

MINUTES
CONFERENCE OF RESTORATION BRANCHES
Friday Morning, November 11, 2005

Precisely at the scheduled time of 9:45 AM, High Priest Glen Friend stepped to the podium and, by virtue of his authority as a High Priest, called the Conference of Restoration Branches to order in the name of Jesus Christ. He led the assembly in prayer asking that the deliberations be guided by restraint and courage.

Elder Rudy Leutzinger, Temporary Secretary, was called upon to provide a report from the mass meeting of the Elders from participating branches of the previous day. (See attached report.) The report concluded with the Elders placing the name of High Priest Marlin Guin in nomination for President of the Conference. Elder Glen Friend then opened the Conference for nominations from the body. No other nominations were received and Elder Guin was elected Conference President unanimously. Elder Guin assumed control of the meeting at 9:55 AM and immediately invited the assembly to bow with him in prayer asking for guidance to discern the Holy Spirit and will of God.

Elder Leutzinger, on behalf of the Logistics Committee, moved the following resolution:

Resolved that Conference officers (President, Vice-President, Secretary/Clerk, Treasurer) chosen from the standing ministry, High Priests and Elders (Doc. & Cov. 122:9b), must be from a participating Restoration Branch; and

Resolved, as Seventy are not standing ministers but are representative of the traveling presiding councils (Doc. & Cov. 120:3, 4; 122:9a), a Seventy elected to a Conference office need not be a member of a participating branch.

Elder Bob Moore seconded the motion. Elder Lowell Augenstein moved to amend the motion to include “unless he is a Seventy” in the first resolved. The amendment died for lack of a second. After some further discussion, Elder Jim Noland called the question. Elder Guin asked if there was objection to voting on the resolution and, hearing none, called for the vote. Elder Brian Mundy asked for clarification as to who was voting. Elder Guin identified that the entire body would vote with delegates seated in the center section counted separately from members in the outer sections and balcony. Elder Guin also noted that one delegate vote would be equivalent to twenty-five member votes. Elder Jon Tandy then asked if any member registered could vote. The reply was in the affirmative—any registered member of a branch, whether participating or not, could vote. Elder Guin called for the question and the motion passed with a significant majority.

Elder Guin called the attention of the Conference to the duties of the officers in the proposed Rules of Order (Rule #7, Conference Notebook, pages 2-2 and 2-3). He then opened nominations for the office of Vice-President of the Conference. High Priest Glen Friend was nominated. Elder Bob Moore is nominated. Elder Brian Mundy raises the question of the Vice-President having the same qualifications as the President. Elder Moore declines nomination. Elder Jack Evans nominates Seventy Neil Simmons. The vote was called and, in a close election, Seventy Neil Simmons was chosen as the Vice-President.

Elder Guin opened the nominations for Secretary/Clerk. Sister Barbara Wilkinson requested that nominees be asked to stand so that the body could identify them before voting and it was so ordered. Elders Rudy Leutzinger and Jim Vun Cannon were nominated. Elder Leutzinger was elected.

Nominations for Treasurer were entertained. During the course of the nominating process, Elders Bob Giertz, Dan Sherer, Ron Vermeland, Jim Vun Cannon, and Steve Ferdig respectfully declined those responsibilities. Elder Jack Evans was nominated but was disqualified as he was not from a participating branch. Finally, Elders Brad Gault and Eldon Anderson were nominated. Elder Anderson was elected.

The President called the assembly’s attention to Rule #8, Parliamentary Procedure, Conference Notebook, page 2-3, and called on Elder Leutzinger to move the rule. Elder George Mefferd seconded. Elder Jack Evans moved to amend the rule to require a 2/3 majority on all

questions except the main motions which would require a 3/4 vote to pass. Elder Russell Reid seconded. Elder Augenstein moved to amend the amendment to leave the rule for amending a motion and amending an amendment as simple majority votes. Elder Michael Jordison seconded. After some considerable discussion, Brother Benjamin McLean called for the question on the whole matter. As the body was ready to vote, Elder Guin called for the vote on the amendment to the amendment which failed; then on the amendment, which failed; and then on the motion which passed by a vast majority. (See attached Rules of Order.)

Elder Leutzinger was then called upon to read and move the Rules of Representation. Deacon Paul Sinclair seconded. Elder Robert Whenham moved to amend Rule of Representation #1 by changing the date from 1872 to 1892. Elder Gary Wheeler seconded. Following some debate, Elder Wheeler moved a substitute amendment which would leave the original date as 1872, place a comma after 1891, and add the phrase "until the church is properly set in order by a General Assembly so that we can comply with Doc. & Cov. 120:1." Sister Wilkinson seconded. Debate continued until Elder Randy Vick moved the question on the entire matter and Elder Tony Durant seconded. The question was called by vote of the body which easily surpassed the required 2/3 majority. The question was then put and the substitute amendment and then the amendment were each lost by a vast majority. The main motion on the Rules of Representation was called and carried by a vast majority. (See attached Rules of Representation.)

Elder Leutzinger was then called to move the Rules of Order, Conference Notebook, pages 2-2 thru 2-5. It was noted that the first eight rules had already been implemented but would be included in the entire motion. Elder Gary Wilson seconded. Without much discussion, the vote was called and passed unanimously. (See attached Rules of Order.) Elder Leutzinger was then called to move approval of the Order of Business, Conference Notebook, page 2-1. Elder Patrick McKay seconded. Again, the motion carried unanimously. (See attached Order of Business.)

