

Whereas, the issue of factional priesthood remains a great concern among the Pastors of Zion and is not likely to be resolved before a scheduled joint conference. To invite all branches to attend such a conference with factional priesthood and members whose "good standing" status is in question is unwise and divisive; and

Whereas, there is strong evidence to demonstrate that some of the leading men behind these initiatives are desirous and have been making efforts to utilize a joint conference to organize the body of Restoration saints to some higher form of organization, i.e. a district or stake specifically; and

Whereas, we are concerned that there are some within various leadership organizations like the Restoration Seventy, Spiritual Preparation Fellowship, Area Pastors of Zion, Fellowship of Restoration Patriarchs, and the Conference of Restoration Elders who are working together with conscious intent to lead the saints towards organizational ends; and

Whereas, there is irrefutable evidence that some of these leading men have held sessions with authorities within the Community of Christ to discuss various proposals relating to organizing restoration saints under the authority of the Community of Christ; and

Whereas, there have been discussions within the last several months with representatives from the Community of Christ with several members of the Committee on Joint Conferences who have been instrumental in planning, calling for, and steering these proposals. And that several of those discussions have centered on having the Community of Christ recognize and participate with restoration saints assembled in joint conferences and consult with the saints in yet undetermined ways; and

Whereas, we believe that the Pastors of Zion should be exceedingly careful not to take advantage of the often times strong - heart-felt desires and passions of the saints to have unity and to see progress in advancing the work of the church in her scattered condition; in a way that might cause them to accept any proposal along these lines without proving it therewith; and

Whereas, we believe rushing into a joint conference of restoration branches without allotting proper time for branches to discuss such matters and agree by common consent, in light of evidence that the intentions of leading men are to lay the foundation for organizing beyond a joint conference, we believe this current pursuit will cause another great division among the saints; and

Whereas, we believe there are many other viable alternatives that have yet to be pursued by the Pastors of Zion that would bring about righteousness and unity among the saints, and serve to strengthen relationships between branches. We believe that branches lying in close proximity can affect such relationships on their own accord, that will be keep the organizational agendas from entering in; and

Whereas, we believe that the mere resurrecting of organizational structures will not produce holiness and righteousness among the saints. We believe that these are not the