

MINUTES
CONFERENCE OF RESTORATION BRANCHES
Saturday, November 12, 2005
Morning Session

At 9:50 AM, High Priest Marlin Guin, President, stepped to the podium and called the Conference of Restoration Branches to order in the name of Jesus Christ. Elder Randy Vick led the assembly in prayer. Elder Guin then addressed some issues as to the purpose of the Conference and gave a brief discourse on the promises in III Nephi 10.

Elder Rudy Leutzinger, Secretary, updated the Credentials Committee report. He advised that the Carthage Branch had previously voted to participate in the Conference but, due to illness, the registration materials had not yet arrived. Also, by Conference action, the Dallas Branch was registered as a participating branches and Seventy Neil Simmons is the appointed delegate. There are 28 participating branches which registered 2,341 saints represented by 114 delegates. The total attendance of credentialed delegates and members is 309 saints. A final Credentials Committee report will be attached to the Conference minutes.

Elder Gary Wheeler was granted a personal privilege and expressed hurt over a comment made by Seventy Neil Simmons the previous day. Brother Simmons stated that no offense was intended and apologized. An act of reconciliation between these brethren was followed by an expression of approval from the assembly. Elder Guin stated "The Lord will no longer remember this offense and neither will we."

Resolution **R3h** submitted by Zarahemla Branch was moved by Sister Barbara Wilkinson and seconded by Elder Chuck Perry:

We believe that a person's participation in the differing factions which have grown out of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints neither adds to nor takes away from the rights, privileges, and powers granted him by baptism or ordination in the Reorganized Church.

Following discussion, Elder Perry moved to amend the resolution by adding the word "original" before the word "ordination." Elder Russell Reid seconded the amendment. Brother Benjamin McLean moved a substitute amendment to add "by authoritative priesthood" after the word "ordination." Elder David McLean seconded the substitute. The vote was called on the substitute amendment which lost and on the original amendment which also lost. Elder Gary Whiting moved a substitute motion:

We affirm the invitation of Doc. & Cov. 119:4 and believe that the Melchisedec priesthood has been called to administer in spiritual things (Doc. & Cov. 104:7) and each person returning to the church of Christ that apply for readmission on their previous baptism and ordination and be considered on a case by case basis by local presiding Melchisedec priesthood by the Spirit of revelation and difficult cases should be referred to the Conference of Branches.

Elder Brian Mundy seconded. Discussion continued until Elder Ron Vermeland called the question. The body objected and discussion continued. Seventy Ron Smith moved to refer this very sensitive matter to the church succession committee authorized in a motion of referral previously with a report from that committee be given at the next Conference. Elder George Gross second the referral motion. Elder Jack Evans moved to amend the motion to refer to the Seventy who would be free to choose any members of the Melchisedec priesthood to assist in the matter. Elder Mark Deitrick seconded. Sister Rachel Jones moved to amend the amendment by referring to the Credentials Committee. Elder Mike Hood seconded. Seventy George Knotts moved the question on the entire matter; Elder Ron Vermeland seconded. The question was called by more than a 2/3's majority. The amendment to refer to the Credentials Committee lost; the amendment to refer to the Seventy lost on a close vote; and the original motion of referral lost. The substitute motion then passed.

The November 11th minutes and the resolutions from Conference participants were distributed. Elder Guin requested that the body return after lunch to reconvene at 1:00 PM. Elder Joseph F.

Smith was called upon to close the session with prayer at 11:39 AM.

AFTERNOON SESSION

November 12, 2005

Elder Marlin Guin called the body to order at 1:01 PM in the name of Jesus Christ and invited Elder John Mundy to lead the assembly in an invocation. Elder Guin then identified the order of business for the afternoon session as consisting of four (4) committee resolutions, continuing branch resolutions, delegate/member resolutions, and Committee Appointments which might necessarily take precedence eventually. He then brought to the body a concern for Sister Marilyn Torsch who had sustained a heart attack and asked for prayers on her behalf.