Elder Leutzinger presented a Report from the Credentials Committee which identified 26 participating branches representing 2,179 saints. These branches have nominated 112 delegates to the conference. There are 26 branches that are not participating who are represented by 70 members. There are 7 members that have no affiliation with a restoration branch. Elder Leutzinger on behalf of the Credentials Committee moves to seat these branches, delegates, and members. Elder Mark Deitrick seconded. Elder Durant advised that Missionary Branch has 141 members and 7 delegates instead of the 111 members as reported. Also, a question was raised about Carthage Restoration Branch which was not included in the list of participating branches. The motion to seat the delegates and members passed unanimously.

Elder Leutzinger moved the following resolution:

Whereas, the Rules of Representation clearly state that delegates from participating branches must be members of that branch (Rules of Representation #4 & #5), and

Whereas, these rules were adopted to ensure that delegates would adequately represent the will of the branch in Conference deliberations and that delegates could then return to the branches with a fair assessment of the Conference activities, and

Whereas, some branches have been desirous to participate in this Conference but have been unable to provide a delegate from among their membership who has the ability to make the journey to Independence, MO; therefore be it

Resolved that Credentials Committee shall take into consideration the special circumstances surrounding applications from such Restoration Branches as noted above; and be it further

Resolved that, with the concurrence of the Credentials Committee, the branch presidency may nominate a single delegate who, though not a member of the respective branch, will agree to visit the branch and report on Conference actions in order to assist the branch in complying with Rule of Order #12; and be it further

Resolved that the nominated delegate shall represent only one branch.

Elder Jim McKay seconded. The motion passed. This will allow the Dallas Branch to be recognized

as a participating branch with Seventy Neil Simmons assigned as that branch's official delegate.

Elder Leutzinger then moved the following resolution:

Whereas, Joseph F. Smith is the great-great grandson of Joseph Smith, Jr.; the great-grandson of Alexander Smith, first presiding patriarch of the Reorganization; the grandson of Frederick A. Smith, second presiding patriarch of the Reorganization; and was baptized and confirmed by his father, Arthur M. Smith, an elder enrolled in the RLDS church until 1925/1926; and

Whereas, Br. Joseph F. Smith claims his authoritative baptism traces to the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in accord with Rule of Representation #8; therefore be it

Resolved that this Conference recognize Br. Joseph F. Smith's lineage and the authority of his baptism and extend to him the hand of fellowship and invite him to participate in this conference as a member with voice and vote.

Elder Gary Wilson seconded. Elder Don Saul asked for a point of clarification on the priesthood status of Br. Smith. It was explained that this resolution does not deal with priesthood authority, only the issue of an authoritative baptism. The vote was called and the motion carried with a vast majority.

At 11:33 AM, Conference President Marlin Guin declared the Conference of Restoration Branches to be fully organized to do the work of the Lord in this portion of His vineyard. A brief round of applause followed.

The Restoration Seventy requested permission to address the Conference. Seventy Simmons read a letter to the Conference from the Seventy dated November 5, 2005, (see attachment). The Restoration Seventy are Neil Simmons, Frank Frye, George Knotts, Juan Reyes, Royle Roden, Richard Neill, Ronald Smith, and George Thomas.

The Conference Committees reported, as follows:

- Elder Moore reported for the Logistics Committee that there are 9 individuals on this committee which made the preparations for the Conference. Resolutions from this committee will be presented later.
- Elder Leutzinger presented a report from the Credentials Committee (see attachment) which includes a resolution to be acted on later.
- Elder Dan Sherer referred the Conference to the Finance Committee's report in the Conference Notebook, pages 3-1 and 4-1.
- Elder Jim Noland gave a report from the Evangelism Committee. Members of that committee include Seventy Neil Simmons, Patriarch Vernon Darling, Elder Bob Moore, and Elder Jim Noland. They will present two resolutions later. The Committee recommended that branches should contact Elder Moore about adopting a mission field.
- Joint Activities Committee includes Sr. Bonnie Noland, Elder David Drummond, High Priest Paul Gage, and Elder Jon Tandy. Elder Tandy advised that there are activities for the youth on Friday and Saturday evenings at 8:30 PM. Youth will also have a prayer service on Saturday morning. A major concern of the committee is the interaction between the Conference of Restoration Elders and the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches.

All reports were received without Conference action.

At 12:05 PM, Elder Guin called on Conference Vice-President Neil Simmons to lead the Conference in prayer. Following the prayer, the Conference was adjourned until 1:45 PM.

AFTERNOON SESSION

November 11, 2005

At 1:50 PM, Conference President Marlin Guin called the session to order by recognizing the veterans who have served our country in honor of Veterans Day. Hymn "Redeemer of Israel" was sung followed by an invocation by Elder Eldon Anderson.

Elder Guin then introduced the resolutions as printed in the Conference Notebook, pages 6-1 thru 6-5. Seventy Neil Simmons moved **R1** on behalf of the Restoration Seventy. Rex Curtis seconded. Alan McInnis amended the motion to substitute “we will welcome those” and strike “we will do nothing to cause division among those”. Sister Wilkinson seconded. Elder Mark Deitrick brought a substitute amendment that placed a period after the word “division” and struck the remaining wording. Brother David Cromwell seconded. Elder Brian Mundy then moved to amend the amendment to place the period after “prayer” and strike the remaining wording. After being seconded by Elder David McLean, the amended amendment passed with a good majority and the amended resolution passed with a significant majority.

