

Resolution for a Conference of Branches

Whereas, the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is the legal and spiritual successor to the church restored by divine command on April 6, 1830, under the hand of Joseph Smith, Jr.; and

Whereas, the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, during years of doctrinal fidelity, adopted rules of order, resolutions, policies, procedures and decisions which composed the church's law and constitution of the church; and

Whereas, in recent years, the leaders of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints have materially digressed from the church's traditional doctrines and practices by changing its teachings, reinterpreting its message, reevaluating its mission, re-explaining its history, and diverging from its law, as well as altering its ordinances by ordaining women and serving the communion emblems to non-members; and

Whereas, World Conference actions have supported these changes by enacting approving legislation, even to the point of changing the name of the church; and

Whereas, said church, by executive and legislative actions, disenfranchised many members who disagreed with such changes, refusing them their lawful rights to meet in conferences for discussion and voting; and

Whereas, such exiled members have the right under church law to form branches of six or more members one of whom is an elder, priest, teacher, or deacon (Articles of Incorporation, Article 1, Paragraph 4, Rules and Resolutions, Appendix A); and

Whereas, by common consent, "two or more branches lying in near proximity to each other" 'may meet for mutual improvement, and for the permanent organization and direction of the local ministry' (*Rules of Order and Debate*, compiled by Joseph Smith III and T. W. Smith, 1891, p. 12); and

Whereas, a mechanism has been provided for effecting a temporary and/or permanent organization with the consent of participating branches and without the presence of General Church authorities (*Rules of Order and Debate*, compiled by Joseph Smith III and T. W. Smith, 1891, pp. 10-15); and

Whereas, the first conference of what became the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints was convened in June, 1852, as a temporary organization of branches with the purpose of passing a series of resolutions upon which all could agree (CH 3:209.213);

Therefore be it Resolved, that the Area Pastors of Zion invite all interested branches to authorize their branch president or a priesthood representative to meet in a planning committee to adopt rules of representation and an agenda for a Conference of Restoration Branches to be publicized in advance; and be it further

Resolved, that the POZ Conference Committee consisting of those individuals previously appointed, if willing, shall take the lead in organizing the first planning meeting within one month of this date.