The November 11th minutes, having been distributed, were considered. Elder Joseph F. Smith noted that his lineage was incorrect in the resolution which seated him. He is the great-grandson of Joseph Smith, Jr., the grandson of Alexander H. Smith, and the nephew of Frederick A. Smith. As these corrections did not change the “resolve,” they will be reflected in the first “whereas” of the resolution’s final form. Brother Alan Mundy indicated that he holds the office of Deacon, not Elder as described in the minutes. Brother Gary Kiger stated that he holds the office of Priest. And Sister Michele Barnhart indicated that her name is not Herring as recorded in the minutes. Elder Rudy Leutzinger stated that these changes would be made and the “blanks” would be completed in the official minutes. He also stated that resolutions referred to by numbers at present will have the resolution printed in the official minutes. With corrections and changes to be made noted, the minutes were accepted.

Elder Brian Mundy moved to modify the agenda to bring **R9** to the floor immediately. Deacon Alan Mundy seconded the motion. Elder Mark Deitrick moved to amend the motion to have the Conference prioritize all remaining resolutions. Elder Ron Raney seconded the amendment. The vote on the amendment lost, but the vote on the motion to consider **R9** immediately passed. Moved by Seventy Ron Smith and seconded by Elder Michael Jordison, **R9** was considered:

The Proposal

We affirm that the Church of Jesus Christ consists of all who will repent and come unto Him. As members of the Church of Jesus Christ, we do not intend to create a test of faith or a creed that must be agreed upon by all members of the church. Nevertheless, we uphold the following points as items of general agreement within the Church of Jesus Christ.

Epitome of Faith and Doctrine

We uphold the articles of faith written by Joseph Smith, Jr., found in “Times and Seasons,” Vol. III, page 710, 1842. They are as follows:

We believe in God the Eternal Father, and in his Son Jesus Christ, and in the Holy Ghost.

We believe that men will be punished for their own sins, and not for Adam’s transgression.

We believe that through the atonement of Christ all mankind may be saved by obedience to the laws and ordinances of the gospel.

We believe that these ordinances are, first, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ; second, repentance; third, baptism by immersion for the remission of sins; fourth, laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost.

We believe that a man must be called of God by “prophecy, and by laying on of hands” by those who are in authority to preach the gospel and administer in the ordinances thereof.

We believe in the same organization that existed in the primitive church: viz., apostles, prophets, pastors, teachers, evangelists, etc.

We believe in the gift of tongues, prophecy, revelation, visions, healing, interpretation of tongues, etc.

We believe the Bible to be the word of God as far as it is translated correctly; we also believe that Book of Mormon to be the word of God.

We believe all that God has revealed, all that he does now reveal, and we believe that he will yet reveal many great and important things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes, that Zion will be built upon this continent, that that Christ will reign personally upon the earth, and that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisaic glory.

We claim privilege of worshiping Almighty God according to the dictates of our conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may.

We believe in being subject to kings, president, rules, and magistrates in obeying, honoring, and sustaining the law.

We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, virtuous, and in doing good to all men; indeed we may say that we follow the admonition of Paul, “we believe all things, we hope all things,” we have endured many things, and hope to endure all things. If there is anything virtuous, lovely, or of good report or praiseworthy, we seek after these things.

Priesthood Authority

We uphold priesthood authority as documented in the scriptures, especially in the Inspired Version of the Bible (IV Bible) Ephesians 4:11-13, Book of Mormon (BOM) 1 Nephi 3:113-114, Doctrine & Covenants (DC) 26:2-3b, DC 83:5, and DC 104. We do not recognize the office nor the ordinances of record of any woman who claims priesthood authority.