Whereas: We recognize the rights of both branches and individuals to decide whether to participate in the conference, therefore be it

Resolved: That this conference pledges to extend the hand of fellowship to all those faithful members and branches not represented with delegates at this conference; and be it further

Resolved: That the members of this conference will pray for all members of the body of Christ, and ask for their support in prayer. ~~that we will welcome do nothing to cause division, among those who will repent and come unto Christ.~~

Seventy Simmons presented a second resolution from the Restoration Seventy which was labeled **R1a**. Elder Russell Reid seconded. This motion passed with a significant majority.

Whereas: Due to the limitations of time and information, past conference of the Saints have made decisions that were unwise and divisive (example: 1984 World Conference),

And whereas: The time in this joint conference of restoration branches is very limited and valuable,

And whereas: resolutions of a controversial nature should be presented to the various quorums of priesthood for discussion and debate before being acted on by a conference (Times and Seasons, Vol. 5, p. 649),

And whereas: when the various quorums of priesthood are given opportunity to study and research items, a wiser and more detailed examination of the issues could be made,

Therefore be it resolved: The joint conference of branches may refer matters to any or all of the various quorums of priesthood that the conference designates.

And be it further resolved: Such matters are to be discussed, debated, and researched so that a full report, including majority and minority views, can be published to the various branches, in a timely manner, before reconsideration.

Attention was called to **R2** in the Conference Notebook and it was explained that these were a series of resolutions presented by the Logistics Committee. Beginning on page 6-1, the Conference President labeled each resolution sequentially: lines 18-23 is **R2**; lines 25-28 is **R2a**; lines 30-35 had already been addressed; lines 37-40 is **R2b**; lines 42-46 and lines 1-2 in Section 6-2 is **R2c**. **R2** was moved by Elder Moore and seconded by Elder Greg Thomas. It carried with some opposition.

Resolved, that this conference recognizes no person who currently claims to be President of the Church of Jesus Christ restored under Joseph Smith, Jr., as a legitimate president of the High Priesthood or Prophet, Seer, and Revelator; and be it further

Resolved, that this conference holds itself separate from their administrations.

R2a was moved by Elder Patrick McKay and seconded by Gary Wilson. It passed unanimously.

Resolved that this conference regards all changes to the restored gospel (as originally taught and practiced in the Church of Jesus Christ restored under Joseph Smith, Jr., and reorganized under Joseph Smith III) and the alteration made to its ordinances as apostasy and an abomination in the sight of God.

R2b was moved by Elder Mark Deitrick and seconded by Elder Allan McInnis. It also was passed unanimously.

Resolved, that the Conference of Restoration Elders receive an affirmation from the

Conference of Restoration Branches that we recognize the work of their councils and invite them to develop a working relationship with the Conference of Restoration Branches.

Resolution **R2c** was moved by Elder Tyler Crowell; seconded by Elder Tim Canfield. Elder Moore moved to amend lines 44-45 (Section 6-1) and add “composed of restoration saints” and remove “in the restoration”. This received a second from Sister Wilkinson. Elder Tom Beem moved a substitute amendment “among the restoration branches”. Elder Mark Friend seconded. The substitute amendment lost. Brother Randy Manning moved a substitute amendment by adding “work together with organizations in the restoration that are recognized by the Conference of Restoration Branches” which received a second from Sister Becky Chapman. The substitute amendment did not pass. Elder Deitrick moved another substitute amendment by adding words “that are recognized by the Conference of Restoration Branches as sharing” which Elder Bob Giertz seconded. This substitute amendment did not pass. Elder Dwight Burford moved to refer this resolution back to the Logistics Committee. High Priest Glen Friend seconded. The motion to refer did not pass. Elder Bob McFarland called the question and after two more brief comments, the first amendment failed and the original motion passed with an overwhelming majority.

Resolved, That the various conference committees of this conference, in planning activities intended to benefit the body of Christ and promote the kingdom of God on earth, work together with existing organizations in the restoration that share similar and common goals. Because of the presently scattered condition of the body, to avoid competition and unnecessary duplication of effort, the committees of this conference work with organizations currently existing in the restoration.

The Conference was informed of a saint in need of assistance and bowed as Elder Guin offered prayer for Sister Linda Crane who was in a car accident. A break was ordered and the body reconvened at 3:30 PM.

Elder Moore advised the conference that R3 on pages 6-2 and 6-3 was a series of resolutions submitted by Zarahemla Branch. The President declared that each will be considered separately and labels them as **R3a** thru **R3I**. Resolution **R3a** is moved by Elder Moore and seconded by Elder Gault. Elder Deitrick moved a substitute motion which was seconded by Sister Sandy Kiger. After some discussion, Elder Deitrick withdrew the substitute to be presented later as a new motion. **R3a** passed by a vast majority.

We believe that the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints as reorganized by Joseph Smith III is the lawful successor to the Church founded by Joseph Smith, Jr.

Elder Brian Mundy moved that we continue the business session until 4:45 P.M. Deacon Alan Mundy seconded. It was passed by a large majority.

R3b was moved by Elder Patrick McKay and seconded by Elder Chuck Perry.

