may hold a joint conference. Those conferences are of a local character, and not a worldwide invitation to numerous branches as is being promoted; and

Whereas, the representation at such a conference should be by members in "good standing" that have received the necessary recommends from their local branch officers according to the articles and covenants of the Church. These procedures have broken down between the several branches and need to be restored before we could meet in joint conference with membership holding full voting privileges. We believe these procedures are necessary and that the branches need to agree on their application before we are in a state to interact at an inter-branch level such as a joint conference; and