Ordinances

We uphold to practice as specified in the scriptures, with proper authority and procedure, the following ordinances as holy prescribed practices of the church:

Ordination of Priesthood (BOM Alma 9:63-65, 69, 72; Mosiah 9:51, 59; Moroni 3:1-3)

Preaching (DC 42:4; 53:2b; 50:4, 5a, 6c; 65:1b)

Baptism by Water (DC 17:21; BOM 3 Nephi 3:69; BOM 3 Nephi 5:21-26)

Laying on of Hands to Receive the Holy Ghost (DC 53:2b; BOM 3 Nephi 5:21-26)

Communion (BOM 3 Nephi 8:30-46, 60-61)

Blessing of Children (BOM 3 Nephi 8:12-27)

Administration of the Afflicted (DC 127:2d; IV Bible Genesis Matthew 10:1, 7)

Evangelical or Patriarchal Blessing (DC 125:3-6)

Marriage Covenant (DC 49:3a-c; IV Bible Genesis 2:23, 28-30; IV Bible Hebrews 13:4)

Law

We acknowledge the law initially given to this movement to govern the church as documented in DC 42; in essence, preach the gospel, establish a storehouse with a bishop, and abide the basic commandments. We agree to work toward submitting more fully to this law by establishing a storehouse to be used as prescribed in the scriptures.

After some discussion, the motion carried.

Committee resolution **R-7** was moved by Elder Rex Curtis; Elder Sherrie Wages seconded the motion:

Resolved that a Conference of Restoration Branches be organized for the first week in April,

2006, for all branches of the church.

Elder Gary Metzger moved an amendment that the Conference of Restoration Branches be held in conjunction with the Conference of Restoration Elders if they are willing. After discussion, Elder Metzger withdrew his substitute amendment. Elder Jack Evans then moved an amendment:

Be It Further Resolved that the Logistics Committee work with the Conference of Restoration Elders Coordinating Council to plan joint and/or concurrent activities.

Elder Metzger seconded the amendment. The amendment carried and the amended motion then carried.

Elder Vaughn Cornish moved **R11** and Brother Gary Hancock seconded.

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 the Conference of Branches 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.*

Sister Alicia Sindt moved to amend the 3rd clause to replace the word "Elders" with "Priesthood". Sister Barbara Wilkinson seconded. The amendment lost after some discussion. Elder Jack Evans moved for the 3rd clause to read "Elders of the Conference of Branches" and strike "participating branches." Priest Gary Kiger seconded the amendment. The amendment passed. Elder Brian Mundy moved to amend the motion as follows:

- 1st clause to read, "The Chair of the Credentials Committee shall be elected by the members of that committee."
- 3rd clause to read, "Five committee members shall be elected by the Conference to the committee from among the Elders of the Conference of Branches. Appointments shall be staggered two year terms (initially, two 1-year appointments and three 2-year appointments) so that members are appointed annually."
- 5th clause to be deleted.

Elder John Mundy seconded the amendment. Elder Mark Deitrick amended the amendment to include for the 5th clause, "The Credentials Committee shall turn over statistical information to the Secretary/Clerk who shall adopt rules for the disbursement of such statistical information." Elder David Drummond seconded. The amendment to the amendment carried. Discussion on the amendment continued until Elder Ron Vermeland moved the question on the entire matter. Elder Curtis seconded. The motion passed by more than a 2/3's majority. The amended amendment lost.

The amended resolution passed.

At 3:05 PM, the Conference took a short break. Upon reconvening, Elder Bob Moore moved that the Conference next address two motions from the Evangelism Committee then go to committee elections and remain in session until these tasks are completed. Elder Drummond seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Elder Jim Noland moved **R12** and Elder Gary Wilson seconded. Elder Vim Horn moved to amend the motion to include at the end of the first resolved “in conjunction with other groups so engaged in order to avoid duplication of efforts.” Elder Jack Hagensen seconded. Sister Paula Wilson moved to amend the amendment to include “as well as domestic and...” Elder Brian Mundy seconded. In an attempt to shorten the process, Elders Horn and Hagensen consented to adding the wording to the amendment; thus the second amendment was withdrawn. The motion was then called. The amendment carried and the amended motion passed unanimously as follows:

Resolved that this Conference authorize the Evangelism Committee to create and publish missionary materials for foreign lands as well as domestic and in conjunction with other groups so engaged in order to avoid duplication of efforts; and be it further

Resolved that the Evangelism Committee work under the direction of the Restoration Seventy in discharging this duty.