An elder, with the concurrence of six or more members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints living in close proximity, one of whom is an elder, priest, teacher, or deacon, may organize a branch of the Church (Articles of Incorporation, Article 1).

Brother Bob Swanson amended the motion to take out words “an elder”; Sister Carol Barber seconded. Elder Brian Mundy moves a substitute amendment to change the words “An elder” to “A priesthood member” and replace “members of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints” with “legally baptized members of the Church of Jesus Christ”. Elder John Mundy seconded. Elder Jon Tandy moved to table the motion and Sister Wilkinson seconded. The motion to table prevailed.

R3c was moved by Elder Chuck Perry and seconded by Elder Gary Wilson.

We believe that the primary and congregational organizational unit of the Church is the branch and that the Church of Jesus Christ, organized on the sixth day of April, 1830, and reorganized by Joseph Smith III, exists as on that day wherever six or more Church members are organized into a branch according to the pattern in the Doctrine and

Covenants.

Elder Leutzinger moved a substitute motion. Elder Rex Curtis seconds.

Resolved that we believe that the Church of Jesus Christ, organized on April 6, 1830, and continued in the Reorganization on April 6, 1860, exists wherever six or more saints in good standing are organized according to the pattern in the Doctrine & Covenants, Articles of Incorporation of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints (1872), and A Manual of Practice and Rules of Order and Debate for Deliberative Assemblies of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (1876, 1891, 1904).

Substitute carries by a significant majority.

R3d was moved by Elder Curtis and seconded by Priest Gary Kiger.

We recognize the office and ordinances of record of any man who can trace his priesthood in an unbroken chain to the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

Motion lost.

R3e was moved by Elder Gary Wilson, seconded by Elder George Gross.

We do not recognize the office nor ordinances of record of any woman who claims priesthood authority.

Sister Michele Barnhart objected to consideration. The vote was immediately called and the objection lost. The motion was carried as printed.

R3f was moved by Elder Chuck Perry and seconded by High Priest Dean Falconer.

Since the whole law of the Church of Jesus Christ is contained in the Bible, Book of Mormon and Doctrine and Covenants, we agree to be governed by that law as it was interpreted by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints through January 1, 1958.

After considerable discussion, Elder Moore moved to refer **R3f** to a committee of five people commissioned to study the issue of church succession and report back at a future conference. Elder Russ Reid seconded. Elder Evans amended to change wording to five "Melchisedec priesthood members" (pursuant to D&C 41:1b). Elder Brian Mundy seconded. The amendment passed. Elder Leutzinger asked if lines 9 through 11 in Section 6-5 should be included with **R3f**. Elder Moore indicated that should be handled separately. Then the amended motion of referral passed.

R3g was moved by Elder Gary Metzger and seconded by Elder Wilson.

This conference believes it is the duty of the elders of the church, who have been legally ordained, to cry repentance and remission of sins to this generation, through obedience to the gospel as revealed in the Bible, the Book of Mormon and Book of Doctrine and Covenants, and not to faint in the discharge of duty.

Elder Leutzinger moved a substitute motion. High Priest Glen Friend seconded.

Resolved that it is the duty of the saints to turn their hearts and their faces towards Zion and supplicate the Lord for such deliverance and it is the duty of the elders, priests, teachers, and deacons of the church to cry repentance and remission of sins to this generation, through obedience to the gospel as revealed in the Holy Scriptures (Inspired Version), the Book of Mormon, and the Doctrine & Covenants and not to faint in the discharge of their duty.

Elder Deitrick moved to amend the motion to read "...and those sections of the Doctrine and Covenants that are in harmony with God's law..." Brother Gary Hancock seconded. Elder Perry moved to refer this resolution to the previously formed committee. Elder McKiddie seconded. The motion of referral failed. After further discussion Elder Deitrick, with the consent of Brother Hancock, withdrew the amendment. The substitute motion carried.

As the hour for adjournment had passed, High Priest Marlin Guin adjourned the session at 4:50 PM with prayer and the invitation to turn in motions from the body to the Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,
Rudolph L. Leutzinger, Secretary

Attachment #1 to Minutes of Elders Mass Meeting Report

Mass Meeting of Elders of Participating Branches
Joint Conference of Restoration Branches
Stone Church
Independence, MO
November 10, 2005

At 4:34 PM, Elder Bob Moore, Temporary President elected at the August 20, 2005, planning meeting, called a meeting of the Elders to order. He invited all Elders (including Seventy and High Priests) from participating branches to exercise voice and vote in the assembly and stated that the purpose of the meeting was to direct in ordering the Conference and nominating a president. Priest Ron Herring, Nauvoo Restoration Branch President, requested a point of privilege and asked if he could represent his branch which had no Elder. Elder Moore explained that the historical precedent upon which the Elders were meeting is found in the conferences of the 1850's when the Melchisedec priesthood chose the leaders of the conferences from among their ranks. It was therefore not appropriate to allow Priest Herring to participate in this meeting.

Elder Moore then stated that a response from the Restoration Seventy regarding their recommendations as to the proper presiding officer had been received (see attachment). The Seventy, taking the 1853 conference as a precedent, indicated that they wished to defer to the office of High Priest to preside over the conference but are willing to abide by the guidance of the Elders. Elder Moore then indicated that opening of the Conference should be performed by the senior High Priest (senior based on time in office). He stated that in conversation with High Priests Dean Faulkner and Marlin Guin, these brethren indicated their willingness to serve the Conference in such capacity.

Elder Moore then introduced a resolution from the Logistics Committee:

Resolved that, since the Seventy are a part of the three leading quorums of the church, we recognize a Seventy to carry presidential authority in any jurisdiction of the church by virtue of his office; and be it further

Resolved that the president of the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches be a member of a participating branch, unless he is a Seventy.

This motion was moved by Elder Mark Deitrick and seconded by Elder Tony Durant. After a brief discussion, the motion passed with objection noted.

Nominations were opened for presiding officer of the Conference. Elder Vaughn Cornish was nominated but declined because his home branch was not a participant in the Conference. Seventy Neil Simmons was nominated. Seventy Richard Neill was nominated. After it was learned that Seventy Neill would not be available on Friday, his nomination was withdrawn. High Priests Glen Friend and Marlin Guin were nominated. With no other nominees, Elder Moore ordered nominations closed and called for a vote with each Elder being allowed one vote. Elder Moore also directed that the nominee must receive a majority vote. Elders Tony Durant and Bob Giertz counted the votes and recorded them with the Temporary Secretary. High Priest Marlin Guin was elected as the Elders' nominee to preside over the Conference on the first ballot.

Elder Moore then stated that the business of the Elders was completed. A brother requested a privilege to address the Elders. Elder Moore denied the request, stating once more that the business of the Elders was finished and asked Elder Jim Vun Cannon to close the meeting with prayer at 4:59 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Elder Rudy Leutzinger, Temporary Secretary

Attachment #2 to Mass Meeting of Elders Minutes

The Committee for a Joint Conference of Branches
The Logistics Committee
The Joint Conference of Branches

October 22, 2005

“Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence. He that is slothful shall not be counted worthy to stand, and he that learns not his duty and shows himself not approved, shall not be counted worthy to stand”.
Doctrine and Covenants 104: 44

Dear members of the Conference,

The Logistics Committee of the joint conference of Restoration Branches has requested the Seventy to offer their opinion to the conference as to whom should preside over the conference.

We find that a precedent exists in the early Reorganization. Since the office of Seventy and the office of High Priest were equally available to that first conference in April, 1853, the attempt to follow the pattern given in the law caused a difference of opinion. Some felt that the High Priest should preside, others the President of Seventy. The priesthood were asked to resolve the question and the High Priest was chosen to preside.

We recommend the following in the spirit of unity and with humility in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Kingdom.

It is our opinion that the Joint Conference of branches has the right to make its own choice for presiding leadership. We believe it is wisdom to consider the precedent of April, 1853.

We submit to the conference that we of the Seventy do respectfully prefer our brethren of the office of High Priest to preside.

If this is not the choice of the Conference, the Seventy wish to reassure the conference that we of the Seventy are willing to act in the office to which we are appointed in all diligence.

Neil Simmons

Secretary to the Restoration Seventy

**Attachment #3 to Minutes 11/11/2005 Rules of Representation
Rules of Order**

Representation of Restoration Branches

1. Restoration Branch Defined. A Restoration Branch has been organized under the legal authority granted by the *Articles of Incorporation of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. (1872)* and in accordance with the directions in A Manual of Practice and Rules of Order and Debate for Deliberative Assemblies of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, compiled by Joseph Smith and Thomas W. Smith, and approved by General Conference action in 1876 and 1891. A Restoration Branch has three primary characteristics:

1. It has been organized by one or more priesthood members who trace their authority to the Reorganized Church.
2. Its membership is composed of six or more members who are in good standing and are under the pastoral charge of an elder, priest, teacher, or deacon. ("Elder" includes the offices of high priest, seventy, bishop.)
3. It preaches and practices the original tenets and doctrines of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints originally founded April 6, 1830, by Joseph Smith, Jr., and perpetuated in the Reorganized Church by his son, Joseph Smith III, April 6, 1860.

A Restoration Branch has certain rights which include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. The right to elect its leadership;
2. The right to identify and police its membership;
3. The right to administer in the ordinances of the gospel as traditionally administered by the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints;
4. The right to approve priesthood calls and ordain men limited to the offices of elder, priest, teacher, and deacon;
5. The right to conduct business relative to its particular area of operation;
6. The right to associate (or disassociate) in secondary and governmental organizations; and
7. The right of representation at conferences.

A Restoration Branch does not practice such doctrines as the ordination of women to priesthood offices, the serving of the sacrament to persons without authoritative baptisms, the ordaining of men to priesthood offices other than elder, priest, teacher, or deacon. Any branches previously associated with an organization which participated in such practices are encouraged to renounce the same in order to function as an independent Restoration Branch.

2. Representation of Restoration Branches. Each Restoration Branch shall be entitled to one (1) delegate.

3. Representation of Restoration Branch members. Each Restoration Branch shall be granted one (1) additional delegate for each 25 members or portion thereof listed in the branch's official membership list. **Example:** A properly organized Restoration Branch will be granted one (1) delegate, (preferably its branch president or other Melchisedec priesthood member) based on organization alone. An additional delegate will be allowed for its membership up to 25 members. One (1) more delegate will be allowed for each 25 members or portion thereof beyond the first 25 members. Thus, a branch of 35 members will be allowed 3 delegates.

4. Choosing of delegates. Restoration Branches shall be free to adopt rules to choose their representatives from among their membership.