Elder Noland next moved **R13**; Elder Curtis seconded.

Because *“the field is white already to harvest; and it is the eleventh hour, and for the last time that I shall call laborers into my vineyard. And my vineyard has become corrupted every whit; and there is none which doeth good save it be few; and they err in many instances, because of priestcrafts, all having corrupt minds. And verily, verily I say unto you, that this church have I established and called forth out of the wilderness; And even so will I gather mine elect from the four quarters of the earth, even as many as will believe in me, and hearken unto my voice; Yea, verily, verily I say unto you, that the field is white already to harvest; wherefore, thrust in your sickle, and reap with your might, mind, and strength. Open your mouths and they shall be filled; and you shall become as Nephi of old, who journeyed from Jerusalem in the wilderness; Yea, open your mouths and they shall be filled, saying, Repent, repent and prepare ye the way of the lord, and make His paths straight; for the kingdom of heaven is at hand; Yea, repent and be baptized every one of you for the remission of your sins; yea, be baptized even by water, and then cometh the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost. (Doc. & Cov. 32:1d-2g)*

Therefore be it Resolved that

- 1. The Missionary/Evangelism Committee be sustained and work under the direction of the Restoration Seventy and with the Patriarchs as appropriate*
- 2. ~~Evangelism and Missionary Corps be established to work with the Evangelist Patriarchs and the Seventy and~~*
- 3. The branches be encouraged to support the Evangelism and Missionary efforts currently taking place and those taking place in the future Corps through Tithes and Offerings and*
- 4. The Conference put a line item in the budget to support the Evangelism and Missionary Corps efforts of the conference.*

Elder Horn moved to amend clause #1 to strike “Missionary”, to strike clause #2 completely, to strike the word “corps” and to add “efforts currently taking place and those taking place in the future” after the word Missionary in Clause #3, and to strike “and Missionary Corps” in clause #4. Elder Gary Metzger seconded. Elder Jack Evans moved to refer the motion back to the Evangelism Committee to work with existing evangelism groups of the Conference of Restoration Elders and bring it back at a future conference; High Priest Paul Gage seconded. Elder Steve Ferdig called for the question on the whole matter but an objection was registered. Brother Benjamin McLean called for the vote on the question of referral. Without objection the question was put and the motion for referral lost. Elder

Horn moved to amend the first clause to include “and work under the direction of the Restoration Seventy and with the Patriarchs as appropriate.” Sister Wilkinson seconded. After some significant discussion, Elder Mark Strychacz the moved question; Elder Wayne Droeshe seconded. The motion passed by greater than a 2/3 majority. The second amendment then passed, the first amendment passed, and amended motion passed.

Elder Randy Vick moved to amend the agenda and bring **R4** to the floor. Sister Sarah Buckles seconded the motion. The motion lost.

Having addressed all resolutions from committees, the Conference moved to the election of standing committees. Filling of the **Credentials Committee** was brought to the Conference. This committee is to be composed of five members with the Conference Secretary, Elder Leutzinger, as the chair. Four members are to be elected at this conference—two for 1-year terms (or until the next Conference) and two for 2-year terms. Elder Guin stated that a hand vote would be taken with each Conference member allowed 4 votes, the two highest vote getters would be appointed to 2-year terms and the next two to 1-year terms. The following were nominated: Elder Noland—declined; Elder Vermeland; Elder Jim McKay; Elder David Norcross; Elder Jim Vun Cannon; Elder Deitrick—declined; Elder Brian Mundy; Elder Jim Dunning—declined; Elder Bill Barrett—declined. Following the election results, Elders Vun Cannon and Vermeland were appointed to 2-year terms and Elders McKay and Norcross were appointed to 1-year terms.

Elder Deitrick moved to sustain the **Logistics Committee** in its current form and to elect five members as the Conference officers are already on the committee. Teacher Rob Sinclair seconded the motion. Brother Ben McLean moved a substitute motion that the Logistics Committee be sustained as a permanent committee in its current format with all Conference officers as committee members and all other committee members elected to 1 year terms or until the next Conference. Elder Steve Ferdig seconded. Elder Tyler Crowell moved to increase the number of committee members to 15 including the Conference officers. Elder Lowell Augenstein seconded. Both the amendment and the substitute motion carried. Nominations were opened to fill the eleven elective positions. Elder Jon Tandy asked if there were any restrictions on the committee members. Elder Guin interpreted the resolution to allow any member of the Conference to be nominated. The following were nominated: Elder Vun Cannon; ~~Elder Moore—declined; Elder Leutzinger—Conference officer, ineligible for election; Elder Bob Giertz; Elder Jack Evans; Elder Deitrick—declined; Elder Crowell; Elder Gary Whiting; Elder Noland—declined; Elder David Newman; Elder Curtis; Elder Patrick McKay; Elder Tandy—declined; Sister Alicia Sindt—declined; Teacher Rob Sinclair; Sister Joy Muir—declined; Elder Ferdig; Elder Metzger—declined; and Sister Christina Sinclair.~~ With 11 members nominated and no other nominations forthcoming, Elder Guin requested that these brothers and sister be sustained as the Logistics Committee. The Conference unanimously approved.

The Conference Treasurer, Elder Eldon Anderson, is the chairman of the **Finance Committee**. The committee currently consists of the Treasurer and two other persons. Seventy George Knotts moved to sustain the committee as a permanent committee under present form for one year or until following conference. Brother Daniel Bailey seconded the motion. The motion carried and nominations were opened: ~~Elder Ferdig—declined; Elder Ron Raney—declined; Elder Tony Durant; Elder Evans—declined; Elder Benjamin Pedersen; Elder Brad Gault; Elder Vaughn Cornish—declined.~~ Elders Durant and Pedersen were elected.

The present **Evangelism Committee** consists of five elders: Elders Noland, Moore, Deitrick, Patriarch Vernon Darling, and Seventy Neil Simmons. Elder Russ Reid moved that the Evangelism Committee be sustained as a permanent committee with nine elders to serve for one year or until the next conference; Elder Moore seconded. Elder Brian Mundy moved an amendment that three members be elected for 3-year terms; three members elected for 2-year terms; and 3 members elected for 1-year terms. Elder Reid immediately volunteered to incorporate the amendment into the original motion with Elder Moore’s consent. It was so ordered. Elder Nathan Sherer moved to invite the Patriarchs and the Seventy to be *ex officio* members. Elder Randy Vick seconded the motion. After some discussion, the amendment was lost. The original motion passed. Nominations were

opened: ~~Seventy Simmons~~ declined; Elder Metzger; Elder Noland; Elder Deitrick; Elder Moore; Elder Hagensen; Elder Brian Mundy; Elder Nathan Sherer; Elder Randy Vick; ~~Elder Hugh Caldwell~~ declined; Elder John Mundy; Elder Jim Dunning; Elder David Bates; Elder Richard Smith; Elder Russell Reid; Elder Val Gross. Nominations were closed and instruction was given that each Conference member was allowed to vote for 9 different individuals.

3-Year Terms	2-Year Terms	1-Year Terms
Jack Hagensen	Mark Deitrick	Brian Mundy
Gary Metzger	Nathan Sherer	Jim Dunning
Randy Vick	Jim Noland	Richard Smith

Elder Greg Thomas moved that the **Joint Activities Committee** be a permanent committee with the responsibility of coordinating activities as well as future conference activities with two members serving a 3-year term; two members serving a 2-year term; and one member serving a 1-year term. Sister Jenny Fagonde seconded the motion. Deacon Paul Sinclair amended the motion to limit the terms to 1-year or until the following conference. Elder Gary Wilson seconded. Elder Evans moved to amend the motion to increase the committee to six members and accept the ones nominated by acclamation. Seventy Knotts seconded the amendment. Both amendments and the motion passed. Nominations were opened and the following were elected: ~~Jack Hagensen~~ declined; ~~Elder Tandy~~ declined; Elder Noland; ~~Elder David Drummond~~ declined; ~~Elder Gage~~ declined; Priest Jonah Bates; Sister Linda Trimble; Elder Michael Jordison; Elder David Bates; Sister Sarah Buckles.