5. Qualifications of delegates. The only qualifications for eligibility as a delegate to this Joint Conference of Branches shall be membership in good standing and enrollment in the

Restoration Branch which is being represented.

6. Delegate votes. Properly seated delegates shall be designated by the conference Logistics Committee with a distinguishing badge and shall cast a vote equal to 25 individual member votes.

7. Certifying of Restoration Branches. Restoration Branches seeking representation in the Joint Conference of Branches must provide the following information to the Credentials Committee on or before November 10, 2005:

1. A brief history and/or by-laws which identify the official branch position regarding organization and practices;
2. A list of members certified by a branch officer, including names, contact information, date of baptism, and priesthood office and date of ordination, if applicable (other information such as date of birth and priesthood who performed a person's baptism or ordination would be helpful); and
3. An official delegate list as allowed by Rule #3 and certified by a branch officer.

Representation of Members

8. Membership qualifications. Participation by voice and vote in the conference is extended to all persons who have an authoritative baptism and are in good standing in the Church of Jesus Christ. An authoritative baptism can only be performed by a priest or elder who traces his priesthood and spiritual authority to the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. There can be no taint of the doctrine of women's ordination in his line of authority.

9. Certification of members of Restoration Branches. Restoration Branch members wishing to exercise their right to voice and vote shall be named on their respective branch's membership roster as provided to the Credentials Committee. If listed on an approved branch's membership list, members shall be considered to be in good standing and be granted voice and vote in the Conference.

10. Certification of unaffiliated members. Church members who are unaffiliated with a Restoration Branch or whose branch chooses not to seek representation at the conference may also exercise voice and vote by applying directly to the Credentials Committee. It shall be the responsibility of the individual member to provide adequate evidence of membership by either documentation (baptismal certificate, ordination certificate) or testimony from one or more valid, reliable witnesses. Application and evidence shall be made on or before November 10, 2005.

Attachment #4 to Minutes 11/11/2005 Rules of Ordering the Conference
Rules of Order

1. Mass Meeting of the Elders of Participating Branches. Following a day of worship, study and supplication to the Lord that these activities shall be blessed with His spirit, a mass meeting of the registered elders from participating branches shall be convened at 4:30 PM on November 10, 2005. The temporary president (elected at the August 20, 2005, planning meeting) shall call the meeting to order and appoint the temporary secretary/clerk to take minutes.

2. Approval of Presiding Protocols. The temporary president shall report the findings of the High Priests and Seventy regarding the appropriate presiding priesthood office. Following discussion, the temporary president shall then request an endorsing vote of the elders to affirm the defined principles.

3. Nomination by the Elders to the Conference for Conference President. Once the elders have affirmed the guidelines from the High Priests and Seventy with any amendments, the temporary president shall open nominations for the office of president of the conference. Nominations shall be accepted based on the approved guidelines. The nominee shall be determined by a hand vote of the elders.

4. Closing of Mass Meeting of Elders. The temporary president shall direct the temporary Secretary/Clerk to prepare a report of the meeting of the elders and election results for the Conference as the first order of business on November 11, 2005. He shall then call upon the newly elected nominee to offer a closing prayer.

5. Election of Conference President by the Conference. At the announced time and place on November 11, 2005, the presiding officer as recommended by the High Priests and Seventy shall read the report of the mass meeting of the elders to the Conference. He shall then declare: "On behalf of the elders met in deliberation November 10, 2005, I nominate _____ to preside as President of this Conference of Branches. Are there any other nominations?" Following the nominating process, the President shall be chosen from the eligible nominees by vote of the officially registered membership.

6. Ordering the Conference. The temporary presiding officer shall call the newly elected president to the chair charging him with the responsibility of opening the Conference with prayer and leading the people of the Lord in this sacred and deliberative assembly. Nominations shall then be opened for three officers: Vice-President, Secretary/Clerk, and Treasurer.

7. Officers, Terms, and Duties. The Conference shall be fully organized when a President, Vice-President, Secretary/Clerk, and Treasurer are elected. Officers shall be elected to serve from the beginning of this Conference until another election at the beginning of the next Conference either sustains or replaces each officer thru the electoral process. The duties of the officers are as follows:

President: Following the directions of the high priests and seventies, the President shall be elected to preside over the deliberative sessions of the Conference. He shall also serve as the chair for the Logistics Committee in planning and coordinating preparations for the next Conference.

Vice-President: The Vice-President shall be subject to the same qualifications for office as the President. He shall be a member of the Logistics Committee with voice and vote and shall preside in the absence or by the direction of the President. He shall serve as a counselor to the President and lend support and assistance. The President and the Vice-President shall function harmoniously for the benefit and welfare of the Conference.

Secretary/Clerk: The Secretary/Clerk shall be chosen from among the Melchisedek priesthood (Doc. & Cov. 17:25b) to keep a record of the activities and deliberations of the Conference. Minutes shall be provided at each subsequent business session for approval by the body and a draft set of minutes shall be available on the day after the last business session by electronic format for distribution to all delegates and members. He shall provide guidance

in parliamentary procedures for the presiding officer. He shall serve as the secretary for the Logistics Committee with voice and vote. As chair of the Credentials Committee, he shall oversee the credentialing of delegates and members and, until the Conference elects a Recorder, maintain membership records. The Secretary shall serve as the Historian until the Conference fills that office. The Secretary shall be allowed to contract with members to assist in completing these tasks.

Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be chosen from among the Melchisedek priesthood and shall preside over the Finance Committee. He shall receive all Conference monies and shall disburse all financial obligations. He shall report on budgetary items, as requested, and provide an annual report of Conference income and expenses for the Conference. In all his duties and until a bishop is appointed, the Treasurer is accountable to the Conference. The Treasurer shall draw from among the eldership to assist him in transacting his responsibilities.

8. Parliamentary Procedures. The Conference shall be ruled by order and dignity during all deliberations. In order to insure that respect and civility prevail, the final rule for parliamentary questions shall be Parliamentary Procedures in the Church (Young) subject to alterations by this Conference. The President shall preside in the spirit of brotherly kindness and fairness to preserve the rights and privileges of the body and individual members. The Simple Chart of Motions, included below, is an adaptation from this book and shall be provided to delegates and members to help in directing the business sessions.

SIMPLE CHART OF MOTIONS

Motions are ranked from bottom to top. When any motion is immediately pending, the motions above it are in order; those below it are out of order.

12	ADJOURN	Requires 2 nd			Majority
11	RECESS	Requires 2 nd		May Amend	Majority
10	TABLE	Requires 2 nd			Majority
9	PREVIOUS QUESTION	Requires 2 nd			2/3 Vote
8	LIMIT DEBATE	Requires 2 nd		May Amend	Majority
7	POSTPONE DEFINITELY	Requires 2 nd	May Debate	May Amend	Majority
6	REFER	Requires 2 nd	May Debate	May Amend	Majority
5	AMEND THE AMENDMENT	Requires 2 nd	May Debate		Majority
4	AMEND THE MOTION	Requires 2 nd	May Debate	May Amend	Majority
3	POSTPONE INDEFINITELY	Requires 2 nd	May Debate	May Amend	Majority
2	OBJECT TO CONSIDERATION				2/3 Vote
1	MAIN MOTION	Requires 2 nd	May Debate	May Amend	Majority

HOW TO MAKE MOTIONS

- 1) "I move that _____."
- 2) "I object to the consideration of this motion." (Must be BEFORE ANY DEBATE. YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE RECOGNIZED BY THE CHAIR.)
- 3) "I move that we postpone this matter indefinitely." (A motion to kill.)
- 4) "I move that we amend the motion by _____." OR "I move that we strike out _____ and insert _____." OR "I move a substitute for paragraph _____."
- 5) "I move that we amend the amendment by _____."
- 6) "I move that this matter be referred to a committee made up of _____."
- 7) "I move that we postpone action on this matter until _____."
- 8) "I move that we limit debate on the entire question to _____ more minutes." OR "I move that each speaker be limited to _____ minutes," ETC.
- 9) "I move the previous question." OR "I call for the question on the entire matter before us."
- 10) "I move that we lay the matter on the table." (Tables ALL pending business.)
- 11) "I move that we have a _____ minutes recess."
- 12) "I move that we adjourn."

9. Conference Rules. When the Conference has been properly organized with the elected officers in place, the President shall call upon the Secretary/Clerk to move Rule #8 above.

Upon approval of Rule #8, the Secretary/Clerk shall move for approval of the proposed Rules of Representation, the remaining Rules of Order, and proposed Order of Business.

10. Resolutions. Participating branches and committees appointed at the August 20, 2005, planning meeting shall be invited to submit resolutions to the Logistics Committee by October 21, 2005, for inclusion on the Conference Order of Business. The Logistics Committee shall compile an Order of Business for the Conference based on the resolutions which have been submitted. Resolutions shall be categorized to efficiently present each general subject to the body. The Order of Business shall include a period on the first legislative day to allow Conference delegates and members to submit resolutions under new business. All resolutions shall be in written form with the names and branch affiliation of both the moving and seconding parties. The motion shall be read to the body and then provided to the Secretary/Clerk. These shall be published (at least electronically) by the Secretary for distribution and inclusion on the next day's Order of Business.

11. Voting. Voting shall be by voice or raised hand at the discretion of the President. In each case, the President shall declare the prevailing side if possible. If the outcome is not clear or a request is made from the body, the President shall call for a division of the house. He shall then request that all delegates in favor of the question raise their hands for counting; then those against. This shall be followed by the same direction to the members. The Logistics Committee shall formulate a strategy for counting the votes in an acceptable fashion and providing the tally to the President so that he may announce the results.

12. Branch Approvals and/or Concerns. President Joseph Smith III defined the Church as a theocratic democracy. It originated thru command of God and is administered by His authority thru priesthood. Sustained by the light of His Spirit, the Church exists for His purposes. Nevertheless, our Heavenly Father has provided that the Saints should have a significant role in the government of His Church: "neither shall anything be appointed unto any of this church contrary to the church covenants, for all things must be done in order and by common consent in the church, by the prayer of faith" (Doc. & Cov. 27:4). As branches are the primary and congregational organization of the Church, it is incumbent upon them to preserve these important democratic principles and encourage all Saints to take an active role in the government of the Church. To this end, this Conference declares that any lawful Restoration Branch that is represented in this or any other conference has the following enumerated rights and responsibilities according to basic scriptural church law and the Manual of Practice and Rules of Order and Debate for Deliberative Assemblies, Section 4 (1876, 1891):

1. The right to petition to become a member of a conference or to withdraw from conference fellowship by the voice of the branch membership;
2. The right and obligation to have conference rules and resolutions brought to the branch by the delegates/official members/branch president for the common consent voice of the branch;
3. The obligation and responsibility by the voice of the branch at a branch business meeting, to approve or disapprove of conference rules and resolutions and the submission in writing to the conference Secretary/Clerk of the branch's decision with any explanatory comments, so that church law, the spirit of revelation, wisdom, and knowledge may be shared for the mutual benefit and progression in righteousness of the Lord's work; and
4. The responsibility to notify the conference of the branch voice on conference matters, rules, and resolutions.