Seventy Knotts moved that the President of the Conference appoint a committee of elders for the referral of **R3f**. Priest Kiger seconded the motion which passed.

Elder Russell Reid moved that the Conference acknowledge High Priest Marlin Guin's outstanding leadership with a standing ovation. The body acquiesced before a second was heard or a vote could be taken.

Elder Jim Vun Cannon reported that the expenses of the conference would be \$8,750 which includes Supplies-Materials (binders, badges, miscellaneous) at \$2,830 plus an additional \$2,000 to cover costs of mailings. Sister Wilkinson moved to accept the budget report. Elder Giertz seconded the motion. It passed.

Elder Metzger moved to establish a line item for the evangelism budget of \$30,000; miscellaneous \$2,000 and funds for next conference \$10,000. Elder George Mefferd seconded. Elder Evans moved an amendment that the Seventy approve all missionary expenses. Elder George Gross seconded the amendment. Amendment passed. The amended motion then passed.

Having completed all necessary business to the ordering of the Conference of Restoration Branches, Elder Guin adjourned the session at 6:55 PM with a prayer thanking the Lord for His guidance and spirit during these deliberations.

Respectfully submitted,

Rudolph L. Leutzinger, Secretary

Attachment #1 Minutes 11/12/2005

Credentials Committee of the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches
 Independence, MO
 November 22, 2005

Re: Final Credentials Committee Report

To the Joint Conference of Restoration Branches:

The Credentials Committee received branch applications from twenty-eight (28) Restoration Branches seeking to be recognized as participating branches in the Conference of Restoration Branches under the Rules of Representation. These branches have reported membership of 2,341 saints and have nominated 117 delegates, as follows:

	Participating Branch	Membership	Delegates	Attendees
1	Albany-Schenectady RB, New York	7	2	3
2	Atherton RB, Missouri	283	13	22
3	Ava RB, Missouri	45	2	1
4	Carthage RB, Missouri	35	3	3
5	Colburn Road RB, Missouri	269	12	17
6	Cross Timbers RB, Missouri	54	4	5
7	Dallas RB, Texas	97	1	1
8	Devon Park RB, Missouri	27	3	2
9	Ft. Worth RB, Texas	52	4	4
10	Geneseo RB, Illinois	58	4	11
11	Independence RB, Missouri	43	3	29
12	Israel's Gathering RB, Missouri	97	5	23
13	Jonesport RB, Maine	84	5	4
14	Marianna RB, Florida	10	2	4
15	McAllen RB, Texas	9	2	1
16	Mount Ayr RB, Iowa	75	4	5
17	Mount Zion RB, Missouri	42	3	1
18	Missionary RB, Missouri	141	7	16
19	Nauvoo RB, Illinois	8	2	3
20	Oak Grove RB, Missouri	388*	2	10
21	Ottumwa RB, Iowa	28	3	1
22	Spanish RB, Missouri	15	2	1
23	Toronto RB, Canada	6	2	1
24	Waldo Avenue RB, Missouri	211	10	32
25	Washington RB, Missouri	77	5	10
26	Zarahemla RB, Missouri	112	6	16
27	Zion's Hill RB, Missouri	32	3	5
28	Zion's Outpost RB, Kansas	36	3	3
	Total	2,341	117	234

*Unverified.

Under the Rules of Representation, another 83 members were registered representing 26 non-participating Restoration Branches. Seven (7) other members who claim no affiliation with any Restoration Branch have been seated based on their presenting evidence of an authoritative baptism. A total of 324 delegates and members were registered as participants in this Conference.

Respectfully submitted,
 Ron Vermeland, Israel's Gathering
 Mark Deitrick, Geneseo
 Jim McKay, Zarahemla

Jim Vun Cannon, Missionary
 Rudy Leutzinger, Independence