Therefore, within 60 days of adjournment, branches should notify the Secretary/Clerk of agreement with or of opposition to any Conference proceedings. The President, Vice-President, Secretary/Clerk, and Treasurer shall review the concerns and/or complaints and communicate with the respective branch prior to the convening of the next Conference. This may lead to responsive legislation in a subsequent conference or, in a worst case scenario, withdrawal of a branch from further Conference participation. No official response will indicate acceptance and approval of conference actions.

Attachment #5 to Minutes 11/11/2005

Restoration Seventy

November 11, 2005

To the Delegates and Members of the Conference:

We greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ and in the hope of His Zion. The Gospel of the Kingdom is currently going forth into many nations, tribes, and tongues. The Gospel most recently has gone to:

Latin America:

Guatemala Belize Honduras Mexico Cuba
Argentina Peru Venezuela Chile El Salvador

Africa:

Cameroon Tanzania Uganda Kenya Nigeria Liberia

Asia:

Hong Kong Myanmar (Burma) Bhutan Tibet Nepal India
Sukieem (between eastern Nepal and Bhutan)

Europe:

Sweden (contact) Denmark (contact) Germany England

North America:

Canada United States

Australia

New Zealand

The Gospel of the Kingdom is going among the Maya, the Luo, the Ebo, and other ethnic tribes and tongues.

As we meet in this conference many hundreds of Liberians are patiently waiting to be baptized. They are praying for us. Twenty-five thousand Nepalese in the Kingdom of Nepal are patiently waiting for the arrival of Books of Mormon. Tens of thousands of Nepalese are expectantly waiting for us to share the Gospel in the Kingdom of Nepal. They, too, are praying for this conference.

There is great urgency to this day. All over the world disasters, long prophesied are being fulfilled, while upon our own land tribulations have begun.

We call upon this conference to remember the Lord with great soberness. May the conference's deliberations advance none but the Lord's work. Let no personal feelings of fear, distrust, or disunity prevent the Spirit of God from being sent as a "cherishing fountain" of love and power to His people.

We appeal to this conference of branches for unity because Jesus commands us to become one so that out of a growing unity, we may more effectively share the Gospel with the many thousands who are calling upon us to take the Angel message to them.

In the bonds of the Everlasting Covenant,

Neil Simmons, Secretary
Frank Frye
George Knotts

Juan Reyes
Royl Roden
Richard Neill

Ronald Smith
George Thomas

Attachment #6 to Minutes 11/11/2005

Credentials Committee
Joint Conference of Restoration Branches
Stone Church
Independence, MO
November 11, 2005

To the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches:
Dear Saints,

The Credentials Committee was organized under the direction of the August 20, 2005, planning meeting to be composed of five members with the Temporary Secretary as chair. This arrangement allowed the committee to expedite the process of drafting Rules of Representation for branches, delegates, and members.

The Credentials Committee has three main functions:

- 1) To compose, review, and present Rules of Representation for branches, delegates, and members of the Conference;
- 2) To verify and validate that Conference participants meet the qualifications in the Rules of Representation and continue to be in compliance therewith; and
- 3) To collect and maintain statistical data relative to ordinances of record for individual members and branches.

The Credential Committee requests that the following resolution be placed on the Conference Order of Business.

Resolved that the Credentials Committee be a permanent Conference Committee with the following organization and responsibilities:

- 1) The permanent Chair of the Credentials Committee shall be the Conference Secretary/Clerk until such time as the Conference shall deem it necessary to elect or appoint a permanent Recorder who shall then serve as the Credentials Committee Chair and assume all duties of maintaining statistics and records.
- 2) The Chair of the Credentials Committee should be a member of the Logistics Committee.
- 3) Four other committee members shall be elected by the Conference to the committee from among the Elders of participating branches. Appointments shall be staggered two year terms (initially, two 1-year appointments and two 2-year appointments) so that two members are appointed annually.
- 4) The Credentials Committee shall review the Rules of Representation prior to upcoming conferences and notify the membership of rules changes or registration requirements at least four (4) months in advance of the convening of the subsequent conference.
- 5) The Credentials Committee shall maintain a permanent record of branch and member information and shall adopt rules for the disbursement of such statistical information. After obtaining competent legal advice, the rules shall be presented to the next Conference for approval.
- 6) A proposed budget shall be brought to each Conference with estimated costs for maintaining this information and providing these services.

The members of the Credentials Committee wish to thank the Conference for the opportunity to serve you and pray that the Lord Jesus shall continue to preside over all of these activities as the time of His return grows near.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Vermeland, Israel's Gathering
Jim McKay, Zarahemla
Mark Deitrick, Geneseo
Jim Vun Cannon, Missionary
Rudy Leutzinger, Independence